

March 3, 2025

The Honorable Matt Claman
Alaska State Senate State Capitol Room 429
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Claman,

Alaska Telecom Association (ATA) supports Senate Bill 49, which would establish workplace protective orders to safeguard the workplace.

ATA's members provide telecommunications services throughout Alaska and are currently constructing broadband infrastructure which is expanding access to tens of thousands of Alaskans. Unfortunately, our members have experienced threats and acts of violence against employees and property. These actions are dangerous and if not addressed create an unsafe environment which could harm employees and destroy important infrastructure.

SB49 establishes workplace protective orders which are important for several reasons. A protective order can provide immediate safety for employees by legally prohibiting an abuser or harasser from entering the workplace or meeting the victim. This helps prevent further violence or harassment at work, which could put everyone in danger and ensures that employees can continue working without fear of harm. Protective orders can prevent escalation of violence and act as a deterrent to stop further harmful behavior, both for the victim and other employees who may be indirectly affected. An order helps employers by clearly defining the legal actions that need to be taken in response to a situation involving workplace violence or harassment. This helps avoid confusion, ensures the victim is supported, and mitigates potential liability for the employer. Protective orders provide a framework for enforcement by allowing law enforcement to act if an order is violated, and provide clear guidelines for what actions are prohibited and the consequences for not following the order.

The protective orders defined by SB49 will be powerful tools for safeguarding employees and ensuring legal protection against violence or harassment, creating a safer and more supportive working environment. Thank you for introducing this important legislation to improve workplace safety for Alaskans.

Sincerely,



Christine O'Connor
Executive Director