

ALASKA MENTAL HEALTH BOARD

TONY KNOWLES, GOVERNOR
STATE OF ALASKA

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Tony Knowles, Governor
State of Alaska
Office of the Governor
PO Box 110001
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0001

Dear Governor Knowles,

We have been notified by the Disability Law Center of Alaska of the case, *Garrett v. University of Alabama*, challenging the constitutionality of Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). We are seeking your support in opposition to this constitutional challenge.

In Alaska, a significant percentage of workers are employed by state and local governments, as well as by other public bodies, such as the University of Alaska. We rely on these employers to set the moral leadership for private employers in fully following the Americans with Disabilities Act's provisions. Exempting governmental agencies' compliance would place significant numbers of employees at risk of discrimination and would send a message to private employers that Alaska does not consider ADA compliance to be important.

We know from your long support of people with disabilities that you will not join with the state of Alabama seeking to relieve public entities and states from their responsibilities under the ADA. Given your past support for people with disabilities, we urge you and your Attorney General to consider joining other states which might be pleading in support of the constitutionality of the Americans with Disabilities Act as it applies to governmental agencies.

Sincerely,

Susan Humphrey-Barnett, Chair