



January 31, 2018

Senator Mia Costello  
Senate Labor & Commerce Committee Chair  
State Capitol, Room 504  
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: Senate Bill 112

Dear Senator Costello;

Thank you for the opportunity to weigh-in in support of Senator Cathy Giessel's worker's compensation reform legislation. Alaska Airlines has been a self-insured employer in the state of Alaska for more than 20 years and we are excited by the reform potential derived from Senator Giessel's proposed legislation.

Though Alaska Airlines is self-insured and not impacted directly by premium costs, claims costs remain very high despite past reform efforts through stopgap rules and legislation. Alaska Airlines is insured and self-insured in multiple states and Alaska's claims costs are among the highest. This clearly has a direct impact on Alaska Airlines' profitability. Senator Giessel's legislation is a more comprehensive approach, not just from the standpoint of reducing costs for employers but also making benefit delivery more straightforward and streamlined for workers. Legislating the use of evidence based methodologies for causation and treatment will also better guide medical providers so that they deliver quality care to all Alaskan workers. Alaska Airlines prides itself on providing quality care for its injured workers and the opportunity to return to gainful employment promptly so that the disruption to lifestyle and livelihood is minimized. This legislation will assist with that mission.

We greatly appreciate Senator Giessel's efforts in this important endeavor and ask for your support in passing Senate Bill 112 out of the Senate Labor & Commerce Committee.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

*Ben Brawner / fm*

Ben Brawner  
Alaska Airlines  
Manager, Absence Management

PO Box 68900, Seattle, WA 98168-0900  
P 206-433-3200