

**From:** Cammy Oechsli Taylor <[cammy.oechsli@gmail.com](mailto:cammy.oechsli@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 30, 2023 11:23 AM  
**Subject:** SJR 10

Dear Senators,

I strongly support SJR 10. With the closing of the Regional Hospital Senior Clinic, access to Primary Care for Medicare age Alaskans (particularly for those in Anchorage) is in critically short supply.

Medicare reimbursement rates do not cover the cost of care. We hear that the cost of health care in Alaska is about 4 times higher than in the lower 48. Medicare reimbursement rates for Alaska should take that into account.

Alaska's senior population is growing faster than in most states, even though we are losing overall population. Most of us worked our entire adult careers here and have chosen to retire here. But lack of primary care is a significant deterrent to remaining in Alaska.

This problem will only get worse. In 2010 there were approximately 57,000 Medicare age folks living here. Now there are around 111,000.

Alaska seniors bring a significant cash flow into the state economy. According to the Alaska Commission on Aging and other sources, retired Alaska seniors contributed an estimated \$2.4 billion into the economy in 2014. And an examination of the costs & benefits indicates that retired seniors present a positive economic ratio of 10 to 1 for money in to cost out. We seniors are an economic asset that deserve better access to primary care. Securing higher Medicare reimbursement rates is a good step in that direction.

Thank you for your advocacy on our behalf. I hope and expect that SJR 10 will receive a unanimous vote of approval.

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