



March 11, 2019

The Honorable Lora Reinbold
Alaska State Capitol, Room 427
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Reinbold and Members of the Labor & Commerce Committee,

The Greater Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce supports improving the reporting process for expedited temporary courtesy licenses provided to military spouses as currently described in SB 11. Improving this process supports our legislative priority to assist veterans, retirees, transitioning service members, military spouses, National Guard members and Reserve Component members in finding employment opportunities.

We support the efforts of the Department of Commerce, in conjunction with the Alaska Coalition for Veteran's and Military Families, to make improvements in the process for military personnel and military spouses to apply for professional licenses in an expedited manner. Alaska has been a leader in this area, with legislation dating back to 2011.

However, to date, this legislation has resulted in very low participation from military spouses. In 2017, fewer than 30 expedited temporary licensing applications were received from military spouses. Clearly there is still work to be done, and a formal reporting process is a component of improving this situation.

The Greater Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce represents over 700 business members throughout Interior Alaska. We work to advocate for the best business environment, promote economic strength and growth for Interior Alaska, and to develop the resources and networks enterprising people use to share knowledge. Please let us know if we can provide any information to support your efforts on this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marisa Sharrah".

Marisa Sharrah
President/CEO

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rebecca Dean".

Rebecca Dean
Board Chair

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