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April 13, 2010

The Honorable Kurt Olson, Chair
House Labor and Commerce Committee
Alaska Capitol, Room 24
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

RE: SB 10 (Davis)—Support

Dear Chair Olson:

On behalf of the members of AARP in Alaska, we encourage you and the members of the House Labor and Commerce Committee to support SB 10, authored by Senator Bettye Davis and co-sponsored by Senator Joe Paskvan, your Committee colleagues Representatives Bob Lynn and Bob Buch as well as Representatives Carl Gatto, Cathy Munoz, Pete Peterson, Charisse Millett, Les Gara and Chris Tuck.

SB 10 would require insurance programs, including Medicaid, to provide coverage for routine costs of cancer victims undergoing clinical trials just as they would if the individual was not in the trial. Research indicates that the costs for patient care in clinical trials are comparable to costs for care delivered in standard practice.

Most of our significant advances in cancer treatment that have become standard procedures began as clinical trials.

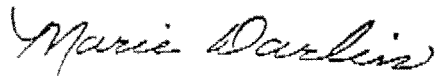
It makes no sense not to offer health insurance coverage for procedures that may be still considered experimental but offer some hope for the cancer victim. We purchase insurance (or the State provides it through Medicaid) so that we can have help with the costs that accompany a threatening disease. SB 10 is one of those bills that AARP believes makes sense, especially to a cancer victim and his/her family.

AARP recommends an "AYE" vote on SB 10.

Should you have any questions about our position, please feel free to contact me (586-3637) or Patrick Luby, AARP Advocacy Director (907-762-3314).

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Marie Darlin, Coordinator
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CC: Vice-Chair Representative Mark Neuman Representative Lindsey Holmes
Representative Bob Lynn Representative Bob Buch
Representative Mike Chenault Senator Bettye Davis
Representative Tammie Wilson