January 14, 2016

Senator Bill Stoltze
Alaska Capitol, Room 125
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Senator Stoltze,

As the Chair for the Senior Citizens Advisory Commission (SCAC), it is my pleasure to offer our support for the reauthorization of the Alaska Commission on Aging (ACOA). Since their early days, ACOA has partnered with the SCAC to advocate for the needs of older Alaskans, ensuring them dignity, health, safety and independence.

ACOA serves as a statutory advisory board to the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority (AMHTA) and advises the AMHTA on the needs of older Alaskans with cognitive impairments, including Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. The Commission, in partnership with the AMHTA and other agencies, published *Alaska's Roadmap to Address Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias (2015)*. The Commission also makes recommendations to the AMHTA Board of Trustees regarding mental health programs for Senior Trust Beneficiaries (older people with dementia and other cognitive impairments) and the use of funds that benefit this vulnerable population.

ACOA and SCAC have worked collaboratively on a number of projects over the years, including the Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) project, senior and accessible/affordable housing, coordinated transportation, the Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias (ADRD) Roadmap mentioned above, and many others. As we have supported each other and combined our efforts, these projects have reached fruition, allowing older Alaskans to continue living in their home communities, among loved ones that appreciate and include them in community activities.

We very much appreciate your proposal of legislation for ACOA's reauthorization. The Commission will be happy to offer any information or any other means of support for ACOA during this process. Please feel free to contact me if I can be of any assistance.

Sincerely,

Carol Jackson
Chair, Senior Citizens Advisory Commission