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February 21, 2017

Representative Sam Kito
House Labor & Commerce Committee Chair
State Capitol, Room 403
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: House Bill 38

Dear Representative Kito:

The Workers' Compensation Committee of Alaska (WCCA) is an employer advocacy group dedicated to educating and advocating for Alaska employers on issues regarding workers' compensation. The WCCA has reviewed HB 38 and opposes it in its current form for the following reasons:

- HB 38 increases costs to employers without providing any reform to a system that is in dire need of reform.
- HB 38 would result in a 44% increase in permanent partial impairment benefits but provides for no substantive reforms that would offset the increase in benefits.
- HB 38 would expand payment of death benefits to non-dependent family members, essentially turning it into a life insurance policy.

The WCCA does not support any legislation that simply raises costs to its member employers. It is our position that substantive changes can be made to the current system that would reduce costs significantly, allowing for a redirection of costs that could provide some benefit increases to injured workers.

WCCA

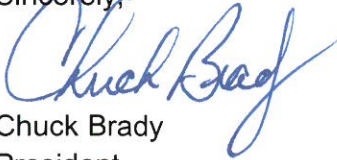
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As always, the WCCA is available to provide input and guidance on workers' compensation issues. The WCCA believes that comprehensive workers' compensation reform is what Alaska employers need...desperately!

Please let us know how we can help.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chuck Brady". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Chuck Brady
President

NFIB

The Voice of Small Business.®

ALASKA

January 23, 2017

The Honorable Andy Josephson
State Capitol Building
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

RE: House Bill 38

Dear Representative Josephson:


On behalf of the National Federation of Independent Business/Alaska, I wish to respectfully share our opposition to House Bill 38. The National Federation of Independent Business is the largest small-business advocacy group in Alaska.

House Bill 38 would extend workers compensation payments beyond the injured worker and dependents. This changes the character of the program and increases its costs for purposes beyond compensating injured workers and dependents. Further, unlike state assistance programs, it adds a Consumer Price Index driven annual increase.

These changes add to the already high costs of the Alaska workers compensation program. For many years, Alaska's premiums to employers were the highest in the nation. Even with the minor reforms of the past few years, we remain the 5th highest at 145% of the median.

Small employers are committed to assisting injured employees through the workers compensation program, and in the event of a death, their dependents. However, the continuing increase in premiums is difficult for small businesses to fund and makes solvency more difficult.

Sincerely yours,



Dennis L. DeWitt
Alaska State Director

Cc: NFIB/AK Leadership Council
House Labor & Commerce Committee