

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPT. OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

SEAN PARNELL, GOVERNOR

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February 10, 2011

The Honorable Carl Gatto, Chair
House Judiciary Committee
State Capitol Room 118
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Gatto:

The Department of Health and Social Services respectfully requests a hearing in the House Judiciary Committee on House Bill 150, "An Act relating to the protection of property of persons under disability and minors; relating to the crime of violating a protective order concerning certain vulnerable persons; relating to aggravating factors at sentencing for offenses concerning a victim 65 years or older; relating to the protection of vulnerable adults; amending Rule 12(h), Alaska Rules of Criminal Procedure; amending Rule 45(a), Alaska Rules of Criminal Procedure; amending Rule 65, Alaska Rules of Civil Procedure; amending Rule 17, Alaska Rules of Probate Procedure; amending Rule 9, Alaska Rules of Administration; and providing for an effective date."

The bill strengthens the laws against financial exploitation and enhances the ability to obtain emergency protection orders for seniors. It improves the ability of those investigating reports of harm to obtain vital information in a timely manner, and will lead to better services and safety for vulnerable adults who are abused, neglected or exploited and unable to protect their own interests.

A copy of Governor Parnell's transmittal letter providing additional information on the bill and the associated fiscal note should be on file with the committee.

Your favorable consideration of this request will be appreciated.

Sincerely,



William J. Streur
Commissioner

cc: Heather Brakes, Legislative Director, Office of the Governor