



February 1, 2010

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

RE: SB 238 (Davis)--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 238, which you authored.

SB 238 corrects a situation which occurred in 2003 when the Legislature changed eligibility for long-term care services in facilities from 300% of the SSI level to \$1,656 per month. Since then, each year some Alaskans would find themselves no longer eligible than when the 300% level was used.

Alaska has a long history of using home and community based services in preference to institutionalized care. SB 238 will allow our most frail and vulnerable citizens to remain in their homes and communities or in institutional settings, when appropriate.

The beneficiaries of SB 238 are not well off financially. They are at risk economically as well as from a health standpoint.

AARP recommends an "AYE" vote on SB 238.

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, Coordinator
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CC: Vice-Chair Joe Paskvan
Senator Johnny Ellis
Senator Joe Thomas
Senator Fred Dyson