



April 15, 2021  
Rep. Ivy Spohnholz, Co-chair  
House Labor & Commerce Committee  
State Capitol  
Juneau, AK 99801

Rep. Zack Fields, Co-Chair  
House Labor & Commerce Committee  
State Capitol  
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: Support for HB 125 – Military Family and Employment Preference

Dear Rep. Spohnholz and Rep. Fields,

The Alaska Coalition for Veterans & Military Families is excited to support HB 125 and appreciates the House Labor & Commerce Committee for hearing this legislation that will benefit military spouses and dependents and their efforts to gain employment in the State of Alaska.

The Alaska Coalition for Veterans & Military Families is a network of organizations throughout Alaska who work to support the needs of service members, veterans, and their families in the communities in which they live. As an organization that works with military families, we know first-hand the high unemployment rates among military spouses and know many are underemployed as well. HB 125 creates an opportunity to help military spouses and dependents get their foot in the door for an interview for a state job and urges the private sector to consider helping military spouses and dependents with employment. This bill will also be at the benefit of the State of Alaska by providing interview opportunities to an under-utilized source of educated, experienced and highly motivated workforce.

Military families are integral members of our communities and finding gainful employment helps alleviate the stress when families transfer to new locations. In our experience, when service members leave the military, they remain in the community because they feel supported and their families are thriving. Engaging military spouses and dependents in employment is one step in integrating them into our communities.

Again, thank you for hearing this legislation and we are happy to lend our support to HB 125.

Sincerely,

Magen James, Board member  
Mary Beth Goodman, Board member  
Christina Gamache, Board member  
Chief Bill Smith, Board member