



Of Access to Justice In the Last Frontier

March 10, 2021

Rep. Sponholz and Rep. Fields, Co-Chairs
House Labor & Commerce Committee
State Capital, Barnes 124
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: SB 24 – Virtual Meetings for Corporations

Dear Co-Chairs Spohnholz and Fields:

Alaska Legal Services Corporation (ALSC) is a 501(c)3 non-profit law firm that has been operating in Alaska since 1967. ALSC provides high quality legal services to Alaskans who are facing critical civil legal issues that impact their health, safety, and economic stability. With the free legal help our staff and volunteers provide to low-income families and individuals who can't afford legal help, each day we prevent illegal foreclosures and evictions, open doors to education and employment, and secure safety and stability for victims of domestic violence and elder abuse. For over fifty years, ALSC has been striving to make access to justice a reality for all Alaskans regardless of their means or proximity to the court house. Last year, ALSC reached Alaskans across the state through our 12 regional offices and 6 Medical-Legal Partnerships, impacting 7,521 Alaskans living in 195 different communities.

Our efforts are guided by our governing board which is comprised of leaders appointed from every region in the state. Such representation from across Alaska on our board has helped us maintain our statewide footprint and to understand the unique needs of each of the regions we serve. Having the flexibility to continue to meet in-person or virtually, or do a combination of the two, has been essential to the way we have done our work for at least the last 20 years. This flexibility is very important to us being able to ensure input, participation and governance from across our vast state while having a very limited budget. This model has served us well over the years. We understand that other nonprofits have switched to this model as a means of adjusting to the challenges of the pandemic.

We support SB 24 because it would allow for us to continue doing something that has worked well for many years, and because it may be beneficial to other nonprofits who choose to adopt such practices in the future.

Sincerely,

Nikole Nelson
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