

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE
Alaska Mental Health
Trust Authority

MIKE DUNLEAVY, GOVERNOR

Office of the Long-Term Care Ombudsman

3745 Community Park Loop, Suite 200
Anchorage AK 99508
Phone (907) 334-4480
Fax (907) 334-4486

March 16, 2021

Representative Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins
Chair, House State Affairs
Alaska State Capital
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Representative Kreiss- Tomkins:

The State of Alaska, Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program is pleased to offer support for *HB 103*, an act relating to house rules for assisted living homes and amended to read that an assisted living home may not adopt a house rule that unreasonably restricts the right of a resident.

HB 103 is in alignment with the federal *Home and Community-Based Services* (HCBS) settings final rule which optimizes autonomy and independence in making life choices and ensures the individual rights of privacy, dignity, and respect. Residents in long-term care housing should have the right to make decisions about how they want to live and be cared for, no matter where they call home.

The mission of the Long-Term Care Ombudsman's (LTCO) office is to provide resident-centered advocacy designed to protect the rights, health, safety, and welfare of Alaskans living in long term care facilities. This bill helps to ensure residents rights are protected in Assisted Living Homes.

While our LTCO office supports *HB 103*, I would also encourage the committee to consider the following comments from the Office of Long-term Care Ombudsman:

- Strengthen language in Section 3 (a) (1) of the bill to include:
 - *The Right to Quality Care*
 - Live in a safe, *abuse free* and sanitary environment, *free from discrimination*
- Section 3 (a) (4) – add: *Access to internet*
- Section 3 (a) (4) – include: *The right to receive information in a language the resident understands*
- Section 3 (a) (14) – include: *Receive meals that are culturally preferred*
- Section 3 (a) (16) – add: *without fear of reprisal or retaliation*

Again, the Office of the Long-Term Care Ombudsman supports *HB 103* and would also encourage you to consider the above comments.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Wheeler

Stephanie Wheeler, PhD
State of Alaska, Long-Term Ombudsman Program