



April 14, 2021

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of The Arc of Anchorage, we wish to express our full support for House Bill No. 151, which extends expanded unemployment benefits for Alaskans.

This legislation extends the provisions of HB308 from the previous legislature until September 6th, 2021, to coincide with the American Rescue Plan Act. Essentially, it does three things:

- 1) This will waive the standard one week waiting period before receiving benefits, which will leverage \$2.4m in benefits for Alaskans paid for 100% by the federal government.
- 2) It increases the weekly per-dependent benefit from \$24 to \$75 and removes the cap of three dependents for which applicants can receive a supplemental benefit.
- 3) It will waive the work search requirement for workers who have to stay home to care for loved ones or as a result of the pandemic.

The Arc of Anchorage strongly agrees with these recommendations to help families who are in need and especially those who are taking care of people who experience disabilities during these hard times. The Arc of Anchorage looks forward to collaborating with you on this work.

Sincerely,

Barbara Rodriguez-Rath, MSW
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The Arc of Anchorage
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