



The Voice of Small Business.®

ALASKA

February 4, 2014

The Honorable Kurt Olson
State Capitol Building
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

RE: House Bill 141

Dear Representative Olson:

On behalf of the National Federation of Independent Business/Alaska, I wish to respectfully share our support for House Bill 141. The National Federation of Independent Business is the largest small-business advocacy group in Alaska.

House Bill 141 provides that out of state providers of services billed to Alaskan workers compensation coverage will be paid at their usual rates, not rates increased to levels that might be charged in Alaska. We believe that this is a reasonable requirement this program. While we concede that costs in Alaska may be higher in Alaska contributing to higher costs from Alaska providers, we see no reason to allow those without higher base costs charging prices not reflective of those costs unique to Alaska.

It is also important that billing be done in a reasonable time frame reflecting standard business practices. It is unreasonable for bills to be delayed, even to the point of a case essentially being closed before a provider bills the employer. Such practices can significantly and negatively impact smaller businesses.

NFIB/Alaska appreciates your continued commitment to addressing issues contributing to the high cost of providing workers compensation coverage to employees.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Dennis L. DeWitt".

Dennis L. DeWitt
Alaska State Director

Cc: NFIB/AK Leadership Council