



February 26, 2015

The Honorable Kurt Olson
Chairman, House Labor and Commerce Committee
State Capitol Room 124
Juneau AK, 99801

Re: Support for House Bill 32, Workers Compensation; Controlled Substances Tests

Dear Representative Olson:

The Alaska Chamber supports House Bill 32 (HB 32), an act relating to employer required drug testing, Alaska Workforce Compensation Board regulations and prescription of controlled substances to employees.

The Alaska Chamber is an organization dedicated to improving the business environment in Alaska. The Chamber represents hundreds of businesses from Ketchikan to Barrow that share a common goal: to make Alaska a viable and competitive place to do business. Responsibly controlling, and reducing, workers' compensations costs in Alaska is critical to ensuring that our state is a competitive market for employers.

Research shows the inappropriate dispensing and use of opiate narcotics has become an epidemic that damages lives and drives up workers' compensation costs significantly. HB 32 addresses this cost driver by making it more difficult for people who abuse the prescription drug system to do so at the expense of their employer or insurer.

We support the State's efforts to ensure effective treatment programs that promote injury recovery and return to full employment for injured workers, while responsibly reducing the cost of insurance for employers. On behalf of Alaska's business community, thank you for your efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Rachael Petro'.

Rachael Petro
President and CEO