



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

**Department of Health**  
ALASKA COMMISSION ON AGING

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To the Honorable Members of the Alaska Legislature,

Re-Authorizing the Alaska Commission on Aging (ACoA), SB-189, is an essential step in meeting the needs of Alaska's rapidly growing Senior population. Alaska's Senior population has the highest per capita growth rate for those over 60 and particularly those over 80. As our Senior population increases, the need for services also increases. These services, whether with health, housing, nutrition, or transportation, become increasingly more important as our Seniors age. Through ACoA, the following activities are ongoing and will continue with re-authorizing for the specified 8 year term.

Alaska Commission on Aging :

- Serves the state of Alaska in meeting the objectives and requirements of the Older Americans Act;
- Provides a mechanism for receiving financial support for Alaska Senior Programs, including Home-based Services, Congregate Meals, and Housing Assistance;
- Assess trends in Alaska's rapidly growing Senior Population, including demography and regional needs;
- Prepares an annual Senior-Snapshot educating public and private interests in the who, what, where of Alaska's over 60 population
- Prepares a 4-year plan in compliance with the Older Americans Act. The newly approved State Plan for Senior Services identifies the efforts needed for the period 2024-2027.
- Through quarterly meetings, works with partners across the state addressing senior needs, including AARP, AgeNet, Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority, and local Senior Centers.
- Works in conjunction with state programs, including Alaska Senior and Disability Services, Alaska Pioneer Homes, the State Ombudsmen Office, and Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development and Alaska Housing Finance Corporation.

Warm regards,  
*Paula Pawlowski*  
Paula Pawlowski  
Vice-Chair of the Board  
Alaska Commission on Aging