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Sponsor Statement **HB 412**

Everyday, we enjoy the freedoms and security granted to us by our Constitution and laws. These rights, that so many take for granted, are there because men and women work everyday to assure they are protected. Alaskans who put on a uniform and put their life on the line, be it a police officer, a firefighter, or a member of the armed services deserve our respect and support.

When they give the ultimate sacrifice to protect us, we as Alaskans have an obligation to help their families, in more than just the short term. Most families, have not only lost a spouse or a parent, they have lost a major source of income. HB 412 will offer these surviving family members an opportunity to advance their lives by attending the University of Alaska for a very reduced cost.

Existing language in AS 14.43.085 allows a waiver of fees and tuition. HB 412 expands that language to include on-campus room and board. The cost to the State and the University is small when compared to the price of giving ones life in service to our state and country.

By combining these cost reductions with the limited compensation provided by the Federal Government, an Alaskan student could receive a University of Alaska education at little or no expense. HB 412 will show our men and women who selflessly give of themselves that we support them, not only while they serve, but we will also be there should they make the ultimate sacrifice.