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March 21, 2014

Representative Max Gruenberg
Alaska State Capitol, Room 110
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Re: HB 60 – Uniform Real Property Transfer on Death Act - SUPPORT

Dear Representative Gruenberg,

On behalf of the more than 90,000 members of AARP Alaska, I wish to extend our support for HB 60, The Uniform Real Property Transfer on Death Act. This bill would help seniors and other citizens of Alaska by providing a simple and inexpensive alternative method for transferring title to their real estate upon their death. Similar laws have been in effect for many years in other states and have been considered successful.

The primary advantage of a TOD deed is that it would provide Alaska's citizens with an additional option they might use to transfer real property upon their death. The convenience of Alaska's citizens and the protection of their rights are, and should be, the main considerations of all proposed legislation. There are many issues and statutes that are not unique to particular states, but rather have general applicability across the country. For this reason, the effort to adopt uniform laws across states is very useful to individuals and families that might live in different places. The Transfer on Death deed, as well as Joint Tenancy with Right of Survivorship, are examples of the how uniform laws work for the citizen's advantage.

As the TOD and Joint Tenancy with Right of Survivorship address needs that occur at a person's death and which are important tools in estate planning, they are very relevant to AARP's age 50+ membership group. We believe HB 60 would go a long way to easing the stress of settling affairs at a time of life that is already difficult enough. We appreciate your efforts to streamline the transfer of property at the time of death, and we support the passage and adoption of HB 60 into Alaska law.

AARP Alaska is available to elaborate on our support of the bill or to answer any questions you might have.

Respectfully,

Ken Helander
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