



THE STATE  
of **ALASKA**  
GOVERNOR MICHAEL J. DUNLEAVY

## Health and Social Services

ALASKA COMMISSION ON AGING

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March 8, 2021

Commissioner Adam Crum  
Department of Health and Social Services  
3601 C Street, Suite 902  
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

Subject: ACoA Letter of Support, HB103/SB89

Dear Commissioner Crum,

The Alaska Commission on Aging is pleased to offer support for HB103/SB89 which will bring Alaska law into compliance with recent Centers of Medicare and Medicaid Services changes related to home and community-based services provided in assisted living homes.

This bill was developed to ensure home and community-based services providers give people who are on Medicaid Waivers the same access to the community as people who are receiving care through a different payor source. Current state law says assisted living home (or house) rules may not be "unreasonably" restrictive. However, federal regulations that govern Medicaid Waivers in such settings are more specific, stating residents must be "able to have visitors of their choosing at any time." The bill inserts language in the assisted living home licensing homes statute to ensure this human right is afforded to residents in any assisted living home in Alaska that establishes house rules. This will ensure that Alaskans in these settings are living in conditions as close as possible to those they would have in their own homes, a value strongly supported by Alaska's seniors.

If adopted, this statute would ensure house rules for assisted living homes would explicitly require consistency with federal regulation, with respect to allowing visitors of their choosing at any time. Seniors wish to maintain freedom and independence as they age, and adoption of this statute will ensure their rights are protected.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lisa Morley".

Lisa Morley  
Alaska Commission on Aging  
Executive Director

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gordon Glaser".

Gordon Glaser  
Alaska Commission on Aging  
Board Chair