

To whom it concerns,

My name is Edna Beebe and I support HB 360. I live in the Kuskokwim region of southwestern AK. Eek is located south of Bethel. The population here is about 300-350. We have a local high school, a corporation store where they provide groceries, house necessities and fuel. Many people depend on subsistence foods like hunters and gatherers during the summers for fish (dried and smoked) and others to store for the long winters. There's a local clinic here. The local government is the city of Eek or the Native Village of Eek. Eek has no road system like in the cities. Transportation is by airline or snow machines in the winter and boats in the summer. I wanted to explain where I am from because it's important to me.

Everything here is inflated. Prices for groceries plus cost of living (fuel and heat) is double or triple that from the city. Caregiving matters to me. I helped my mom take care of my grandma when she became an elder and even more so after she had a stroke in the mid 80's. In the last few months of her life, we had to send her to a nursing home. In 2013 I moved back to Eek full time to care for my dad until he passed away in 2017. Today I care for my mom. She is 89 years old. She has issues with her knees so she cannot get around outdoors without help. Her eyesight isn't well either. She must go to Anchorage every two months for eye injections. I'm here with my mom almost 24/7. If I want to go anywhere, I must ask my family to be with her as she needs someone to bring prepared food to her and bring water and tea. I started being employed as a caregiver in 2017. My training is annual by paper, and I must pay for my own CPR training via the internet every two years.

I get paid for only 13.25 hours per week at \$17.00-19 /hour even though I'm taking care of her 24/7. It is very hard to get free time to go get checkups and do things for myself. If I got more hours and pay it would benefit the cost of living quite a bit. Please pass HB 360 so all caregivers in Alaska, especially those off the road systems like me who have special challenges and a higher cost of living. We also need accountability and for caregivers to have a say so we can make sure that raises get in our hands.

Thank you for your consideration and time.

Sincerely,

Edna Beebe

