

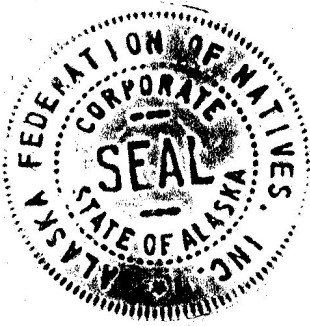


ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES  
2019 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
RESOLUTION 19-17

- TITLE:** A RESOLUTION URGING GOVERNOR DUNLEAVY TO REVERSE THE RATE INCREASES AT THE ALASKA PIONEER HOMES
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 191 federally recognized tribes, 171 village corporations, 12 regional corporations and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and
- WHEREAS:** the mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Pioneer Homes are state-operated assisted living facilities for older Alaskans, in six locations around the state; and
- WHEREAS:** Although state subsidized, they have always charged fees ranging from about \$2,600 per month to nearly \$7,000 per month depending on the level of care required; however, the actual payments are based on ability to pay with residents expected to pay as much as possible from their own resources; and
- WHEREAS:** Governor Dunleavy's Administration, in an attempt to recover the full costs of providing services, recently announced a dramatic increase in rates ranging from a 40% increase to a 120% increase, depending on the class of care, with the highest rates topping out at \$15,000 per month; the rate increases were scheduled to take effect September 1; and
- WHEREAS:** It is unclear the rate increase will actually save the state money, as it may simply drive people who have more resources and options out of the Pioneer Homes, leaving it for people who have to be fully subsidized by the state or federal governments; and
- WHEREAS:** The large increase imposed all at once is extremely unfair to retirees who may have carefully planned their long-term assisted living care based on the prior system, and adversely impact their health by forcing them out of the facilities and increasing stress; and
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska House passed HB 96 which would reverse the rate increases, but it

has not passed the Senate.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2019 Annual AFN Convention urge the Dunleavy Administration to reverse its decision on Pioneer Home rates and revert to the prior monthly rates and urge the Legislature to solidify our elders safety and security through a permanent statutory fix to subsidize the care of our most honored citizens.



Julie Kitka  
President

SUBMITTED BY: BRISTOL BAY NATIVE ASSOCIATION  
COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: PASS  
CONVENTION ACTION: AMENDED AND PASSED