

Monday, March 27th, 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 Veronica Page and I live in Anchorage. I am writing in support of SB 106 and HB 127. This bill will allow family members to be paid to provide care for their loved ones permanently. I'm asking you to support this bill as well.

My wedding dress is hanging in my garage unworn. One month before our wedding my fiance was in a devastating accident. He was expected to be in a permanent vegetative state- never to eat, to walk, to live the way we'd always planned. I never got to say my vows, but I have stuck by my partner every step of the way over the last 12 years as his sole care provider. By the healing grace of God he has made an incredible recovery. He can do most of the things doctors were sure he wouldn't ever be able to.

We never married because in the state of Alaska being married would have meant that I would not be able to be paid as a caregiver for my husband. The care was 24/7 around the clock- there was no way for me to work another job and frankly, he didn't want other people seeing him in that position. There aren't enough caregivers in Alaska and there are many people who don't have the training they need to be effective at work. Anything less than excellent care would have hindered his recovery. We couldn't take that chance, and we had to pay for housing somehow.

We are a Christian family and every day of the last 12 years I have been living in sin against my values and denied my dream. We could never take the chance, even in the last few years, that our marriage could cost us my sole income- cost us everything, and so we have done what we had to do to be well and keep the bills paid. Alaskans deserve choice. Many families, like mine, want to take care of each other and they're the best caregivers delivering care at the highest level. We deserve to make a living doing the same work that other caregivers do. We deserve to

be married, and we deserve to be paid.

Sincerely,  
Veronica Page