



February 28, 2020

Representative Adam Wool
State Capitol Room 501
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Representative Wool:

I am writing in support of the reauthorization of Technical Vocational Education Program (TVEP) House Bill 235, Thank you for sponsoring the bill

The Alaska Technical Center (ATC) was established in 1981 and has continuously provided workforce development training since that time. TVEP funding is critical to the Alaska Technical Center as well as to other training centers statewide. The funding gives ATC and others the means to maintain training services that align with regional and economic workforce needs. Sustainable and consistent TVEP funds benefit Alaska's postsecondary training centers. We are much more effective in training Alaska's workers in Alaska. Providing quality and relevant training services requires funding resources to build and maintain existing programs.

ATC is an adult vocational/technical school for Alaskans providing training leading to employment in the following areas: Health Care Occupations, Construction Trades, Process Technology and Culinary Arts. ATC also provides various short-term training that meets employer and business partners needs leading to employment. Some of our industry/business partners include the Maniilaq Heath Center, NANA, Teck Alaska with the Red Dog Mine, Kikiktagruk Inupiat Corporation, Drake's Construction, City of Kotzebue, Tuuq Drilling, and others that directly benefit from TVEP funding to ATC.

ATC operates a 40-bed dormitory for adult learners. It is utilized to house both short-term and long-term students participating in training programs. Our students predominately reside in the Northwest Arctic Borough. A 2010 McDowell Report commissioned by the University of

Alaska, Fairbanks and the Northwest Arctic Borough School District document the workforce needs and preferences of the borough's major employers. It also addresses the need to determine the implications of regional employers for effective career pathways approach to local education and training.

I unequivocally support reauthorization of TVEP and appreciate your support.
Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Cheryl Edenshaw, Director
Alaska Technical Center

CC: Senator Donny Olson (Sen.Donald.Olson@akleg.gov)
Representative John Lincoln (Rep.John.Lincoln@akleg.gov)