



March 5, 2024

Senator Jesse Bjorkman, Chair  
Senate Labor and Commerce Committee

Re: Senate Bill 196, Employer Drug and Alcohol Testing

Dear Chair Bjorkman, and members of the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee,

The Alaska Chamber (the Chamber) writes in support of Senate Bill 196, an act relating to drug and alcohol testing by employers.

The Alaska Chamber was founded in 1953 and is Alaska's most diverse 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, directly representing 58,000 Alaskan workers and \$4.6 billion in wages.

Senate Bill 196 seeks to include oral fluid testing within Alaska's drug and alcohol testing "safe harbor" law. The current safe harbor law has played an important role in protecting employers from legal challenges related to drug and alcohol testing. The statute currently covers urine testing for drugs and breath testing for alcohol. However, since the policy was originally designed, significant advancements have been made in drug and alcohol testing, including the availability and refinement of oral fluid testing.

Oral fluid testing has been approved at the federal level and is widely used in other states. The Chamber believes adding oral fluid testing is a welcome and economically responsible step to update and enhance Alaska's safe harbor laws. Both employers and employees can benefit from the simplified collection process of saliva, as compared to blood and urine. The inclusion of oral fluid testing under the safe harbor law will allow employers more flexibility in their drug and alcohol testing programs. This small addition proposed by SB 196 provides consistency across jurisdictions.

Thank you for considering the Alaska Chamber's comments on this issue.

Sincerely,

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

Kati Capozzi  
President and CEO



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