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FEB 13 2015

ALASKA

February 13, 2015

The Honorable Kurt Olson, Chair
House Labor and Commerce Committee
State Capitol Building
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

RE: House Bill 32

Dear Representative Olson:

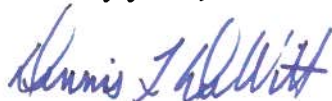
On behalf of the National Federation of Independent Business/Alaska, I wish to respectfully share our support for House Bill 32. The National Federation of Independent Business is the largest small-business advocacy group in Alaska.

The use of controlled substances in the Workers Compensation Program is both a blessing and troublesome. While the pharmaceuticals assist in the recovery of injured workers, they also provide an opportunity to inappropriately use and share these controlled substances. The use of prescription drugs, especially opioids, can lead to addiction and increased disability or work loss to the injured employee.

We believe HB 32 encourages the prudent use of controlled substances and assures that the individual for whom they are intended is using them. The testing permitted under the bill and the 30-day supply limitation assures that the individual is using the prescription as is medically appropriate. We also believe it limits the potential to divert prescriptions to inappropriate or even illegal usage by a third person.

With the high costs of Workers Compensation Insurance in Alaska, this measure strikes an important balance between monitoring medical costs and assuring workers will receive appropriate levels of prescribed medicines.

Sincerely yours,



Dennis L. DeWitt
Alaska State Director

Cc: NFIB/AK Leadership Council