

Monday, March 27, 2023
The Honorable Senator Cathy Giessel
State Capitol Room 427
Juneau AK, 99801

The Honorable Representative Mina
State Capitol Room 420
Juneau Ak, 99801

RE: Support for SB 106 and HB 127

Dear Senator Giessel and Representative Mina,

My name is Debbie Mulholland and I live in Anchorage. I am writing in support of SB 106 and HB 127. I was a caregiver for the last decade but I'm now retired from the profession. Just before my retirement I lost a dear client. His family was one hundred percent there to make sure that he was well taken care of in his last years. In the end, he was able to die where he had lived since the 1950's. Families like this are the reason I continue to fight for family caregivers to be paid, giving their family the best care only they know how to provide.

Even though I am retired, I still have clients on my mind. I wonder how someone whose whole world revolves around taking care of a disabled child or partner, slipping into dementia can manage. Only they know their special needs, and if I may add, the communication that exists only with someone who knows you intimately is so much better. With all of this to carry, it is even more of a burden to also add the weight of trying to financially juggle the bills too. These family caregivers desperately need to be paid for their labors of love. The need for in-home care is only getting more dire as Alaska's population ages. More people want to stay in their homes as they age. Assisted living can be good, but it's not the same.

This is an issue that affects so many people in Alaska. I am in awe of anyone who has a parent that needs care right now. Handling the logistics of trying to find someone you can feel comfortable with to tend to the needs of a family member is so hard. I appreciate your support of those whose whole lives are dedicated to caring for their family members. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Debbie Mulholland