



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

Department of
Health and Social Services

DIVISION OF PUBLIC ASSISTANCE
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February 1, 2016

The Honorable Paul Seaton
Chair, House Health and Social Services Committee
Room 102
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

House Health and Social Services Committee,

I appreciated the opportunity to testify to the committee about HB 262 on Thursday, January 28, 2016. This letter will respond to the following questions posed by the committee during the hearing:

1. Representative Vasquez asked whether the Department would be interested in amending the statute to apply the eligibility requirements in HB 262 to the General relief program.

Response: The General Relief Assistance program does have the eligibility requirement that an individual must be a US Citizen, US National or qualified alien. However, this program does not require the 5 year waiting period.

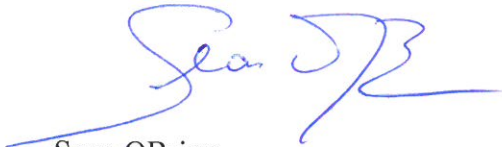
2. Chairman Seaton asked why the bill noted a \$120 per month payment on page 2, line 5 of the bill when the payment amounts are \$125, \$175 and \$250.

Response: In 2007 when Senior Care ended and Senior Benefits began, each individual who had received Senior Care was required to submit a new application for Senior Benefits. Senior Care provided two different types of benefits. Some recipients received a cash benefit of \$120 and others had their Medicare part D premium paid. This section allowed that any individuals who received a cash benefit under Senior Care could reapply on a simplified application. This section does not refer to the current amount of assistance provided by the Senior Benefit Program.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to these questions. If there is additional information we can provide to assist the committee please let me know.

The Honorable Paul Seaton
February 1, 2016
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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sean O'Brien", with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Sean OBrien
Director, Division of Public Assistance

Cc: Valerie Davidson, Commissioner, Division of Public Assistance
Darwin Peterson, Legislative Director, Office of the Governor