

ENERGY CO-CHAIR
CHARISSE MILLETT

R - ANCHORAGE (HD24)

HOUSEMAJORITY.ORG/MILLETT



PRESS RELEASE

CAPITOL ROOM 403

JUNEAU: 465-3879

ANCHORAGE: 269-0222

EMPLOYMENT FIRST LEGISLATION CLEARS HOUSE **Millett's HB 211 provides opportunities for those with disabilities**

Monday, February 24, 2014 - The Alaska House of Representatives today unanimously passed legislation making Alaska an Employment First state.

House Bill 211, by Representative Charisse Millett, makes gainful employment the primary objective of all state services when interacting with individuals with disabilities. Resources would be coordinated to educate, train and craft an individualized plan for these women and men to succeed in the job market.

"We have seen the national trend of growing healthcare costs and disproportionately high unemployment for members of our community with disabilities" Millett, R-Anchorage, said. "It's proven that when people with disabilities work they build assets as part of their net worth, their health improves, and they generally lead much happier and more fulfilled lives."

Employment First is a national movement that has so far been implemented by more than twenty-five other states. With demonstrable benefits both to public finances as well as to the individuals with disabilities now gainfully employed, more state are looking towards adopting Employment First legislation. "This is the epitome of a win-win" Millett said.

HB 211 was introduced by Representative Charisse Millett along with four other members of the House Majority Women's Caucus: Representatives Lynn Gattis, Lindsey Holmes, Shelley Hughes and Gabrielle LeDoux.

The Department of Education and Early Development is required to submit a report annually to the Mental Health Trust Authority under the bill.

HB 211 now moves to the Alaska Senate for consideration.

#

For more information, contact Rep. Millett's office at 907-465-3879.