



Alaska Geriatric Exchange Network
An Association of Advocates and Service Providers for Older Alaskans

February 3, 2014

Representative Mike Hawker
State Capitol Room 502
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Representative Hawker:

Members of the Alaska Geriatric Exchange Network (AGENET) are experienced senior service providers from across Alaska. On the following page is a list of our members. As professionals who are particularly familiar with challenges facing older Alaskans, we would like to offer our support for House Bill 263 to extend the Alaska Senior Benefits Program to June 30, 2021.

Approximately 11,000 older Alaskans with low to moderate incomes currently depend on this program to supplement their fixed incomes. They use the money to buy a wide range of local goods and services. Seniors' spending is a stable, year-round industry that has an economic multiplier impact resulting in job creation and income generation that expands the size of the Alaska's economy.

In addition to being a wise economic investment, the Senior Benefits Program helps older Alaskans maintain their health, safety and independent living. They use the monthly cash assistance to buy necessities such as food, fuel, assistive devices (including glasses and hearing aids), and medical care. The small monthly amount an eligible senior receives can make a meaningful difference toward helping them afford the basic necessities of life.

The Senior Benefits Program was established in 2007 and will end on June 30, 2015 unless it is extended. Thank you, Representative Hawker, for sponsoring this bill which extends the sunset date of this important program. Feel free to contact me at (907) 463-6154 or Marianne.mills@ccsjuneau.org for further information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Marianne Mills".

Marianne Mills, President

Mailing Address: c/o President Marianne Mills, SESS, 419 Sixth Street, Juneau, Alaska 99801

The members of AGENET include:

Senior Citizens of Kodiak	Alzheimer's Resource of Alaska
Anchorage Senior Center	Tanana Chiefs Conference
Center for Community	Southeast Senior Services
Kenai Senior Services	Homer Senior Citizens, Inc.
Fairbanks Resource Agency	Serendipity Adult Day Center
Older Alaskans Program-TSA	Seward Seniors, Inc.
Independent Living Center	Seaview Community Services
Soldotna Area Senior Citizens	Rendezvous Senior Day Services
Alaska Consumer Direct	Immediate Care, Inc.
Palmer Senior Citizens Center	Alaska Mobility Coalition
Qutekcak Native Tribe	AHFC Senior Housing Office
Southeast Alaska Independent Living	Lisa Cauble (TTC)
Valdez Senior Citizens, Inc.	Ken Helander (AARP)
Native Village of Unalakleet	Frontier Community Services
Hearts and Hands, Inc.	MidValley Seniors, Inc.
State Independent Living Council	Nenana Tortella Council on Aging
Access Alaska	Sandra Heffern (EHD Enterprises)
Ninilchik Senior Citizens	Kay Branch (ANTHC)
ResCare	Wasilla Area Seniors
Hospice of Anchorage	Sterling Area Senior Citizens
Eddy Hoffman Senior Center	