



Community Care Coalition

February 3, 2016

Representative Paul Seaton
Chair, House Health and Social Services
State Capitol Room 102
Juneau, AK. 99801

The Community Care Coalition (CCC) is comprised of trade associations who provide care for elderly, disabled and at-risk Alaskans. The Alaska Association on Developmental Disabilities, AgeNet, Assisted Living Association of Alaska and the Personal Care Assistant Provider's Association have banded together in a united voice to bring forward our collective message on behalf of our most vulnerable citizenry. As members of the home and community-based long term care industry, we collectively represent all of Alaska with over 50,000 consumers, family members and staff. We want to thank you for the opportunity to provide public comment on HB 226 which proposes to extend the Alaska Commission on Aging (ACOA) to June 30, 2024.

The mission of ACOA is to ensure the dignity and independence of all older Alaskans, and to assist them to lead useful and meaningful lives through planning, advocacy, education, and interagency cooperation. ACOA satisfies a requirement of the federal Older Americans Act (OAA), allowing Alaska to receive almost \$11 million in federal OAA funding in FY2016. These funds help to support older Alaskans in receiving services close to home. Alaska has one of the fastest growing senior populations per capita, many of whom are dealing with or will develop Alzheimer's disease and related dementias (ADRD). ACOA was instrumental in partnering with the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority and a wide range of stakeholders to develop *Alaska's Roadmap to Address Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias (2015)*. This document will provide guidance for services and funding as our society continues to grapple with the health issues presented by ADRD.

The staff of ACOA work diligently to advocate for older Alaskans, their families and community service providers. Their voice is strong and well respected. The association members of the Community Care Coalition fully support the extension of the Alaska Commission on Aging to June 30, 2024. We encourage the House Health and Social Services committee to pass HB226.

Regards,

Sandra J Heffern
Chair