

April 15, 2019

Representative Zack Fields
Alaska House of Representatives
Juneau, Alaska

Dear Representative Fields,

Your bill, HB96, "An Act relating to Alaska Pioneers' Home and Alaska Veterans' Home rates and services", is a small step in the right direction.

My wife is in the Anchorage Pioneers' Home diagnosed with Alzheimer's Disease. She resides in the Memory Care unit and requires help in getting through her day requiring assistance with her daily life activities. The current monthly cost of her residence and assistance is \$6,795 or \$81,540 per annum. The Division of Pioneer Homes is promulgating regulations that will increase the rate to \$13,333 per month or \$159,996 per annum. This is an annual increase of \$78,456, a 96.2% increase. This increase seems to be driven by the fact that Governor Dunleavy's amended budget proposal zeros out about \$34 million in Unrestricted General Funds source shifting the entire fund source to user fees. The Alaska House just passed a budget that includes and approves that fund shift. However you calculate this, it is not a budget reduction, only a change in fund source shifting all of the responsibility to the user immediately. Note that the Governor's Amended budget for the Division of Pioneer Homes is only \$4,200 less than the 2019 current budget.

I am a private payer of the Pioneer Home fees. This means that I receive no monetary subsidy from either the state or federal government. I have a small amount of Long Term Care insurance which will last for about 12-13 more months. The rest of the cost is funded by our retirement income and personal savings.

This cost increase will drive my wife out of the Pioneer Home. This means that this private payer will no longer be paying the entire amount of the fee. The replacement will, more than likely, be receiving state or federal subsidy to pay the bill, as they will be about the only ones who can afford to be in the Pioneer Home. In the long run, this means that most, if not all, of the residents will be subsidized by public dollars. I fail to see how this will benefit the citizens of Alaska.

HB96 sets limits on the monthly fees for the various levels of care and service for the residents. While there is some lessening of the impact of the increase, a 30% increase is still, in my view, excessive. The inflation rate has been relatively low in Alaska for the past several years. It seems that there should be some correlation between the increase in Pioneer Home rates and inflation rate for each of the homes based on their location. **Perhaps, a 10% -15% increase might be more appropriate.**

Representative Zack Fields
HB96
P.2

While I can appreciate the effort to make the user pay for the service, this action is not consistent with the statement from the co-chair of the House Finance Committee. I quote Co-Chair Foster from the Anchorage Daily News, April 13, 2019; "We cut \$200 million from the prior year's budget. That's very substantial," Foster said. "We did not cut \$1.6 billion because the people of Alaska told us that deep cuts to education, health care, the marine highway system and so much more — *folks told us those were a little too much to accept in a single year.*" (emphasis added)

We have often talked about a glide path or soft landing to minimize the effect of revenue reductions and budget cuts. Without action to reduce the size of the increase through HB96, the Division of Pioneer Homes will continue to proceed with their regulation promulgation and implement the higher fees.

While the Governor and the Legislature quarrel over whether the PFD should be \$1,500 or \$3,000 per year, after nearly 50 years in Alaska, my wife and I are faced with financial disaster.

I urge you to carefully consider the impact of your action on this bill. Without action, this increase will not only be disruptive, it will be destructive. \$78,456 a year is too much to ask.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A Thompson", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Aves Thompson
1235 R Street
Anchorage, AK 99501

cc: Adam Crum, Commissioner
DHSS

March 11th, 2019

Representative Zack Fields
Alaska House of Representatives
Juneau, Alaska

Dear Representative Fields,

Our names are Jan and Bill MacClarence. We are residents of the Anchorage Pioneer Home and your constituents. We have been living in the Pioneer Home since 2015. Before moving into the Pioneer Home, we lived in Spenard and on the upper hillside. Since arriving in Alaska in 1982, Jan has worked in the field of mental health and social service administration and Bill has worked in the Department of Environmental Conservation and assured the clean air of our state. We fell in love with Alaska when we first arrived and have been in love with Alaska ever since. The incredible natural beauty combined with the Alaskan "can do" attitude, led us to decide that we couldn't leave Alaska and would spend the last years of our lives here.

When we decided to stay here for life, we trusted that Alaskans would continue to prioritize care for their pioneers. The Pioneer Home is filled with individuals who have made huge contributions to the establishment of this wonderful state where we have been privileged to live. Alaska would not be the state that it is today without the contributions of the Pioneers who fill the Pioneer Homes. It is cruel to threaten this vulnerable population with potential increases that could force them to relocate to more affordable accommodations. They moved into the Pioneer Home with the belief that they would never have to leave. Alaska has an obligation to the population that needs to be fulfilled.

We understand that Alaska is facing a fiscal crisis. There is insufficient money to meet current expenses and we have drained our reserve accounts. However, the Dunleavy budget answers the crisis in a way that will increase the crisis rather than resolve it. The decreased budget leaves Alaska walking away from millions of dollars of Federal funding. The huge cuts being proposed will cause population loss and job losses that will drive our fragile economy into full blown recession.

We appreciate the tough job that you face. We would gladly support taxes to pay for services, increased oil and gas taxes, contribution from the permanent fund, and budget reductions in legislative costs for extended sessions. A combination of any of these solutions can fix our budget problem while still supporting a healthy and happy economy.

We trust you to advocate for the Pioneer Homes and do your best to arrive at a balanced budget. Please let us know if there is anything that we can do to be helpful.

Sincerely,

Jan and Bill MacClarences
Co-Presidents
Anchorage Pioneer Home Resident Council

Tristan Walsh

From: tom brice <brice2@acsalaska.net>
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2019 9:23 AM
To: Rep. Zack Fields
Cc: Rep. Andi Story; Sen. Jesse Kiehl; Rep. Sara Hannan
Subject: Good Job on HB 96

Keep up the Good Work! Love HB 96. Prohibiting arbitrary rates increases provides greater security and dignity to our Seniors! Now, if we can protect the Pioneers Homes from privatization, ensuring our Seniors aren't turned into profit generators for corporations that would be super. Good Luck

Tom Brice

From: [Support](#)
To: [House State Affairs](#); Rep.Jonathan.Kreiss-Tompkins@akleg.gov; [Rep. Zack Fields](#)
Cc: [Laura Bonner](#)
Subject: Support HB 96
Date: Thursday, March 28, 2019 3:03:13 PM

Co-chairs Fields and Kreiss-Tompkins
Members of the House State Affairs Committee

I strongly support HB 96 to keep rates of the Pioneer and Veteran Homes affordable. Notices of the new rates sent to Pioneer residents are a slap in the face to Veterans and Seniors! Many of the residents are at the end of their lives and may be frail. They should be treated with respect. They deserve to be treated with dignity. The Governor's plan is insulting.

Thank you for proposing and hearing HB 96. Please pass this bill.

Respectfully,
Laura Bonner
Anchorage, AK 99516

Tristan Walsh

Subject: FW: Support for HB 96

-----Original Message-----

From: Dunbar, Forrest <forrest.dunbar@anchorageak.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 1, 2019 3:23 PM
To: Rep. Zack Fields <Rep.Zack.Fields@akleg.gov>
Subject: Support for HB 96

To Representative Zack Fields and the Alaska House,

I would like to go on record as supporting HB 96, and in general for protection of the Senior Benefit and Pioneer Homes. The Anchorage Pioneers Home in downtown is an asset for our city. Moreover, the overall system for elder care in Anchorage is interconnected, and my district-- East Anchorage-- is home to many senior care facilities.

As others have noted, there was a time in this country where being "elderly" was nearly synonymous with being "impoverished." We have worked hard, as a nation and as a state, to move away from such a system. I urge you not to balance the budget on the backs of those least able to afford it, and look instead to revenue measures such as an income tax or a reformation of our oil tax system. Please support HB 96.

Best,

Forrest Dunbar
Assembly Member
East Anchorage

Tristan Walsh

Subject: FW: For record

From: Louise Donhauser <ldonhauser1@hotmail.com>

Date: April 7, 2019 at 12:49:03 PM AKDT

To: "<rep.zack.fields@akleg.gov>" <rep.zack.fields@akleg.gov>

Subject: Current House Bills

My name is Louise Donhauser. I would like the record to show, I, Louise Donhauser, support HB 96 which limits rate increases within Alaska's pioneer home system. The record from me must also state that I would like to have Alaska's House and Senate REVOKE any/all financial affiliations and monetary distributions to Wellpath. That Wellpath contract must be canceled. As a government entity the Alaska House serves all Alaskans. Rep. Eastman must be subject to a formal censure or removed from the Alaska House because he has established a very distinct and clear record of obstruction and dysfunction. The Alaska House must operate within due diligence-rather quickly in this time of minimal finances and there's no room or money for Rep. Eastman to obstruct due diligence shown by other House members.

Louise Donhauser

Sent from my iPhone

Tristan Walsh

Subject: HB 96

From: Susan Valenti <akarcticwren@gmail.com>

Date: April 6, 2019 at 2:55:00 PM AKDT

To: "Rep. Zack Fields" <rep.zack.fields@akleg.gov>

Subject: HB 96

Hi Zack:

Yes, I support HB 96.

Susan Valenti

Tristan Walsh

Subject: HB 96

From: Gary Boslough <bosloughops@gmail.com>

Date: April 5, 2019 at 5:08:44 PM AKDT

To: rep.zack.fields@akleg.gov

Subject: HB 96

Zack,

I support HB 96 limiting Pioneer Home increases. Good work.

Thank you.

Gary Boslough
iPhone

Gary B.
iPhone

From: [Rep. Zack Fields](#)
To: [Tristan Walsh](#)
Subject: FW: HB 96
Date: Tuesday, April 9, 2019 2:48:06 PM

-----Original Message-----

From: butera <butera@gci.net>
Sent: Tuesday, April 9, 2019 12:20 PM
To: Rep. Zack Fields <Rep.Zack.Fields@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB 96

Sear Representative Fields,

Thank you for your latest newsletter. I strongly support HB 96. I also applaud your efforts to negate the no-bid API management.

Bob Butera
Anchorage

From: [Rep. Zack Fields](#)
To: [Tristan Walsh](#)
Subject: FW: Pioneer Home Rates
Date: Tuesday, April 16, 2019 9:43:48 PM

From: ttilsworth@alaska.edu <ttilsworth@alaska.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, April 16, 2019 3:17 PM
To: ;
Subject: Pioneer Home Rates

SUBJECT: Pioneer Homes of Alaska

16 April 2019

Dear Representatives and Senators:

The rates proposed to stay at the Pioneer Homes in the State of Alaska, by the Administration and as noted in HB96, are not reasonable and will pose an undue hardship on many of the Pioneers of Alaska.

A reasonable approach would be to adjust the rates annually according to according to cost of living adjustments set by the Social Security Administration. An annual adjustment may not be sufficient initially so it might be appropriate to have a one time adjustment of say \$100 or \$200/month and then revert to single annual COL adjustments from that time forward. Rate increases ranging from 40% to 153% are not reasonable. They might be akin to asking U.S. citizens to pay off the government deficit of \$20.6 trillion in one swift swoop.

Please give these ideas your consideration and help keep the
Pioneers of Alaska protected from financial hardship.

Thank you for your assistance

Tim Tilsworth
1900 Raven Drive
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709

907-479-0643

ttilsworth@alaska.edu

Tristan Walsh

Subject: FW: Pioneer Home Proposed Rate Increases

From: JN Schock <jnschock@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 10, 2019 1:23 PM
To: Rep. Zack Fields <Rep.Zack.Fields@akleg.gov>
Subject: Pioneer Home Proposed Rate Increases

Dear Representative Fields,

My 89 year old mother has resided at the Anchorage Pioneer Home since January of 2012. My sister, brother, and I made the difficult decision to place her in the home after our father and her husband (of 61 years) passed away at the age of 85. Our father had been her sole caretaker during the early and middle stages of her battle with Alzheimer's disease. If you have ever known anyone with this disease you will know that it is an absolutely terrible and heartbreaking diagnosis to receive. My mother no longer speaks, has not recognized us for many years, does not walk, and cannot care for herself in any way. The nursing staff and aides at the Anchorage Pioneer Home have done an outstanding job caring for her and while it is not a fancy residence, it is clean and warm and the residents are well cared for.

My father had the foresight to purchase long term care insurance and that helped with the cost for the first 3 years of her living in the home, but those benefits are no longer available to her and the cost of her care falls solely on her and our family. She is considered to be a Level V resident and currently pays just under \$7,000.00 per month which under the proposed budget would increase to \$15,000.00 per month. I would like to know just how many Alaskan Pioneers have \$180,000.00 sitting in the bank to pay for 1 year of full time care in the Pioneer Home? The care will not change from what she is receiving now. There is not even a doctor on staff at the home. When she needs to see a physician we have to arrange for transport to a medical clinic or the emergency room. This is no easy feat considering she is wheelchair bound and does not speak.

My parents came to Alaska in 1958 when my father was transferred here as an FBI agent. He spent his entire career in service to the United States government and the State of Alaska both as an FBI agent and as the Director of the Police Standards Council for the Department of Public Safety. He and my mother were true Alaska pioneers and raised 4 children in the state and we all still reside here. My mother spent her career in various positions with the Alaska State government. To think that the state would more than double the cost of taking care of our elderly citizens who spent their lives and careers in the state is absolutely shameful.

The average cost of an Alzheimer's care nursing home in the United States is approximately \$6,600.00 per month. That is for the highest level of care. I would like to see the data from Mr. Clinton Lasley, Division Director, which shows that each Level V resident in an Alaska Pioneer Home is receiving care worth \$15,000.00. I understand there are operating costs,

employee costs, etc., but I find it very difficult to believe that the cost is that high.

I understand that Alaska is in a budget crisis and there are programs that need to be cut and costs that need to be passed on to residents in one way or another, but raising the rates to house our elderly pioneers to obscene levels is absolutely not the way to balance the budget. The elderly should not have to hand over all of their assets to the state so they can qualify for Medicaid to be able to remain in the Pioneer Home. The research that I have done on Medicaid shows that it costs the government more money to provide Medicaid for people than the benefits are worth, not to mention the fact that physicians and other caregivers who accept Medicaid are not paid enough by the program, but that is a topic for another time...

Representative Fields, I ask that when you consider the Governor's budget, that you consider the residents of the Alaska Pioneer Homes and the fact that these elderly citizens served this great state in one way or another at one time or another in their lives and they deserve to have a safe, secure, and affordable place to live out their remaining years.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Nancy Schock

Tristan Walsh

Subject: FW: Pioneer Home bill advances, and new revelations about API debacle

From: Dave Krause <jjk@gci.net>

Sent: Wednesday, April 10, 2019 7:58 AM

To: Grace Kubitz <grace.kubitz@akleg.gov>; Rep. Zack Fields <Rep.Zack.Fields@akleg.gov>

Subject: Re: Pioneer Home bill advances, and new revelations about API debacle

Hello,

I do support HB96 as long as it holds current rates for Pioneer home and limits rate increases to annual inflation rate. I support reduced PFD's to help pay for government services and sales tax or income tax if needed. Please do what you can to stop Dunleavy's damaging budget proposal.

Thank you,
Dave Krause

On Apr 5, 2019, at 5:00 PM, Rep. Zack Fields <grace.kubitz@akleg.gov> wrote:

rep.zack.fields@akleg.gov

From: [Rep. Zack Fields](#)
To: [Tristan Walsh](#)
Subject: FW: HB 96
Date: Tuesday, April 9, 2019 2:48:06 PM

-----Original Message-----

From: butera <butera@gci.net>
Sent: Tuesday, April 9, 2019 12:20 PM
To: Rep. Zack Fields <Rep.Zack.Fields@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB 96

Sear Representative Fields,

Thank you for your latest newsletter. I strongly support HB 96. I also applaud your efforts to negate the no-bid API management.

Bob Butera
Anchorage

Tristan Walsh

Subject: FW: HB 96 support and API state retention

From: Karel Hauser <karelbill@gci.net>

Date: April 5, 2019 at 5:16:22 PM AKDT

To: <rep.zack.fields@akleg.gov>

Subject: HB 96 support and API state retention

Thank you Rep. Zack Fields for your support in limiting Pioneer Home rate increases with HB 96. I appreciate your investigation in the API situation and applaud you for calling on the state's Chief Procurement Officer to cancel the permanent single-source privatization of API. The state needs to provide oversight for the vulnerable population of API and its staff.

Karel Hauser
Anchorage, AK

Lynn Gattis

From: Morgan Clay <bmclay08@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 2:11 PM
To: House Finance
Subject: FW: Attn: HB96
Attachments: Support HB 96.pdf

Categories: Lynn

From: [Morgan Clay](#)
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 12:30 PM
Cc: Senator.Scott.Kawasaki@akleg.gov
Subject: YES on HB 96!

Greetings,

My name is Morgan Clay and I am a constituent of House District 5 and Sen District C.

I had the privilege of visiting Juneau in March with The American Foundation For Suicide Prevention and felt you and your staff really listened to our requests and took what we had to share to heart. Thank you for that!

Today, I write on a totally different topic and hope you will be just as receptive!

I have had three grandparents live in the Fairbanks Pioneer Home, and currently have one pseudo grandma living there today. My family and I visit the Home regularly and have come to love and respect so many of the residents living there. I feel it's my duty to speak up for all of them concerning Gov Dunleavy's proposed rate increases for Pioneer Home residents. Many people I know, including myself, are concerned about the rate increases. These increases should be regular and methodological, not all at once.

I know many Pioneers that don't have email addresses, and some don't even have family near by to help advocate for them. I have collected and attached above, signatures of some of our Fairbanks Pioneer Home residents who are fully aware of the terrible and unfair effect Gov Dunleavy's rate increase would have.

I will be emailing all Fairbanks area legislators to let them know that people are very concerned and to urge them to vote YES on House Bill 96.

Thank you for your time and for advocating for our elders!

All my best,
Morgan Clay



Dale Chubin
President

Susan Reilly
Secretary

Jean Sauget
Treasurer

March 27, 2019

Dear Representative Fields:

The Alaska Alliance for Retired Americans would like to go on record in strong support of HB 96. As an organization that advocates on behalf of people who worked across the state and are now retired, we are encouraged to see legislation that keeps pioneer and veteran home rates affordable.

Many of our members live on fixed incomes yet medical care is becoming increasingly expensive. We are saddened to see the Governor's plan to increase rates at such a pace that most seniors would not be able to stay in our state-run homes. It seems counterintuitive to penalize those who spent a lifetime in public service or in the private workforce by gouging them when they are potentially the most medically vulnerable.

Thank you again for introducing a bill that gives Alaska's elders the respect they have earned.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dale Chubin".

Dale Chubin, President
Alaska Alliance for Retired Americans

Shelley Hughes

Alaska State Senator
State Capitol Room 30
Juneau, AK 99801



March 19, 2019

Palmer Pioneer Home
250 E. Fireweed Ave.
Palmer, AK 99645

Dear Senator Hughes:

I, Stan Parrott, am concerned that the governor is considering cutting funding for the Pioneer Homes. These facilities are necessary for our state's Senior Residents because most of them are unable to live on their own and many of their families are unable or not in Alaska to care for them. These seniors who have given so much to society now need society's help.

If funding is cut then many of the Pioneer Homes would not be able to remain open. If they closed their doors where would the residents go? There are few private facilities in the state and none that offer the care and respect for which the Pioneer Homes are noted.

Living should be more than existing and the Pioneer Homes offer activities that enrich the lives of the people who live here. Speaking specifically of the Pioneer Home in Palmer I want to make sure you are aware of the care the staff — and volunteers — take with each resident. They do their best to ensure all needs (physical/mental/emotional) are met.

Sincerely yours,

Stan Parrott

ASTA@allego.gov

From: [Linda Walsh](#)
To: [House State Affairs](#)
Subject: HB 96
Date: Friday, March 22, 2019 12:46:29 PM

This is in support of HB 96 to stop the alarming raise in rates to our elders in Pioneer Homes across the state. My mother, Martha Major is a resident of the Fairbanks Pioneer Home, in the Moosewood section Level 2. At this time she is able and does pay her own fees. She has medical care through Chief Andrew Isaac Health Center and a small pension through our deceased father.

My mother, my sister and myself attended the meeting with Clinton Lasley. He raised more questions and anxiety than he answered. Even though this meeting was not scheduled very far in advance, it was well attended by both residents and family members.

Again, these rates and the lack of very important answers to these increases show very little planning or concern for our seniors or families.


Linda J Walsh



Sent from my iPad

From: [Marsha Armstrong](#)
To: [House State Affairs](#)
Subject: HB 96
Date: Friday, March 22, 2019 6:58:08 PM

I am writing in support of HB 96. My mother is in the Fairbanks Pioneer Home and the recent news about the horrendous increase in the monthly charge has made her very anxious. Due to the complete lack of what actually will happen over the course of the next few years, it seems very unfair to our senior citizens. HB 96 seems more reasonable and will let residents plan ahead.

Marsha M Armstrong

Anchorage Ak 99504

Sent from my iP

From: [Rocky Plotnick](#)
To: [House State Affairs](#)
Cc: [Rep. Zack Fields](#)
Subject: HB 96
Date: Thursday, March 21, 2019 1:46:41 PM

I am writing to express my strong support for House Bill 96 which addresses the rates for Alaska Pioneer Homes.

My family has a loved one living in the Anchorage Pioneer Home. The care and service provided is exceptional and through this experience I have come to know numerous other residents at the Home. Also, as a lifelong Alaska resident (66 years) I value the original intent of the Pioneer Homes.

I urge the passage of this legislation which will maintain affordable rates in the Alaska Pioneer Homes.

Sincerely,

Rochelle Plotnick



Anchorage, AK. 99501
907-321-7625

3/25/19

To whom it may concern,

I am an employee at the State of Alaska Pioneers Home in Palmer and recently learned of the effort to privatize my position. I have gone all out for the last 7 years for our residents. I take great pride in not only providing a clean and safe environment for our elders, but also taking the time to get to know them personally and treating them with the respect and dignity they deserve. We are an Eden facility and go above and beyond the call of duty every day. I truly care about my residents and coworkers. As well as the fear of losing our positions, the rate increase proposal I have read about would be a financial burden that some of our residents would not be able to fill. I respectfully ask that you, the people in the positions of power to look at the harm and the long term effects that this could do to all involved. Perhaps some of you may have a loved one that will someday need 24 hour around the clock care in an assisted living home like ours. You would want the BEST care available. In whatever capacity I can, I would like to add my support to HB96.

Thank you,

Ladd Holobinko,
Journeyman 2 Housekeeper,
Alaska Veterans and Pioneer Home,
Palmer, Alaska

Dear Members of the House State Affairs Committee:

I am writing today in support of HB 96.

Along with my wife and children, my parents, in-laws, and grandmother all live here in Alaska. I think a lot about what type of care I want for my parents and in-laws when it's time. Currently, my grandmother resides in a private nursing home, so I am well aware of the costs associated with elder care. I am also a veteran and I work on veterans' issues. I head up the Alaska Union Veterans Council and can confidently say that the Council's 180 plus members are also concerned about our fellow veterans. This issue affects us all in many ways.

I support this bill because it will work to keep senior and veteran care at our state facilities affordable for the pioneers and veterans of Alaska when they most need it. They spent their lifetimes in service to our great state, now it is our turn to ensure they are provided with excellent care that is affordably priced. Thank you for considering this bill.

Kyle Kaiser

Chugiak, Alaska

[REDACTED]
Anchorage, Alaska 99502-5131

March 21, 2019

House State Affairs Committee

In Re: House Bill 96

Dear Members of the House State Affairs Committee,

Thank you so much for introducing a bill to protect the interests of and commitments to our Pioneers. I find it appalling that the great women and men who built Alaska do not have the security they were promised for their final years.

Residential nursing care is a very expensive proposition. By the time most of us reach the age and stage of disability required to meet entry criterion we no longer have the finances to cover the cost. Moreover our families may not have that kind of money; our adult children need to raise their own children. And long term care insurance only lasts as long as the money lasts.

Alaska has an incredible history of supporting its elders if only the males. Our first institutions for care came to be in the late 19th century. We are a unique society where despite the few families who are multi-generational most of us are not. I am a 70 years old woman who had to return to work because her retirement benefits were insufficient. I have no family. I had expected my final days to be in one of our wonderful, caring Pioneer Homes. If Mr. Dunleavy's budget comes to pass I will probably die alone in my home without the benefit of any care or medical attention.

HB 96 pegs Pioneer Home rates to the Consumer Price Index. This measure of control over pricing will allow Alaska to uphold its obligation to its Pioneer Citizens. CPI indexing will create a level field for those of us who under current pricing levels could see ourselves admitted to any one of our Pioneer Homes.

I urge you to support HB 96 and the Pioneers who built Alaska.

Kind regards,


Jan Carolyn Hardy

From: [Denise Wallace](#)
To: [House State Affairs](#)
Subject: HB96
Date: Friday, March 22, 2019 8:17:15 PM

Please support HB96. My mom lives in the Fbks Pioneer home and has been a resident for almost 3 years. We are happy with the staff and the facility. We are concerned about the large rate increase. Mom has experienced a lot of anxiety as well as many of her fellow residents. The need for an increase in rates is understandable but the huge sudden increase is troubling. We would appreciate a much more gradual increase and a better thought out plan.

Thank you!

Vic and Denise Wallace

Sent from my iPad

From: [Doreen Cruz](#)
To: [House State Affairs](#)
Subject: HB96
Date: Sunday, March 24, 2019 10:04:24 PM

I've been an employee of the Pioneer Home for 17 years, I have spent that time caring for the elders of this state. Not too long ago I learned that there is a push to privatize my position. I pray for job security for the sake of my family. I love what I do for these people. Now I hear the same administration that has threatened to turn my life upside down, is proposing massive rate increase for the same elders I have spent the last 17 years caring for, with no relief until they become destitute themselves. We owe our elders more dignity than this and that's why I support HB96. We are an essential part of this facility. The government should look into taking care of the people of Alaska for the right reasons.

Truly yours,
Doreen Cruz of Anchorage
Sent from my iPhone

From: [Leona Blankenship](#)
To: [House State Affairs](#)
Subject: HB-96
Date: Friday, March 22, 2019 8:26:17 PM

I'm writing in support of HB-96. The recent news about the exorbitant rate increase has caused my mother anxiety. She is a life-long born and raised Native Alaskan and is a resident of the Fairbanks Pioneer Home. Seems more fair for her to know what the rate increases will be over the next few years.

Leona Blankenship
[REDACTED]
Anchorage, AK 99504

Sent from my iPad

From: [Support](#)
To: [House State Affairs](#)
Cc: [Laura Bonner](#)
Subject: Strongly Support HB 96
Date: Friday, March 22, 2019 4:14:27 PM

Co-Chair Fields
Co-Chair Kreiss-Tomkins
House State Affairs Committee members

I strongly support HB 96 to keep rates affordable for residents of Pioneer and Veteran Homes. They should be treated with the respect and dignity they have earned and deserve.

Respectfully,
Laura Bonner
Anchorage, AK 99516