



THE STATE  
of **ALASKA**  
GOVERNOR MICHAEL J. DUNLEAVY

## Department of Health and Social Services

ALASKA COMMISSION ON AGING

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January 21, 2022

Commissioner Adam Crum  
3601 C Street, Suite 902  
Anchorage, AK 99503

Dear Commissioner Crum,

On behalf of the Alaska Commission on Aging (ACoA), I am pleased to inform you of the commission's support of your reintroduction of the proposal to reorganize the Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) into two smaller departments, the Department of Health and the Department of Family and Community Services.

The ACoA recognizes that with the large size and diverse nature of the current DHSS structure, it is difficult to ensure that adequate time, attention, and resources are equally divided across the needs of each division and the general public whom they serve. With the reorganization into two departments, greater efficiencies, responsiveness, and flexibility can be achieved to aid in each divisions' ability to provide the foremost service possible to their end users.

You and your staff reached out to our commissioners and other similar organizations to explain why this restructure is necessary and the steps that will be taken to ensure a smooth transition. ACoA's mission is to ensure the dignity and independence of all older Alaskans and to assist them to lead useful and meaningful lives through planning, advocacy, education, and interagency cooperation. A restructure of DHSS will not only better assist the commission in this mission but will be beneficial to all Alaskans. After two years in a pandemic, ACoA understands that to have adequate time, attention, and resources to ALL of DHSS divisions, there needs to be a change. Two smaller departments will allow greater responsiveness, flexibility, and over time, more efficiencies that will deliver better services.

ACoA thanks the department and the Commissioner for the many meetings on this subject and for taking the time to ensure members understood the proposed reorganization and its benefits. We look forward to serving under the new Department of Health as we continue to advocate for Seniors across Alaska.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lisa Morley".

Lisa Morley, Executive Director  
Alaska Commission on Aging