

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE
Alaska Mental Health
Trust Authority

BILL WALKER, GOVERNOR

Office of the Long Term Care Ombudsman

3745 Community Park Loop, Suite 200
Anchorage AK 99508
Phone (907) 334-4480
Fax (907) 334-4486

December 14, 2015

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

Re: Reauthorization of the Alaska Commission on Aging

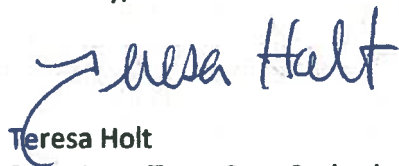
Senator Stoltze,

The Office of the Long Term Care Ombudsman strongly supports the reauthorization of the Alaska Commission on Aging. Under the commission's sunset provision, legislation is needed to reauthorize the Alaska Commission on Aging for the next eight years. The Alaska Commission on Aging is required as the state's advisory council under the Older Americans Act and allows the State to receive \$11 million in federal funding.

The Office of the Long Term Care Ombudsman partners with Alaska Commission on Aging on many projects related to the health and safety of Alaskan over the age of 60. The Office of the Long Term Care Ombudsman worked with the Alaska Commission on Aging and other stakeholders in the senior community in the development of the *Alaska State Plan on Senior Services*. The Office of the Long Term Care Ombudsman also collaborates with the Alaska Commission on Aging to resolve issues as they arise that affect the lives of Alaskan seniors including the development and implementation of *Alaska's Roadmap to Address Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias* as well as legislation to improve the protection of seniors who use Power of Attorney documents.

As the population of baby boomers will triple the number of seniors in Alaska in the next 20 years, it is more important than ever to have the Alaska Commission on Aging to plan for the needs of this growing population. The Office of the Long Term Care Ombudsman and the Alaska Commission on Aging will continue to work together to identify and resolve issues that directly affect the lives of Alaskans over the age of 60.

Sincerely,



Teresa Holt
State Long Term Care Ombudsman

Cc: Denise Daniello, ACoA