



THE STATE  
of **ALASKA**

GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

**Department of Labor and  
Workforce Development**

Office of the Commissioner

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February 24, 2016

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

Dear Senator Stoltze,

I am writing to express my support for Senate Bill 124, which extends the Alaska Commission on Aging until June 30, 2024. The Alaska Commission on Aging assists the Department of Labor and Workforce Development's Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) by formulating and approving the comprehensive State Plan for Senior Services. The best way for any State to provide services to its citizens is by working with all of the relevant partners to lead the State in a direction that will produce positive outcomes overall for employment and training to improve the comprehensive well-being of seniors.

Alaska's senior population continues to expand at the fastest rate compared to all other states in the United States. Together the Alaska Commission on Aging and the Alaska Workforce Investment Board develop strategies to keep pace with workforce needs through planning, advocacy, public awareness efforts, and collaboration with other organizations focused on the well-being of older Alaskans.

The Department supports the reauthorization of the Alaska Commission on Aging as they provide effective leadership and the SCSEP State Plan must be reviewed and approved by the Alaska Workforce Investment Board and the Alaska Commission on Aging.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Heidi Drygas".

Heidi Drygas  
Commissioner