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March 22, 2010

The Honorable Wes Keller, Co-Chair  
House Health and Social Services Committee  
Alaska Capitol, Room 13  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

The Honorable Bob Herron, Co-Chair  
House Health and Social Services Committee  
Alaska Capitol, Room 411  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

RE: HB 270 (Munoz, Seaton, Herron, Gruenberg)—Support

Dear Co-Chairs Keller and Herron:

On behalf of the members of AARP in Alaska, we encourage you and your colleagues on the House Health and Social Services Committee to support HB 270, authored by Representatives Cathy Munoz, Paul Seaton, Max Gruenberg and you, Co-Chair Herron, and co-sponsored by Representative Les Gara.

HB 270 corrects a situation which occurred in 2003 when the Legislature changed eligibility for long-term care services in facilities from 300% of the SSI level to \$1,656 per month. Since then, each year some Alaskans would find themselves no longer eligible than when the 300% level was used.

Alaska has a long history of using home and community based services in preference to institutionalized care. HB 270 will allow our most frail and vulnerable citizens to remain in their homes and communities or in institutional settings, when appropriate.

The beneficiaries of HB 270 are not well off financially. They are at risk economically as well as from a health standpoint.

AARP recommends an "AYE" vote on HB 270.