

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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SENATOR BILL WIELECHOWSKI

February 16, 2010

Senator Bert Stedman, Chair
Senate Finance Committee
State Capitol, Room 516
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Senator Stedman:

I am writing to request a hearing on SB 215 "An Act requiring the Department of Health and Social Services to accept federal prescription drug benefits or to provide comparable benefits for residents of the Alaska Pioneers Home."

This past spring, Veteran residents of Alaska's Pioneer Homes were caught in the middle of a bureaucratic dispute. Unfortunately, residents who were unable to self-administer medications had no choice but to pay the Pioneer Homes' pharmacy out-of-pocket for necessary medications that they were supposed to receive for free from the VA.

Thanks to a joint effort between the Dept. of Health and Social Services, the Dept. of Military and Veterans Affairs, local public veterans' advocates and state legislators, a policy level solution was reached with the Department of Health and Social Services and residents of Alaska's Pioneer Homes are once again receiving their federal prescription benefits.

SB 215 will ensure that residents of Alaska's Pioneer Homes will continue to receive Federal benefits they have earned.

Included with this letter you will find the latest version of the bill, a Sponsor statement, a zero fiscal note, and support materials.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Wielechowski".

Senator Bill Wielechowski