

# STATE OF ALASKA

## Department of Labor and Workforce Development

### DIVISION OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

#### Governor's Committee on Employment & Rehabilitation Of People with Disabilities

January 26, 2010

Dear Senator:

The Governor's Committee on Employment & Rehabilitation of People with Disabilities strongly supports CS Senate Bill 83(L&C). This legislation will bring state statute into compliance with federal law. It will also eliminate the need to change state statute every time federal law changes. This committee will also function as the assistive technology advisory council which is also required under federal law and has similar membership requirements.

The Governor's Committee on Employment and Rehabilitation of People with Disabilities, which operates as Alaska's State Rehabilitation Council, is mandated by 29 U.S.C. 725 as amended, to have a very specific composition that is comprised of employers, service providers and individuals with disabilities. This varied composition provides an avenue for the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation to receive direct public feedback from a variety of stakeholders throughout Alaska. The Division utilizes this valuable feedback to continuously improve and refine its program.

We support the name change of the Governor's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities to the State Vocational Rehabilitation Committee. Since this committee provides oversight to the Vocational Rehabilitation program, the name will clearly align it with the State of Alaska, Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Division Vocational Rehabilitation. The name change will also reduce the on-going confusion between this committee and the Governor's Council on Disability and Special Education.

Thank you for considering the CS SB 83(L&C). It is important that this committee is compliant with federal law to ensure continued funding which is critical to assist Alaskans with disabilities to become employed and have access to appropriate assistive technology services and devices. Please contact us if we can be of any assistance or provide any additional information.

Sincerely,



Ron Boynton  
Committee Chair

*Sean Parnell, Governor*

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