



READINESS AND FORCE
MANAGEMENT

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

4000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-4000

February 11, 2013

The Honorable Dan Saddler
Alaska House of Representatives
State Capitol Room 104
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Saddler:

On behalf of the Department of Defense, we want to thank you for your sponsorship of House Bill 84. This effort will greatly aid separating Service members who move back to Alaska upon military separation or retirement with gaining academic credit and occupation licensing as they transition to civilian life.

This issue, one of our top priorities for 2013, is one of the key elements of the Veterans Employment Initiative of the current Administration. The policy as currently represented in House Bill 84 will enable Alaska to join 23 other states also providing this kind of help to our separating Service members; and since Alaska had 1,231 Service members move back to the state in Fiscal Year 2012, the academic and occupational licensing help your policy change provides will have significant personal impact for many.

Aided by your leadership in the House of Representatives, the Alaska legislature has been a champion in addressing a number of key military family issues for the past six years. We intend, principally through our Regional Liaison for the Northwest, Mark San Souci, to provide as much information and support as possible as this policy initiative moves forward in upcoming hearings. However, if you have questions or need my assistance, please contact me at (571) 372-5321, or at ed.kringer@osd.mil.

With Alaska's continued dedication to our military, our Service members can complete their missions, overseas and at home, knowing you are taking care of their families.

Sincerely,



Ed Kringer
Director
State Liaison & Educational Opportunity

cc:

Mr. Mark B. San Souci, Northwest Regional State Liaison (WA, AK, ID, OR)