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Senator Shelley Hughes  
State Capitol, Room 125  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

February 14, 2017

Re: SB 16 – Revised Uniform Fiduciary Access to Digital Assets Act - Support

Dear Sen. Hughes,

On behalf of Alaska's 88,000 AARP members, we offer our support for the Revised Uniform Fiduciary Access to Digital Assets Act (UFADAA), Senate Bill 16. We thank you for your sponsorship and encourage the passage and enactment of this increasingly important legislation.

This proposed legislation is the consequence of our digital age and the increasing role it plays in everyday lives. We have long accepted the legally defined role of conservator, agent, or executor in carrying out fiduciary duties with respect to tangible assets on behalf of a deceased individual or person incapacitated and unable to make decisions. The many accounts an average person now opens and uses digitally for commerce, banking, entertainment, research, and social networking are complex and are protected by each account's rules of privacy. Companies are reluctant to share information when they've promised not to, and it has been no less murky even in the event of a person's death. The importance of being able to close accounts, avoid unnecessary expenses, and prevent unauthorized account use or identity theft requires new approaches to manage these affairs.

This is an issue in which uniformity of practice makes sense. Digital accounts have no geographical or political boundary lines, whether city, state or nation, and should not be subject to probate laws that vary from state to state. Moreover the UFADAA applies to the four most common types of fiduciaries in any jurisdiction:

- Executors or administrators of deceased persons' estates
- Court-appointed guardians or conservators of protected persons' estates
- Agents appointed under powers of attorney
- Trustees

The proposed UFADAA would give individuals the opportunity to plan for what happens to their digital estate in the same way that they are now able to plan for their tangible estate. Furthermore, the proposed "revised" version has incorporated concerns of privacy advocates, like the ACLU, and many on-line trade association members, including Facebook, Amazon.com, Google, eBay, Expedia, and others. Google and Facebook endorse the revised UFADAA and the ACLU agreed they would not oppose it. Facebook says the revised UFADAA "creates a reasonable compromise regarding disposition of digital accounts upon death or incapacitation."

AARP Alaska appreciates your leadership, Sen. Hughes, for bringing this legislation forward, and we support passage and enactment for the benefit of Alaskans.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ken Helander".

Ken Helander, Advocacy Director

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Terry Snyder".

Terry Snyder, AARP State President

Real Possibilities