



ALASKA IRONWORKERS LOCAL 751

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AFFILIATED WITH **INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BRIDGE,
STRUCTURAL, ORNAMENTAL AND REINFORCING IRON WORKERS**

Anthony Ladd

Business Manager



Dear Co-chair Wilson, Co-chair Foster and Members of the House Finance Committee,

On behalf of Alaska Ironworkers Union Local 751, we would like to voice our strong support for HB 30, the Abigail Caudle Act. The death of this 26-year-old electrical worker in 2011 due to a work-related injury revealed just how badly our Workers' Compensation beneficiary statute needs to be updated.

One of the main missions and goals of the Ironworkers Union is to develop educational programs to advance safety and health, and conduct research and perform studies to minimize hazards within the industry. Alaska has many dangerous jobs and, as a state, it is important to protect these workers and their families. Workers killed or permanently injured on the job deserve justice.

HB 30 specifies that when an employee dies without having a spouse or minor children, the parents or estate of the deceased receive a lumpsum monetary compensation, where under current Alaska statute, they barely receive reimbursement for the cost of the funeral.

Additionally, HB 30 addresses the compensation rates for permanent partial impairment (PPI) which haven't been updated in 19 years. HB 30 rectifies this problem and brings Alaska's compensation levels for injury, illness and death of workers into the present.

The Alaska Ironworkers Union urges members of the committee to support this legislation as it aims to protect all Alaskan workers and ensure work environments that honor the lives and safety of our employees.

Sincerely,

Anthony R. Ladd
Business Manager/FST
Ironworkers Local #751