



February 23, 2026

Senator Jesse Kiehl  
Alaska State Senate  
State Capitol, Room 514  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Senator Kiehl,

On behalf of the members of AGEnet, thank you for introducing Senate Bill 190 relating to guardianships, conservatorships, and other protective arrangements. Guardianships and conservatorships are vital tools to protect Alaskans unable to meet their own basic needs for health, safety, or self-care. These legal arrangements assign responsibility for managing personal and/or financial affairs to someone else.

Alaska's current guardianship laws are strong, but they're rooted in model legislation from the 1980s. In the decades since, the Uniform Law Commission worked with stakeholders to develop a new model act that does a better job of emphasizing individual rights and helping prevent abuse of the trust placed in guardians and conservators.

Senate Bill 190 moves Alaska's guardianship and conservatorship laws to the new Uniform Guardianship, Conservatorship, and Other Protective Arrangements Act, updating standards for both minors and adults. It creates a new category—other protective arrangements—so individuals get only the support they need, in the least restrictive way.

Because guardianships and conservatorships limit a person's autonomy, our laws must prioritize an individual's rights, dignity, and well-being. We respectfully urge your colleagues to support SB 190 and look forward to continued collaboration to strengthen Alaska's senior services system.

Thank you for your work to protect Alaska's vulnerable citizens.

Sincerely,

Marianne Mills, President



# ALASKA ASSOCIATION ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

*PO Box 20874  
Juneau, Alaska 99802*

*To facilitate a united provider voice for best practices, advocacy, partnerships and networking.*

February 16, 2026

Honorable Members of the Alaska State Legislature  
Attn: Senator Kiehl  
Alaska State Capitol  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

RE Support for SB 190 Uniform Act: Guardianship/Conservatorship

Dear Members of the Alaska State Legislature,

I am writing on behalf of the Alaska Association on Developmental Disabilities (AADD) to express our support for Senate Bill 190. AADD is a statewide membership organizations with over 100 members that provide home and community-based services to children and adults with developmental disabilities. AADD's Vision (inspired by Alaska's Shared Vision) is that Alaskans with disabilities are living the lives they choose with support from a robust, flexible person-directed system. An essential component of a person-directed system is policies and regulations that align with this principle.

AADD applauds your leadership and commitment to modernizing Alaska's guardianship statute via SB 190. We are supportive of all the recommended revisions that are an outcome of many hours of work by the WINGS taskforce. We are particularly excited about establishing supported decision-making options in statute, providing a person-centered alternative to full guardianship.

AADD strongly encourages the Legislature to pass SB 190 to support these crucial updates. Please let us know how we can assist in this effort.

Sincerely,

Kim Champney, MSW  
Executive Director

**From:** [Michele Girault](#)  
**To:** [Sen. Jesse Kiehl](#)  
**Subject:** Support for SB190  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 3, 2026 3:14:27 PM

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Dear Senator Kiehl,

I am writing to express strong support for SB 190, legislation that modernizes Alaska's guardianship statutes to better reflect current best practices, protect individual rights, and strengthen the continuum of decision-making supports available to Alaskans.

Alaska's existing guardianship laws were written for a different era. Since then, national standards, disability rights frameworks, and person-centered practices have evolved significantly. SB 190 brings our statutes into alignment with these modern approaches by:

- Clarifying and updating statutory language to reflect contemporary understanding of capacity, autonomy, and least-restrictive alternatives.
- Strengthening due-process protections for individuals who may be subject to guardianship, ensuring that their rights, preferences, and voices remain central.
- Encouraging supported decision-making and other less-restrictive options, which help individuals maintain independence while receiving the assistance they need.
- Improving consistency and clarity for families, service providers, courts, and guardians, reducing confusion and promoting better outcomes.

These updates are not merely technical. They have real-world impact for Alaskans with disabilities, elders, and others who rely on a system that must balance protection with self-determination. SB 190 helps ensure that guardianship is used appropriately, transparently, and only when necessary — while expanding the tools available to support individuals in making their own decisions whenever possible.

Modernizing this statute also strengthens Alaska's alignment with national best practices and federal expectations, reducing risk for the state and improving the quality of services across our communities.

For families, service providers, and the individuals at the heart of these decisions, SB 190 represents clarity, dignity, and a more humane and effective system. I urge the Legislature to advance this bill and ensure that Alaska's guardianship framework reflects the values of respect, autonomy, and responsible stewardship.

I am also the Board Chairman for the Key Coalition of Alaska, and the passage of SB190 is one of our priorities for this session.

Thank you for your consideration and for your commitment to improving the lives of Alaskans.

Sincerely,

Michele Girault  
Executive Director  
Hope Community Resources, Inc.  
907-433-4705

Alaskans share a Vision of a flexible system in which each person directs their own supports, based on their strengths and abilities, toward a meaningful life in their home, their job and their community. Our Vision includes supported families, professional staff and services available throughout the state now and into the future.

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Helping Alaskans with Differing Abilities Experience Hope since 1968.



**REACH, Inc.**

2/24/2026

Honorable Members of the Alaska State Legislature  
Attn: Senator Kiehl  
Alaska State Capitol  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

**RE: Support for SB 190 Uniform Act: Guardianship/Conservatorship**

Dear Members of the Alaska State Legislature,

I am writing on behalf of REACH, Inc. to express our strong support for Senate Bill 190.

REACH, Inc. was established in 1978 and provides services and supports to Alaskans experiencing intellectual and developmental disabilities. Our mission is to honor and respect the people we serve by promoting choice and well-being through advocacy and services. At the heart of our work is the belief that every person deserves dignity, autonomy, and the opportunity to direct their own life to the greatest extent possible. SB 190 aligns directly with our mission by modernizing guardianship statutes in a way that promotes choice, strengthens oversight, and reinforces person-centered practices.

Through our work across Southeast Alaska, we regularly support individuals who are under guardianship or conservatorship. Our experience has shown that, too often, guardianship can function more like a dictatorship than a support. This is especially true when a guardian is a parent or sibling who may unintentionally wield their authority in a way that removes the individual receiving services from meaningful participation in decisions about their own life. We have seen situations where individuals are excluded from conversations and decisions are made without their input.

In a state where we share a collective vision and frequently champion “person-centered” practices, the current implementation of guardianship does not always reflect those values. While some individuals may not have the capacity to independently make complex medical or financial decisions, many are fully capable of making everyday decisions, particularly when provided with appropriate supports. Rather than building skills in self-advocacy and supported decision-making, individuals are sometimes told to sit down, remain quiet, and allow others to speak for them. This undermines both their dignity and their development.

For these reasons, REACH, Inc. strongly supports the following key improvements within SB 190:

**Increased Protections for Adults:**

The bill strengthens protections for adults in guardianship proceedings through more robust



petitions, clearer notice requirements, and enhanced reporting. The requirement for annual reports and expanded guardianship plans ensures meaningful court oversight and greater accountability. These provisions help ensure that guardianship remains responsive to the individual's evolving needs and does not become a permanent, unchecked arrangement. The shift from "temporary" to "emergency" guardianships, with a 60-day limit, appropriately balances urgency with due process.

**Less Restrictive Alternatives:**

We are particularly supportive of the bill's emphasis on less restrictive alternatives, including supported decision-making agreements and other flexible protective arrangements. Guardianship should not be the default solution when a more tailored approach can preserve autonomy while still providing necessary protections. This shift better reflects modern disability policy and best practices, empowering individuals to remain active participants in their own lives.

SB 190 introduces essential changes to modernize and improve Alaska's guardianship and conservatorship statutes, ensuring better protection of the rights and dignity of individuals who need support. REACH, Inc. strongly encourages the Legislature to pass SB 190 to support these crucial updates and move Alaska toward a more person-centered and protective guardianship system.

Thank you for your leadership and consideration on this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Naomi Studevan".

Naomi Studevan  
Executive Director  
REACH, Inc.

**Shinn Services, LLC**  
**Sheila J. Shinn, M.Ed., MPH, NCG**  
**Gerontologist, Private Professional Guardian & Conservator, Consultant**  
**2521 E. Mountain Village Dr., Ste B, Box 830, Wasilla, AK 99654**  
[shinn.services@gmail.com](mailto:shinn.services@gmail.com), 907-830-8454

February 26, 2026

Honorable Members of the Alaska State Legislature  
Attn: Senator Kiehl  
Alaska State Capitol  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

RE: Support for SB 190 Uniform Act: Guardianship/Conservatorship

Dear Members of the Alaska State Legislature,

I am writing on behalf of myself as a licensed and certified private professional guardian and conservator in the State of Alaska. I support Senate Bill 190.

Prior to this role, I was a Court Visitor for guardianship and conservatorship cases, so I am very familiar with the work done over the years to reach the place of revising the statutes that govern the work I do. I have read this proposed bill and believe it is in our state's best interests to adopt all revisions.

As a Gerontologist, I believe there will be continued increases in older adults experiencing Alzheimer's or related dementias requiring guardianship for their protection from exploitation and harm. Although this bill revises all guardianship statutes, I am especially interested in the following points:

**Key Improvements to SB 190**

***Increased Protections for Adults:** The bill strengthens protections for adults in guardianship proceedings with more robust petitions, notices, and reports. Guardians and conservators are required to submit annual reports for continued oversight by the courts. It expands what must be included in a guardianship plan to ensure that the individual's specific needs are being addressed, and the guardian is fulfilling their duties. It ensures that plans evolve as an individual and their needs change over time. The bill also changes "temporary" guardianships to "emergency" to better reflect the need for urgency without compromising due process and limits the duration to 60 days.*

As a Court Visitor, I worked many cases where the guardian or conservator was not fulfilling their duties in the role. I have worked on cases where the guardian was doing harm. I have worked on cases where the guardian used the protected person's money

for their own gain. Without stronger language in our statutes, these kinds of crimes are easy to commit with little to no recourse.

***Less Restrictive Alternatives:*** *The bill allows courts to create flexible protective arrangements tailored to the individual's needs, such as supported decision-making agreements, rather than assuming a full guardianship is always required.*

This is a critical part of SB 190, in my opinion. Once a person is placed under court protection, it can be extremely difficult and costly to get out of it. I have experienced older adults with cognitive diseases placed in full guardianship simply give up on life. They may need support for daily function, but they are also keenly aware of the independence that was taken from them. I believe all options should be explored before the removal of someone's civil rights.

***Combatting Abuse and Exploitation:*** *Enhances safeguards against abuse and exploitation by expanding notification requirements for guardianship appointments, prohibiting guardians from restricting communication with family and friends without court authorization.*

In the years of working in this field, I can attest to how easy it is to exploit the vulnerable members of our community. And there needs to be safeguards for protected people, even if the harm is from their guardians and conservators.

In closing, SB 190 introduces essential changes to modernize and improve Alaska's guardianship and conservatorship statutes, ensuring better protection of the rights and dignity of individuals needing a guardian or a conservator. I strongly encourage the Legislature to pass SB 190 to support these crucial updates.

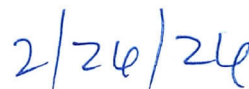
Thank you for your support on this important issue.

Sincerely,



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Sheila J Shinn, M.Ed., MPH, NCG



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Date