



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

**Department of Labor and
Workforce Development**

Office of the Commissioner

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February 1, 2018

The Honorable Paul Seaton
The Honorable Neal Foster
Co-Chairs of House Finance Committee
State Capitol Building
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representatives Seaton and Foster,

Thank you for the opportunity to present an overview of the Department of Labor and Workforce Development to the House Finance Committee on January 29, 2018. Provided below are responses to inquiries raised during the meeting.

Representative Grenn asked for an overview of AVTEC's enrollment in light of the cuts to its budget.

The Alaska Vocational Technical Center's (AVTEC) unrestricted general fund budget has been cut over \$1.4 million since FY15. Of this, \$627,000 has been replaced by general fund program receipt authority. This allows AVTEC to maintain programs as long as they generate additional revenue through student tuition and fees and contract trainings. The net general fund reduction of \$791,600 has resulted in the closure of AVTEC's Anchorage campus, which housed its Allied Health (RN, LPN and CNA) programs. These programs trained roughly 140 students per year. AVTEC has also reduced some of its program offerings (Plumbing and Heating, Construction Technology, and Culinary Arts) from twice per year to once per year to bring capacity into alignment with actual enrollment. AVTEC's total enrollment (long-term and short-term programs) decreased from a peak of 1,530 in FY15 to 1,390 in FY17.

Representative Neuman asked if the department really had a total of 173 positions vacant as of 12/15/2017.

No, at that point in time the department had a total of 96 positions vacant, which represents 13 percent of the total budgeted position count. As noted during the meeting, the actual number of vacant positions is constantly changing based on new hires and resignations. Positions can be vacant for a number of reasons including a hiring freeze from the Social Security Administration until a federal budget is passed.

Please let me know if you have further questions. I welcome the opportunity to speak with you and your committee on these or any other topics related to the department.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Greg Cashen".

Greg Cashen
Acting Commissioner