



Seniors of Alaska
www.SeniorsofAlaska.org

"I am Senior!"

Dear State Affairs Committee Members,

HB 137 is a bill that protects the Seniors, Disabled, Rural, Lower Income and Native Alaska residents from discriminatory actions by Department Of Administration officials in any decision regarding our rural State of Alaska DMV offices. The closure of any of the offices will place a financial and travel hardship on many Alaskan Seniors and other groups.

The few legislative opponents to HB 137 claim "Don't worry, I believe the DoA will not close our state DMV". "You don't need protection from discrimination." However, there is absolutely nothing in statute to stop the DoA from closing any DMV they choose, any time they choose, regardless of the budget decision of the legislature.

Any statement to the contrary is false and misleading.

HB 137 protects Alaskan rights to access a state DMV office in person. Closure of such a necessary service that is required to fulfill a state mandate is callous and not the Alaskan way.

Closing a rural DMV office or replacing it with an "unregulated pricing" "private Partnership" is a discriminatory action in several ways.

- Why should Seniors and others, who may also be denied on-line services be forced to pay more for state services than other residents?
- Why should Seniors and others who are prevented by statute from accessing on-line services be forced to travel great distances for equal treatment?

Why? NO REASON is the answer to both questions. The closure of rural DMV offices is discriminatory and an undo financial burden as described by statute and law. HB 137 answers both questions directly, with positive action and with clarity.

Both questions are also answered in the "Elder Justice Alaska document signed on July 24, 2019 by DHSS Commissioner Adam Crum and the Federal "Elder Justice Act of 2010". It is a discriminatory action against Senior citizens.

HB 137 protects our Senior, Disabled, Rural, Lower Income and Native Alaska resident from these abuses.

With HB 137 Rural State DMV offices can only be closed with consent of the legislature , who are the representatives of all Alaskans.

Seniors of Alaska, Inc. supports HB 137 and asks you, the legislative body of the State of Alaska to protect and respect the Senior, Disabled, Rural, Lower Income and Native Alaska residents of our great State. As individuals 100,000 plus strong, we cannot vote on HB 137, but you, the Representatives we elected, can.

Please honor our request and vote YES for HB 137.

Thank you,
Peter T. Zuyus, Executive Director
Seniors of Alaska, Inc.