

It seems to me that its unfair for the chronically disabled to be penalized when they are trying so hard to become productive members of the community. It also seems unfair to penalize working poor families by denying them extra assistance until they are able to solve their financial situation. What I would like to talk to you about is my solutions to these situations:

- **Please consider raising the federal poverty rate to 200% across all programs (i.e. Childcare Assistance, Adult Public Assistance, Denali Kid Care).** Through this change, not only will it allow more families to qualify for services, but also it might give them the boost they need to stabilize their current situation.
- **Create an exemption process for working families that fall slightly over income limits.** This would give families the ability to receive assistance and continue working. From personal experience, I know that if my family had had the benefit of just a little extra assistance we would be able to take care of our family and be productive in work, which ultimately helps the State of Alaska.
- **Establish a transportation assistance fund for elders and people experiencing disabilities.** When I lived in New York, the state ran a program that provided free transportation for elders and people experiencing disabilities through establishing a general transportation assistance fund to the state budget. From my research, I noticed that the Alaska Commission on Aging advocated to get this discussed during the last legislative session. Unfortunately, the proposal did not get passed. As a person who experiences issues with affording public transportation, I strongly urge you to please give their proposal more consideration. If I was able to fully access transportation, I could focus on receiving treatment to help me better handle my symptoms. As I see it, this small change will assist me on my way to achieving my goal of gainful employment and safety/security for my family.

I thank you in advance for your time and consideration in reading my letter. Please know that I welcome the opportunity to speak with you or one of your aides personally about my situation and ways I'm willing to help to create solutions to benefit all Alaskans. My contact information is listed above. Please feel free to contact me at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

Michael Markovich