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Governor Sean Parnell
STATE OF ALASKA

February 8, 2011

The Honorable Gary Stevens
President of the Senate
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 111
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear President Stevens,

Under the authority of Article III, Section 18, of the Alaska Constitution, I am transmitting a bill relating to the protection of property of persons under disability; relating to the crime of violating a protective order concerning certain vulnerable persons; relating to aggravating factors at sentencing for offenses concerning a victim 65 years or older; and relating to the protection of vulnerable adults.

Financial exploitation of the elderly and other vulnerable adults is a growing problem. Victims of financial exploitation may not need a guardian, but may need assistance stopping immediate misuse or theft of their money. These victims find it difficult to access the courts and obtain prompt and inexpensive relief. With a temporary conservator, the vulnerable victim retains autonomy while receiving assistance. The ex parte relief from fraud procedure is similar to the existing domestic violence protection law, providing a means for vulnerable adults to independently obtain straightforward, expedited relief from immediate financial exploitation.

I am committed to protecting our seniors and other vulnerable adults. This legislation strengthens the laws against financial exploitation and enhances the ability to obtain emergency protection orders for seniors. It improves the ability of those investigating reports of harm to obtain vital information in a timely manner, and will lead to better services and safety for vulnerable adults who are abused, neglected, or exploited and unable to protect their own interests.

I urge your prompt and favorable action on this measure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sean Parnell".

Sean Parnell
Governor

Enclosure