

From: [Rocky Plotnick](#)
To: [House State Affairs](#)
Cc: [Rep. Zack Fields](#)
Subject: HB 96
Date: Thursday, March 21, 2019 1:46:41 PM

I am writing to express my strong support for House Bill 96 which addresses the rates for Alaska Pioneer Homes.

My family has a loved one living in the Anchorage Pioneer Home. The care and service provided is exceptional and through this experience I have come to know numerous other residents at the Home. Also, as a lifelong Alaska resident (66 years) I value the original intent of the Pioneer Homes.

I urge the passage of this legislation which will maintain affordable rates in the Alaska Pioneer Homes.

Sincerely,

Rochelle Plotnick
1238 G St.
Anchorage, AK. 99501
907-321-7625

From: [Marsha Armstrong](#)
To: [House State Affairs](#)
Subject: HB 96
Date: Friday, March 22, 2019 6:58:08 PM

I am writing in support of HB 96. My mother is in the Fairbanks Pioneer Home and the recent news about the horrendous increase in the monthly charge has made her very anxious. Due to the complete lack of what actually will happen over the course of the next few years, it seems very unfair to our senior citizens. HB 96 seems more reasonable and will let residents plan ahead.

Marsha M Armstrong
3700 Boniface #A
Anchorage Ak 99504

Sent from my iP

From: [Linda Walsh](#)
To: [House State Affairs](#)
Subject: HB 96
Date: Friday, March 22, 2019 12:46:29 PM

This is in support of HB 96 to stop the alarming raise in rates to our elders in Pioneer Homes across the state. My mother, Martha Major is a resident of the Fairbanks Pioneer Home, in the Moosewood section Level 2. At this time she is able and does pay her own fees. She has medical care through Chief Andrew Isaac Health Center and a small pension through our deceased father.

My mother, my sister and myself attended the meeting with Clinton Lasley. He raised more questions and anxiety than he answered. Even though this meeting was not scheduled very far in advance, it was well attended by both residents and family members.

Again, these rates and the lack of very important answers to these increases show very little planning or concern for our seniors or families.

Linda J Walsh
907 347-1953

Sent from my iPad

3/25/19

To whom it may concern,

I am an employee at the State of Alaska Pioneers Home in Palmer and recently learned of the effort to privatize my position. I have gone all out for the last 7 years for our residents. I take great pride in not only providing a clean and safe environment for our elders, but also taking the time to get to know them personally and treating them with the respect and dignity they deserve. We are an Eden facility and go above and beyond the call of duty every day. I truly care about my residents and coworkers. As well as the fear of losing our positions, the rate increase proposal I have read about would be a financial burden that some of our residents would not be able to fill. I respectfully ask that you, the people in the positions of power to look at the harm and the long term effects that this could do to all involved. Perhaps some of you may have a loved one that will someday need 24 hour around the clock care in an assisted living home like ours. You would want the BEST care available. In whatever capacity I can, I would like to add my support to HB96.

Thank you,

Ladd Holobinko,
Journeyman 2 Housekeeper,
Alaska Veterans and Pioneer Home,
Palmer, Alaska

Dear Members of the House State Affairs Committee:

I am writing today in support of HB 96.

Along with my wife and children, my parents, in-laws, and grandmother all live here in Alaska. I think a lot about what type of care I want for my parents and in-laws when it's time. Currently, my grandmother resides in a private nursing home, so I am well aware of the costs associated with elder care. I am also a veteran and I work on veterans' issues. I head up the Alaska Union Veterans Council and can confidently say that the Council's 180 plus members are also concerned about our fellow veterans. This issue affects us all in many ways.

I support this bill because it will work to keep senior and veteran care at our state facilities affordable for the pioneers and veterans of Alaska when they most need it. They spent their lifetimes in service to our great state, now it is our turn to ensure they are provided with excellent care that is affordably priced. Thank you for considering this bill.

Kyle Kaiser

Chugiak, Alaska

9040 Emerald Drive
Anchorage, Alaska 99502-5131

March 21, 2019

House State Affairs Committee

In Re: House Bill 96

Dear Members of the House State Affairs Committee,

Thank you so much for introducing a bill to protect the interests of and commitments to our Pioneers. I find it appalling that the great women and men who built Alaska do not have the security they were promised for their final years.

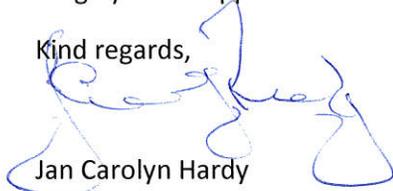
Residential nursing care is a very expensive proposition. By the time most of us reach the age and stage of disability required to meet entry criterion we no longer have the finances to cover the cost. Moreover our families may not have that kind of money: our adult children need to raise their own children. And long term care insurance only lasts as long as the money lasts.

Alaska has an incredible history of supporting its elders if only the males. Our first institutions for care came to be in the late 19th century. We are a unique society where despite the few families who are multi-generational most of us are not. I am a 70 years old woman who had to return to work because her retirement benefits were insufficient. I have no family. I had expected my final days to be in one of our wonderful, caring Pioneer Homes. If Mr. Dunleavy's budget comes to pass I will probably die alone in my home without the benefit of any care or medical attention.

HB 96 pegs Pioneer Home rates to the Consumer Price Index. This measure of control over pricing will allow Alaska to uphold its obligation to its Pioneer Citizens. CPI indexing will create a level field for those of us who under current pricing levels could see ourselves admitted to any one of our Pioneer Homes.

I urge you to support HB 96 and the Pioneers who built Alaska.

Kind regards,



Jan Carolyn Hardy

From: [Doreen Cruz](#)
To: [House State Affairs](#)
Subject: HB96
Date: Sunday, March 24, 2019 10:04:24 PM

I've been an employee of the Pioneer Home for 17 years, I have spent that time caring for the elders of this state. Not too long ago I learned that there is a push to privatize my position. I pray for job security for the sake of my family. I love what I do for these people. Now I hear the same administration that has threatened to turn my life upside down, is proposing massive rate increase for the same elders I have spent the last 17 years caring for, with no relief until they become destitute themselves. We owe our elders more dignity than this and that's why I support HB96. We are an essential part of this facility. The government should look into taking care of the people of Alaska for the right reasons.

Truly yours,
Doreen Cruz of Anchorage
Sent from my iPhone

From: [Denise Wallace](#)
To: [House State Affairs](#)
Subject: HB96
Date: Friday, March 22, 2019 8:17:15 PM

Please support HB96. My mom lives in the Fbks Pioneer home and has been a resident for almost 3 years. We are happy with the staff and the facility. We are concerned about the large rate increase. Mom has experienced a lot of anxiety as well as many of her fellow residents. The need for an increase in rates is understandable but the huge sudden increase is troubling. We would appreciate a much more gradual increase and a better thought out plan.

Thank you!

Vic and Denise Wallace

Sent from my iPad

From: [Leona Blankenship](#)
To: [House State Affairs](#)
Subject: HB-96
Date: Friday, March 22, 2019 8:26:17 PM

I'm writing in support of HB-96. The recent news about the exorbitant rate increase has caused my mother anxiety. She is a life-long born and raised Native Alaskan and is a resident of the Fairbanks Pioneer Home. Seems more fair for her to know what the rate increases will be over the next few years.

Leona Blankenship
3700 Boniface, Apt A
Anchorage, AK 99504

Sent from my iPad

From: [Support](#)
To: [House State Affairs](#)
Cc: [Laura Bonner](#)
Subject: Strongly Support HB 96
Date: Friday, March 22, 2019 4:14:27 PM

Co-Chair Fields
Co-Chair Kreiss-Tomkins
House State Affairs Committee members

I strongly support HB 96 to keep rates affordable for residents of Pioneer and Veteran Homes. They should be treated with the respect and dignity they have earned and deserve.

Respectfully,
Laura Bonner
Anchorage, AK 99516