



May 18, 2026

Senator Lyman Hoffman, Co-Chair
Senator Donny Olson, Co-Chair
Senator Bert Stedman, Co-Chair
Senate Finance Committee

Re: House Bill 193, Unemployment Benefits; Paid Parent Leave (version 34-LS0612\S.A)

Dear Co-Chairs Hoffman, Olson, Stedman, and members of the Senate Finance Committee,

The Alaska Chamber (the Chamber) writes to express support for the paid sick leave provisions contained in House Bill 193, an act relating to minimum paid sick leave requirements; establishing a paid parental leave program; relating to employer surcharges; relating to the employment assistance and training program account; relating to unemployment benefits; relating to the collection of child support obligations; relating to employee unemployment tax credits; relating to employer contributions to unemployment; relating to the duties of the Department of Labor and Workforce Development; and providing for an effective date.

The Alaska Chamber is the state's largest statewide business advocacy organization. Our mission is to promote a healthy business environment in Alaska. The Chamber has more than 700 members and represents businesses of all sizes and industries from across the state, representing 58,000 Alaskan workers and \$4.6 billion in wages.

The paid sick leave reforms contained in this bill reflect many of the changes originally proposed in House Bill 161, legislation the Chamber has strongly supported as a practical effort to address significant concerns raised by Alaska employers following passage of the 2024 paid sick leave mandate.

Alaska businesses, particularly small and seasonal businesses, have consistently voiced concerns regarding the operational, financial, and administrative challenges associated with implementing the current paid sick leave requirements. The reforms included in HB 193 represent a meaningful and balanced step toward improving the policy while still preserving employee leave protections.

The Chamber appreciates that these changes acknowledge the realities facing Alaska employers, including seasonal operations, workforce limitations, and the need for greater clarity and flexibility in administering leave policies. By addressing several widely recognized issues with the existing mandate, the legislation would provide important relief to employers across the state while helping businesses continue to hire, grow, and serve their communities.

While the Alaska Chamber has not had the chance to fully analyze the impacts of the paid parental leave program, we believe the immediate benefits from the paid sick leave exemption outweigh the potential impacts paid parental leave might have on businesses in the future.

We appreciate the Legislature's willingness to work collaboratively on these issues and respectfully urge your support for HB 193 and the paid sick leave reforms included within the bill. Thank you for your consideration of the Chamber's comments on this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Kati Capozzi'.

Kati Capozzi
President and CEO



2550 Denali Street, Suite 530
Anchorage, AK 99503



Office (907) 278-2722



www.alaskachamber.com
info@alaskachamber.com