From: Sen. Cathy Giessel
To: Jane Conway; Paige Brown
Subject: FW: Thank you
Date: Monday, March 27, 2023 9:02:46 AM

From: Rebecca Reiss <anamalviczec5@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 27, 2023 8:31 AM
To: Rep. Genevieve Mina <Rep.Genevieve.Mina@akleg.gov>; Sen. Cathy Giessel <Sen.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov>
Cc: JoeyBosworth@gmail.com
Subject: Thank you

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,

Hi, my name is Rebecca Reiss and I live in Anchorage, Alaska. I'm writing in support of SB 106 and HB 127. I've been a caregiver since September of 2022. Previously, I worked at a women's shelter as a night
shift attendant. I've been caring for people in one way or another, including my brother who dealt with
several developmental issues for most of my life.
Thank you for investing in the care system last year. Caregivers all need raises, and we must continue to
do everything we can to support caregivers. The high costs of gas, rent, and food make it very hard to
make ends meet. Even after working seven days per week, often taking extra shifts, I ended up unhoused
in a shelter with my daughter. Just recently I moved into an apartment and I am starting to get back on
my feet. It hasn't been an easy journey.
Right now, I am scheduled to care for three wonderful young ladies. One client has MS. She has been in
the hospital for 3 weeks. Another may join an assisted living home that she's trying out. My third

client
can take care of herself in a lot of ways, but becomes triggered easily, and will lash out at me in violent
ways. I spend a lot of time driving my clients around to appointments, grocery shopping, and helping them take care of their daily needs of all types.
Honestly, I would love to settle into this field and make it a career. A lot of people are unwilling to keep
doing this work because it doesn't pay enough or have benefits. That's why investing in family members
becoming paid caregivers is crucial because we don't have enough caregivers in Alaska. We need to make sure we are getting the right number of hours and pay raises, and also more caregivers. But as long
as caregivers are making low wages, we will keep losing workers, and things will get worse. This is important especially in Anchorage because it's the town with the largest population. People come here
seeking help from the health care system.
Thank you for your commitment to caregivers, change is urgently needed to fix our broken care system
and make it better for all Alaskans
Sincerely,
Rebecca Reiss