



MANPOWER AND  
RESERVE AFFAIRS

## OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

1500 DEFENSE PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-1500

January 11, 2017

The Honorable Chris Tuck  
Majority Leader  
Alaska House of Representatives  
State Capitol, Room 204  
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Majority Leader Tuck,

On behalf of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense, Military Community and Family Policy, I want to thank you for your support of Service members in private sector hiring, as evidenced by your sponsorship of House Bill 2 (HB2) in the 2017 Alaska legislative session. This key Department of Defense issue for 2017 simply allows employers to offer a hiring preference to veterans, without fear of unanticipated discrimination allegations or related legal issues, and imposes no requirement upon private sector employers to implement such a policy.

This effort can assist private sector employers seeking to hire Service members who move back to Alaska upon completing their military service. It will legally allow employers to give hiring preferences to veterans and greatly assist in their transition to civilian life. Because state and local governments already offer this hiring preference, the change would also allow some measure of balance between the private and public sector when competing for veteran talent. If the policy change, as represented in HB2 is successful, Alaska will join 37 other states already providing this help to transitioning veterans.

According to the Defense Manpower Data Center 2015 data, over 2,000 military personnel returned to Alaska upon separation, and we believe that the number separating is likely to remain steady in the near future. As of November 2016, national Bureau of Labor statistics show the jobless rate for young male veterans aged 18-24 still exceeded their civilian counterparts (239,000 veterans aged 18-24 were unemployed versus 159,000 of their civilian counterparts). Enactment of this policy is another positive step towards reducing the number left unemployed.

We greatly appreciate that the Alaska legislature has been a champion in addressing our key military family quality of life issues for the past ten years. As always, Mark San Souci, our Northwest Regional Liaison, stands ready to support where he can. If you have questions or need assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at 571.372.5321 or Mark at 571.309.4622, [mark.b.sansouci.civ@mail.mil](mailto:mark.b.sansouci.civ@mail.mil).

Sincerely,



Marcus J. Beauregard  
Director, Defense State Liaison Office