

April 22, 2024

The Honorable Julie Coulombe
Alaska House of Representatives
Capitol Building, Room 502
Juneau, Alaska 99801



**Credit
Union 1**

RE: House Bill 89

Dear Representative Coulombe,

Credit Union 1 is a state-chartered credit union proudly serving Alaskans since 1952. We're honored to call Alaska home and only serve members who live or work in Alaska, of whom we now serve over 95,000 members.

For the last 18 years our credit union has run our own childcare facility for our employees children. It was started by our previous CEO, Leslie Ellis, who saw the growing need for quality care in Alaska. That need has only continued to grow since then.

Our childcare facility continues to operate today under a partnership with Providence and is a benefit to our employees. The children who are enrolled experience a safe, accredited, and stimulating environment. Their parents get a subsidized rate, longer hours that match our business hours, and peace of mind that their children are cared for in our HQ building.

We've recently been exploring options to expand our facility to include additional children because the need has been so great. However, lack of facilities, grants, and the cost of retrofitting buildings up to childcare code have been large hurdles we have yet to overcome.

We believe that we have greatly benefited from offering quality childcare to our employees through attracting new employees to retaining existing employees. We even hired one of the first children to attend the facility as a teller before they went off to college.

House Bill 89 lowers the barrier to entry for employers who are seeking to offer this benefit to their employees. There is significant cost to not only the operation of the facility but also the outfitting of a building and bringing the space up to safety code for childcare.

Credit Union 1 is in full support of House Bill 89 and welcome any questions

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Burgess".

Mark Burgess
President and CEO
Credit Union 1
burgessm@cu1.org or 907-339-8104