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## Senator Loren Leman District G

**For Immediate Release:** March 19, 2001  
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### **Leman Bill Provides Incentives to Work in Alaska** **New Program Would Attract Education and Health Care Professionals**

(JUNEAU) – Sen. Loren Leman (R-Anchorage) introduced legislation today to help alleviate the shortage of education and health care professionals in Alaska.

“Alaska spends a lot of money on health and education,” said Leman. “We need to be able to attract the quality and quantity of high-caliber people our state needs to maximize the return on this investment.”

Senate Bill 149 uses financial incentives to attract people in these fields to Alaska. Under the plan the State of Alaska will pay part of monthly student loan payments for those hired after July 1, 2001 as licensed teaching professionals or health care providers. The bill also contains loan forgiveness provisions.

“Alaska does not have the training capacity in state to provide all of our professional staffing needs,” said Leman. “My proposal will give school districts, hospitals and clinics a financial tool to overcome this challenge.”

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