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March 29, 2010

To: Members of the Alaska Senate

RE: SB 284 (Senate Judiciary Committee)—Support

On behalf of the members of AARP in Alaska, we encourage you to support SB 284, sponsored by the Senate Judiciary Committee.

AARP believes transparency is critical to government integrity and civic engagement. Openness is a fundamental feature of democracies and governmental operations, including elections, should operate in public view.

The ability of government to respond to the concerns of citizens, promote the public interest, and retain public confidence in its fairness, competence, and relevance is dependent in large measure on adhering to policies that promote and sustain integrity.

Unfortunately, trust in government is extremely low. Whether true or not, government officials and processes are often viewed as more responsive to the concerns of moneyed special interests than those of the general public.

SB 284 will not solve the entire credibility problem. However, SB 284 will get us closer to restoring confidence in government and transparency in elections and campaigns.

SB 284 will help ensure clarity and honesty in election advertising, including requiring meaningful descriptions of who has paid for an ad.

AARP requests an "AYE" vote on SB 284.

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,

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