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The Honorable Bert Stedman
State Capitol, Room 421
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: Passage of **SENATE BILL 159**, to allow air ambulance membership programs to continue.

Dear Senator Stedman,

My husband and I support SB 159 for these reasons:

- The level of expertise found in Airlift flight nurses is unique, comparable to that of an intensive care unit.
- Airlift Northwest has been committed to the Southeast Region for years, expanding service when necessary (a jet based in Juneau during summer and a turbo-prop now available for the region).
- We believe it is necessary legislation.

In May of 2011 Steve suffered a life-threatening system-wide medical event. With hemorrhaging in his lungs, his kidneys in failure and his platelet count in the 12,000s (normal is 250,000 or so), medical care was not available in Juneau to support him, let alone return him to health. Once these facts were known, the decision was made to medevac him to Seattle. I insisted on Airlift Northwest air ambulance service, as I knew from my years as Communications Manager for Bartlett Regional Hospital that there was no alternative to the best medical team in the air.

Today, soon to be three years later, Steve remains the vibrant, brilliant, delightful love of my life. But, as you might guess, Senator, the point of this letter is that without Airlift Northwest, Steve would not have survived. I would be writing to you as a widow. However, had Steve not survived that tremendous medical assault, I would still write this letter because Airlift's care in times of desperate need is peerless.

We had not been members of Airlift. As a lifetime resident of Juneau, I had never encountered the need for such a service nor did it occur to me that I might. As a result of Airlift's unique service, we have become not only supporters and members of this air ambulance service, we have also gifted family members with membership to assure their protection in the event of devastating emergent illness.

This past year, we learned that we could no longer acquire this valuable insurance, nor would we be able to protect our cherished family. This is wrong and we applaud your effort to address this critical need. We thank you as well.

Best regards,



Marijo & Steve Brantner