



Senator Scott Jiu Wo Kawasaki

Alaska State Senate

District P Fairbanks

SB 207

Sponsor Statement

“An Act creating the military and veteran family help desk in the Department of Military and Veterans’ Affairs; and providing for an effective date.”

Senate Bill No. 207 establishes the military and veteran family help desk in the Department of Military and Veterans’ Affairs (DMVA). This help desk would be a dedicated point of contact for those currently serving, veterans, and their families to connect them to vital State services. The help desk is intended to meet State Policy priorities provided by the Department of Defense to aid military families and provide means for tackling future priorities. Washington and Virginia have already passed similar legislation.

Alaska’s military population, including family members of military personnel and veterans, comprise about 7% of our total population. The military population is nomadic and has unique needs. Every state has its own laws, differences in services, and different professional certification requirements. The help desk would serve as a link between the military population and everything Alaska has to offer and would create a clear channel of communication.

This legislation primarily prioritizes employment of military spouses and inclusivity of family members in assisting with a wide variety of tasks, from applying to the University of Alaska to obtaining information about various jobs. The military has a large impact on our state, and we must serve those who serve us. We ask for your support of Senate Bill 207.