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March 18, 2025

Representative Gray
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: HB110 Support

Dear Rep Gray,

Alaska has the fastest growing senior population in the country and seniors are staying in Alaska, which is good for our state. However, the need for healthcare workforce growth to care for us all as we age is predicted to continue through the current decade in a state already facing a significant healthcare provider shortage. That growing demand includes social worker services.

Social workers provide older adults with social and emotional support, help individuals and families navigate complicated care systems, support family caregivers, and improve the overall well-being of the people they serve. Despite their importance, many communities throughout the country – especially rural communities – lack adequate access to social workers.

We can help address the access to care challenges of an aging population and healthcare workforce shortage by embracing multi-state licensing compacts to diminish barriers to recruiting licensed providers from other states.

To that end, AARP supports HB110 enabling Alaska to join the Social Work Licensure Compact. Thank you for bringing this legislation forward to help streamline our healthcare licensing system to support improved access to care.

Respectfully,
Marge Stoneking
Advocacy Director, AARP Alaska

