



February 23, 2024

RE: Support for House Bill 89, relating to the daycare assistance program, childcare grant program and education tax credits

Dear members of the 33rd Alaska Legislature,

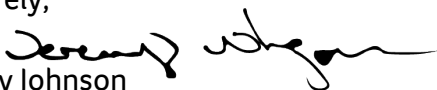
Some of our members say that lack of childcare is holding up their ability to recruit workers to our region. We think House Bill 89 is a positive step toward expanding childcare capacity in Alaska, and we write to encourage you to support this legislation. By raising the level of support for families and providers, and by allowing businesses to receive a tax credit for investments in childcare, we think new investment will commence and employee recruitment and retention in all sectors of Alaska will improve. This is especially important for the childcare sector, which is sorely in need of workers.

As the largest business member organization in Alaska’s Interior, workforce development—attracting and retaining employees to meet the economic and social needs of Interior Alaska—is one of our top priorities. Childcare is an important part of workforce development. Parents need a safe place for their children to thrive while they are making a living. Our more than 600 members support solutions for childcare that boost accessibility and affordability, and we think House Bill 89 offers multiple tools to meet those objectives.

In addition, we continue to support the Education Tax Credit program allowing businesses to directly fund institutions and programs that align with their values and the specific skills that are needed. Companies can help develop a skilled workforce by investing in programs and educational institutions that will grow the talent pool.

We are grateful to state leaders for their efforts to assist in attracting and retaining workers in Alaska.

Sincerely,


Jeremy Johnson
President & CEO


Kelly Ward
Board Chair

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Vivamore Companies
1.30.2024