

ALASKA AFL-CIO

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VINCE BELTRAMI
Executive President



JIM DUNCAN
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April 27, 2018

Senator Anna MacKinnon, Co Chair, Senate Finance Committee
State Capital Room 516
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: HB 79 - Worker's Compensation

Dear Senator MacKinnon,

Thank you for your efforts in bringing the parties together in an attempt to work out the details on issues related to HB 79. The Alaska AFL-CIO believes that with some minor adjustments, along the lines that Director Marx has suggested, that most all the concerns that have been expressed will have been addressed. We ask that at this time HB79 be moved out of committee with the changes Director Marx suggested, without any changes to the benefits structure.

The Alaska AFL-CIO would also suggest that as per CSSSB 112 L&C, a Worker's Comp Ad Hoc Committee be established to address any changes related to benefits under the worker's compensation system. Instead of legislation dictating the appointments to the committee we request that management and labor, being the two largest stakeholders in this issue, be allowed to pick an equal number of members to sit on the committee. We would also suggest that the legislature or the administration appoint a neutral third party facilitator/mediator to conduct these committee meetings. We also believe it would be very helpful to this committee to have someone from the Department of Labor attend these meeting as a subject matter expert. We would also expect the the parties would be able to bring in other subject matter advisors such as medical providers, insurers, and attorneys to help the committee.

This committee would be instructed to work through the interim and come back to the legislature with recommended changes to that can be made to address the needs of the injured worker at a fair cost to the employer .

Thank you for your attention to this matter. The Alaska AFL-CIO stands ready to get to work on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Vince Beltrami
President
Alaska AFL-CIO