

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE
Alaska Mental Health
Trust Authority

SEAN PARNELL, GOVERNOR

Office of the Long Term Care Ombudsman

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March 1, 2011

Representative Cathy Munoz
Alaska State 27th Legislature
Capitol Building
Juneau, AK

Re: HCR 3 "Relating to promoting the safety and protection of older Alaskans"

Dear Rep. Munoz:

The Office of the Long Term Care Ombudsman investigates and resolves complaints made by, or on behalf of, older Alaskans in long term care facilities. Our five staff visit skilled nursing facilities and assisted living homes across the state to advise seniors of their rights and to resolve problems the seniors identify. Like other state and local agencies, our staff work hard to protect older Alaskans who may not be able to advocate for themselves.

I am grateful for your sponsorship of HCR 3, promoting public awareness of elder maltreatment. I also pledge my program's commitment to improving coordination with DHSS and other state agencies in whatever way will serve the cause of elder justice.

With our state's growing senior population, and with the rising number of public complaints coming into our office, I believe that this is the right time to bring public attention to the needs of vulnerable older Alaskans.

Sincerely,



Diana Weber
State of Alaska Long Term Care Ombudsman
3745 Community Park Loop, Suite 200
Anchorage, AK 99508