



April 8th, 2014

The Honorable Shelley Hughes
House District 8 - Greater Palmer
Alaska State Legislature
120 East 4th Street
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Representative Hughes,

On behalf of the 1.2 million members of AMAC, the Association of Mature American Citizens, including more than 5,000 members in Alaska, I am writing to offer our support to HB 254, the "Uniform Power of Attorney" bill, which has been introduced in the Alaska State Legislature. This important piece of legislation seeks to protect seniors from fraud and financial abuse as a result of vulnerabilities in the state's existing power of attorney statutes.

By clarifying the responsibilities and duties of those receiving the power of attorney, HB 254 strengthens current law and works to minimize instances of elder financial abuse. This legislation also amends existing statute so that if the individual receiving the power of attorney acts inappropriately, then his powers can be removed. AMAC believes that enhancing accountability within the state's laws will give mature Americans and seniors the added protections they need.

Unfortunately, scams targeting seniors have become far too common. As older Americans experience some degree of cognitive decline, they often become increasingly susceptible to fraud and financial abuse from relatives or close friends. Taking these critical concerns into consideration, HB 254 has worked to align its statutory wording with that of other states in order to eliminate problems when the senior and the power of attorney live in different states. AMAC is pleased that HB 254 seeks to address myriad aspects of this problem and that it has been specifically designed to better guide those who help care for seniors.

As the fastest-growing conservative seniors organization in the country, AMAC remains very concerned about abuses of power of attorney statutes. AMAC joins you in honoring our elders and protecting them as they enter a vulnerable time in life. Thanks to your concern for seniors and leadership on this significant issue, AMAC is proud to support HB 254 and strongly encourages the Alaska State Legislature to adopt this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dan Weber".

Dan Weber
President and Founder of AMAC