



THE STATE  
of **ALASKA**  
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

Department of Labor and  
Workforce Development

Office of the Commissioner

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February 9, 2017

The Honorable Sam Kito  
House Labor and Commerce Chair  
State Capitol, Room 403  
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Chair Kito:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 69 on February 6, 2017. In response to the outstanding questions from the committee, I have provided the following responses.

**1. Which Party Usually Wins in Cases Appealed from the Alaska Workers' Compensation Appeals Commission to the Alaska Supreme Court?**

Since creation of the Commission in 2005, 100 Alaska Workers' Compensation Appeals Commission Cases were appealed to the Alaska Supreme Court as of December 31, 2016. Of these, the Alaska Supreme Court affirmed or reversed 39 (the remainder of the cases were not decided by the Alaska Supreme Court for various reasons, including settlement, failure to prosecute, declining to hear a petition for review, or sending it back for additional information). The claimant prevailed in approximately 51% of these cases, while the employer prevailed in approximately 49%.

**2. How Many Claims are Filed with the Division Each Year?**

Director Marx wishes to clarify her testimony. There are approximately 20,000 reports of injury and occupational illness and 1,200 claims filed with the Division each year. The Alaska Workers' Compensation Board holds approximately 250-300 hearings each year.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have additional questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Heidi Drygas".

Heidi Drygas  
Commissioner