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March 10, 2011

The Honorable Wes Keller, Chair  
House Health and Social Services Committee  
Alaska Capitol, Room 432  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

RE: HCR 3 (Munoz)—Support

Dear Chair Keller:

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 HCR 3, authored by Representative Cathy Munoz.

HCR 3 will put a spotlight on the problems of elder abuse in our state.

AARP's policies on personal and legal rights are guided by six principles.

**Protections against discrimination**—strong and expansive legal protections against discrimination

**Freedom from exploitation and abuse**—strong legal protections against, and effective protective services addressing, all forms of exploitation and abuse of incapacitated and vulnerable adults

**Safeguarding rights**—strong procedural and substantive safeguards to protect individual rights

**Choice**—legal support for the right of competent adults to protect their wishes and desires in the event they become unable to make or express their own decisions

**Enforcement**—rigorous enforcement of civil rights and other statutes protecting the rights and safety of individuals

**Redress and support for victims**—full availability of the court system to obtain redress for rights violations, not limited by circumstances such as disability or ability to pay

Alaska should support the formation and ongoing operation of multidisciplinary teams to address elder abuse issues that cannot be effectively resolved by a single discipline and train professionals from a variety of disciplines (including prosecutors, police officers, troopers, lawyers, employees of financial institutions, and APS agencies) to improve detection, investigation, and enforcement regarding cases of abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

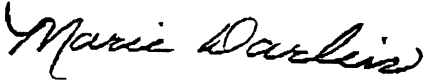
Will HCR 3 end physical, financial and self-abuse? No. Will it help all Alaskans become more aware of what can and should be done to prevent and resolve these problems? Ycs.

AARP requests an "AYE" vote on HCR 3.

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,



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CC: Vice-Chair Alan Dick  
Representative Bob Herron  
Representative Paul Seaton  
Representative Beth Kerttula  
Representative Bob Miller  
Representative Charisse Millett  
Representative Cathy Munoz