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January 23, 2012

The Honorable Bill Wielechowski  
Alaska State Senator  
State Capitol, Room 101  
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Wielechowski:

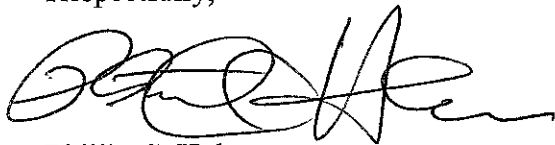
I am writing in regard to Senate Bill 150. I believe this bill is a positive show of support for transitioning service members who are seeking degrees or occupational certificates in Alaska. The University of Alaska Fairbanks is an institution that has already embraced a great deal of this bill, offering transfer credits to military students based on their training and a petitioning process for students seeking credit not awarded up-front.

With veteran unemployment already high across the nation and major DoD personnel cuts looming on the horizon, Alaska should be making every effort to accommodate transitioning veterans who would like to further their education or quickly re-enter the workforce. This bill, should it pass into law, will encourage more veteran-friendly institutions statewide.

As a former Army officer with the 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade of the 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division from Fort Wainwright and current veterans advocate at UAF, I am excited to see our state's legislative body actively supporting the veteran community. If the military and veteran-friendly policies already in effect at UAF are advanced across state, there is little doubt that it would be a boon for veteran education and employment in Alaska.

Thank you for your support of Alaska veterans.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Phillip C. Hokenson', written in a cursive style.

Phillip C. Hokenson  
Veterans Advocate