

## HD Medical and Fire Services

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March 27, 2026

Senator Jesse Bjorkman, Chair  
Senate Labor and Commerce Committee  
Alaska State Legislature  
State Capitol Room 427  
Juneau, AK 99801

### **RE: Support for Senate Bill 217 and House Bill 267 – Employer Contributions for Workforce Training Programs**

Dear Senator Bjorkman and Members of the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee,

On behalf of HD Medical and Fire Services, LLC, I am writing to express our strong support for Senate Bill 217 and House Bill 267. This legislation represents a practical and timely investment in Alaska's workforce training system.

HD Medical and Fire Services is a workforce training provider specializing in emergency medical services (EMS) education, apprenticeship programs, and workforce development for rural and industrial Alaska. Through the State Training and Employment Program (STEP), we have been able to provide critical training opportunities such as EMT-1, ETT, and Advanced EMT programs to Alaskans seeking employment or advancement in high-demand healthcare and emergency services careers.

STEP funding directly supports the training of Alaskans for real, in-demand jobs. Through this program, we have helped transition individuals into the workforce, supported incumbent worker advancement, and partnered with fire departments, healthcare organizations, and industry employers across the state to address critical staffing shortages—particularly in rural and remote communities where access to trained personnel is limited.

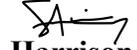
However, the demand for workforce training continues to exceed available funding. We have experienced firsthand the challenges of limited STEP resources, including delayed reimbursements, constrained enrollment capacity, and the inability to fully meet employer and community needs. At the same time, the cost of delivering high-quality training—especially in remote Alaska—continues to rise.

Senate Bill 217 and House Bill 267 offer a responsible and sustainable solution by increasing available STEP funding when the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund is solvent. This approach strengthens Alaska's workforce pipeline, reduces reliance on nonresident workers, and helps prevent future unemployment by equipping Alaskans with the skills needed for stable, long-term employment.

Investing in workforce development is investing in Alaska's economic future, public safety, and community resilience. Programs like STEP are essential to building a skilled, local workforce capable of meeting the state's growing demands.

We respectfully urge your support for Senate Bill 217 and House Bill 267.

Sincerely,



**Harrison Deveer**

Owner / CEO

HD Medical and Fire Services, LLC