



North Star Council on Aging/Fairbanks Senior Center
Meals on Wheels
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Senator Kawasaki
State Capital Room 119
Juneau, AK 99801

Ref: SB189

To Whom It May Concern:

North Star Council on Aging, aka the Fairbanks Senior Center, supports the SB189 to extend the termination date for the Alaska Commission on Aging (ACoA) to 2032. The ACoA is a vital voice in our state for a rapidly growing senior population. In fact, Alaska has the fastest growing senior population of all the states at a current rate of 68% with an alarming growth rate of 57% in the 85-and-older population.

ACoA is a necessary agency for the State to receive funding from the Older Americans Act, which supports in home services for seniors. All the programs housed within the Older Americans Act aid in creating safety nets for our communities that are facing the largest aging population in 3 centuries.

The power of ACoA is its single-minded focus that gathers senior data, development of the State Plan on Aging which is a necessary component in receiving federal Older American Act funding. It is also a connective link for the network of senior providers throughout the state. This singular focus approach on aging allows a unique perspective on the impacts of the "Silver Tsunami" as it gains momentum in Alaska.

The commitment of ACoA's attention to senior issues strengthens the state's ability to care for one of our most vulnerable populations. Supporting SB189 is a smart, cost-effective way to strategize solutions for Alaska. ACoA honors the pioneers who built our state, the very same strong-willed, brave pioneers who continue to have a dramatic impact into their retirement years.

Thank you!

Darlene Supplee

Darlene Supplee
Executive Director