

Representative Les Gara  
State Capitol, Room 500  
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Gara,

Thank you for sponsoring HB11. This bill appears to be simple, straightforward legislation that can have immediate and positive benefits for retirees in AlaskaCare.

Having gone through a battle with colon cancer this past year and experiencing the hardships of that struggle I am frankly astounded that AlaskaCare does not cover screening colonoscopies. Indeed, screening for all cancers should be encouraged and covered by our retiree insurance. I also believe immunizations and other preventative care should also be covered as prevention is ultimately less expensive than trying to remedy an illness. This is especially true with diseases like colon cancer which are very expensive to treat.

This is not a benefit that would be subject to potential abuse. Who is going to schedule a colonoscopy for the fun of it? Seriously, however, removing the cost barrier would enable AlaskaCare retirees to have these medically recommended screenings; and these screenings would ultimately save lives, lessen suffering, and reduce the need for expensive medical care for cases detected after they have progressed.

Once again, thank you for sponsoring this legislation and I hope your fellow legislators will approve it.

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