



February 12, 2026

The Honorable Representative Will Stapp
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Representative Stapp,

On behalf of the Mat-Su Health Foundation (MSHF), we would like to express our support for House Bill 255, the Senior Citizen Grants Dividend Raffle. We appreciate your leadership in introducing a voluntary and innovative approach to strengthening essential services for Alaska's rapidly growing senior population.

HB 255 offers Alaskans an opportunity to voluntarily contribute a portion of their Permanent Fund Dividend toward senior service grants while also participating in a raffle. This is an approach that raises both awareness and funding without displacing existing resources. As demand continues to increase for senior nutrition, transportation, housing, and supportive services statewide, additional, sustainable funding mechanisms are crucial.

According to the Alaska Commission on Aging's 2024 Senior Snapshot, adults age 60 and older now make up more than one-fifth of Alaska's population, and this demographic continues to be one of the fastest-growing groups in the state. Rising costs, particularly in rural and remote regions, combined with longer life expectancy have significantly increased the need for accessible, well-funded senior services.

We are especially encouraged by the bill's thoughtful allocation structure, which directs funding toward home-delivered meals, senior transportation services, and supportive housing services.

These are core programs that help older adults maintain independence, health, stability, and community connection—priorities that strongly align with MSHF's mission to improve the health and wellness of Mat-Su residents.

With Alaska's senior population expanding steadily, the need for dependable, community-oriented support services will only become more pressing. HB 255 establishes a voluntary mechanism that can help address these growing needs while empowering Alaskans to directly invest in services that benefit older residents statewide.

We appreciate your ongoing efforts on behalf of Alaska's seniors. We respectfully encourage support for HB 255 and welcome continued collaboration aimed at strengthening the senior services network across the state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Esther Pitts".

Esther R. Pitts, CPHRM, MBA
President and Chief Executive Officer