

## **National Association for the Advancement of Colored People**

State Area Conference, Alaska | Oregon | Washington P.O. Box 12686 Salem, OR 97309 | www.naacpaowsac.org

April 11, 2025

Attorney Sheley Secrest President, NAACP State Area Conference (AK, OR, WA) President@naacpaowsac.org (253) 468-1247

Office of Representative Genevieve Mina State of Alaska Legislature, House District 19 Alaska State Capitol, Room 416

Re: Letter of Support for HB 156

Honorable Representative Mina:

NAACP is proud to express our support for HB 156, a crucial piece of legislation aimed at addressing the persistent pay disparities faced by the Black community in Alaska. For far too long, systemic inequities have hindered economic opportunities and growth for many individuals in this community, contributing to a cycle of poverty and limited access to resources.

HB 156 seeks to implement measures that promote pay equity, ensuring that all workers receive fair compensation for their contributions, regardless of race. This is not just a matter of economic justice; it is a fundamental human right. By addressing wage gaps and promoting transparency in pay practices, this bill will empower individuals, foster a more inclusive workforce, and drive economic growth across our state.

The Black community in Alaska has demonstrated resilience and strength, yet the disparities in income and employment opportunities remain stark. By passing HB 156, we can take a significant step toward rectifying these injustices and building a more equitable society where everyone has the opportunity to thrive.

I urge you to support HB 156 and commit to dismantling the barriers that have long hindered the progress of the Black community in Alaska. Together, we can create a brighter and more just future for all Alaskans.

Attorney Sheley Secrest

President, NAACP State Area Conference

(Alaska, Oregon, Washington)