



**ALASKA CHAPTER  
1953-2003**

April 11, 2011

Chairman Dennis Egan  
Senate Labor and Commerce Committee  
State Capitol, Room 510  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Via email: Dana\_Owen@legis.state.ak.us

RE: SB 116

Dear Mr. Chairman,

I am writing to urge your support of Senate Bill 116 that would allow for the voluntary use of collectively bargained workers compensation programs that are designed to improve the delivery of medical benefits to Alaska workers injured on the job.

Our counterparts in California and other states have had the ability to utilize Alternative Dispute Resolution ("ADR") processes going back to the early 1990's and have had considerable success. The objectives of the program are to improve benefit delivery, promote and improve safety, promote labor-management cooperation and reduce worker's compensation claim costs. The benefits achieved can be shorter claim cycle times, better medical care, faster return to work, reduced litigation and reduced costs.

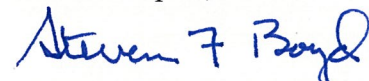
In practice ADR is a multi-faceted product, combining:

- Preventative measures taken on site.
- Delivery of managed medical treatment emphasizing quality care, maximizing injured worker satisfaction with their care, and returning injured workers to productive employment.
- A contractually obligated, mediation-driven process designed to deal with problems before they result in costly litigation.

Nothing in SB 116 authorizes any provision of a collective bargaining agreement to reduce the entitlement of an employee to compensation for temporary total disability, temporary partial disability, permanent partial disability or any other benefits established under the Alaska worker's compensation statutes.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Alaska Chapter, NECA

  
Steven F. Boyd, Manager