



THE STATE  
of **ALASKA**  
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

Department of  
Health and Social Services

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February 1, 2016

The Honorable Bert Stedman  
Chair, Senate Health and Social Services Committee  
Room 30  
Alaska State Capitol  
Juneau, AK 99801

Senate Health and Social Services Committee,

I appreciated the opportunity to testify to the committee about SB 147 on Wednesday, January 27, 2016. This letter will respond to the question posed by the committee members during the hearing.

Senator Stoltze asked for an explanation of the eligibility criteria including a breakdown of individuals who were identified as not meeting the citizenship requirement.

Response: Under this bill, in order to meet citizenship requirements, an individual must be a US Citizen, as US National, or a qualified alien. If they are a qualified alien, they also have to have been in the US for 5 years before they can receive public assistance benefits. A non-qualified alien would fall into one of three criteria:

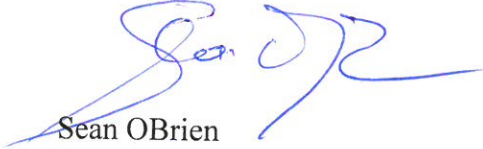
1. **PRUCOL alien.** These are non-qualified aliens that the US Immigration Service knows are here, but don't plan to deport. PRUCOL = Permanently Residing Under Color of Law.
2. **Non-immigrant.** These individuals are here lawfully, but on a temporary basis. Some examples are: work visa, student visa, diplomat, etc. This can also be an alien born in the Marshall Islands, Western Samoa, Micronesia and Palau. They can legally travel between the islands and the US but are considered non-qualified aliens and not eligible for benefits.
3. **Illegal alien.**

A review of the current case load has identified 16 individuals who would not be qualified aliens (12 did not meet the 5 year waiting period requirement, 3 are non-immigrants and 1 is an illegal alien).

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We appreciate the opportunity to respond to these questions, if you need additional information related to these bills, please let me know.

Sincerely,



Sean O'Brien  
Director, Division of Public Assistance

Cc: Valerie Davidson, Commissioner, Division of Public Assistance  
Darwin Peterson, Legislative Director, Office of the Governor