

# • Rep. Tom Brice's Labor Report •

## A legislative update regarding Labor issues

### Labor Contracts – Action Needed!!!

The legislative session is two-thirds over. The House has passed the operating budget and the Senate plans to pass its version of the same late this week. It is expected that a conference committee will hammer out the differences between the two early next week.

Conspicuously *missing* from these budgets is funding for the 12 labor contracts. Everyone concerned about these contracts is strongly encouraged to **call, write, e-mail, or send public opinion messages** to their legislators, *immediately!* Urge them to support and fund the contracts. *Keep your message positive.* Remind your senator or representative that you are the troopers, ferry and airport workers, the clerical and support staff, social workers, eligibility technicians, nurses, aides, investigators, probation officers, supervisors, road repair, snow plow operators, etc. You are the engine which keeps the state operating and safe. Humanize yourself; share stories with them explaining how what you do is vital and how you go the extra mile. Urge your family and friends call or write as well.

If you have any questions regarding who your legislator is or need addresses or phone numbers please contact Rep. Brice's office and we will provide you with the appropriate information.

### HB 345 – Health Insurance

The sponsor substitute for HB 345 primarily does one thing. It would require public employees to pay into the Catastrophic Health Insurance Association pool if they set up their own Health Trust. Effectively, this would cause public employees to pay an additional \$500,000 into this pool, while receiving no benefit for the increased contribution. Rep. Rokeberg seems to be raising more barriers to those organizations who seek to reduce costs to government and provide better benefits to its members. This bill must be closely watched in the event it moves out of committee.

#### Contact Rep. Brice

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A copy of any bill may be obtained by request of Rep. Brice or on the web at: <http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis21.htm>.  
If you would like to have Rep. Brice's Labor Updates e-mailed to you please e-mail a request.

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