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March 16, 2010

The Honorable Bettye Davis, Chair  
Senate Health and Social Services Committee  
Alaska State Capitol, Room 30  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

RE: SB 172 (Olson)—Support

Dear Chair Davis:

On behalf of the members of AARP in Alaska, we encourage you and your colleagues on the Senate Health and Social Services Committee to support SB 172, authored by Senator Donald Olson.

As you know, Governor Palin appointed a Health Care Commission that took on this enormous responsibility in 2009. Senator Olson serves on that Commission.

SB 172 would basically extend the life of the Alaska Health Care Commission until 2014 and give it responsibility to develop, adopt and implement the recommendations the Commission comes up with.

Alaska and our entire country have entered a period during which many health issues are being and will continue to be considered. Not all decisions will be made in Washington. No matter what the White House and Congress do, it is evident that every state will have to make health care work for its citizens. Indeed, if Congress does not take significant action, Alaska and the other states will have even greater responsibility to determine how we will deal with our own future health care issues.

As we review the responsibilities of the Commission as outlined in SB 172, it is obvious to us that this will be one of the most important teams to address issues that touch every single Alaskan.

We believe that it is critical that SB 172 passes to allow the Commissioners to take on this responsibility, knowing that they will have the support of the Legislature for an extended period.

AARP requests an "AYE" vote on SB 172.

Should you have any questions about our position, please feel free to contact me (586-3637) or Patrick Luby, AARP Advocacy Director (907-762-3314).

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

*Marie Darlin*

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CC: Vice-Chair Joe Paskvan  
Senator Johnny Ellis  
Senator Joe Thomas  
Senator Fred Dyson  
Senator Donald Olson