

SCR

11

First Committee of Referral

DATE: 4/11/97

FURTHER: Finance

Date of 5-Day Notice: 2/26/98
(in accordance with Uniform Rule 23)

DATE TURNED
IN TC OFFICE: 3/4/98

HESS Committee considered SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 11

Creating the Long-Term Care Task Force.

and recommends:

- be replaced with _____ CS SCR 11 (HES)
- adopt previous _____ CS _____ (_____)
- attached amendment(s)
- adopt Letter of Intent by _____ Committee
- further referral to the _____ Committee

- Senate Bill:**
- same title
 - new title
- House Bill:**
- same title
 - technical title
 - new: SCR# _____

SIGNING DO PASS	DP	OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS	NR	DNP	AM
<i>Barbara J. Ryan</i>	✓				
<i>[Signature]</i>	✓				
<i>Lyla Green</i>	✓				
CHAIR: <i>[Signature]</i>	✓	CHAIR:			

NEW FISCAL NOTE(S):

SCR 11
CS SCR 11
both versions

Department	Date	Zero	Fiscal
Legislative Affairs	2/27/98		✓
Legislative Affairs	3/4/98		✓
Commerce	2/27/98	✓	
Governor	2/27/98	✓	

PREVIOUS FISCAL NOTE(S):*

Department	Date	Zero	Fiscal

APPROPRIATION -- no fiscal note

*include fiscal notes accompanying Governor's bill

HASTINGS, MN

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
1998 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

NO. _____
BILL VERSION: SCR 11
PUBLISH DATE: _____

Revision Date: _____
Title: "Creating the Long-Term Care Task Force."
Sponsor: Senator Sharp
Requestor: Senate HESS

Department Affected: Legislative Affairs Agency
BRU: Legislative Council
Component: Council & Subcommittees

COMPONENT SERIAL NO:

Expenditures/Revenues: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 99	FY 00	FY 01	FY 02	FY 03	FY 04
PERSONAL SERVICES	0	0	0	0	0	0
TRAVEL	17.5	0.0	0	0	0	0
CONTRACTUAL	3.2	0.0	0	0	0	0
SUPPLIES	0	0	0	0	0	0
EQUIPMENT	0	0	0	0	0	0
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	20.7	0.0	0	0	0	0

CAPITAL	0	0	0	0	0	0
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REVENUE FUND SOURCE	0	0	0	0	0	0
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FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND	20.7	0.0	0	0	0	0
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER FUND SOURCE						
TOTAL	20.7	0.0	0	0	0	0

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME	0	0	0	0	0	0
PART-TIME	0	0	0	0	0	0
TEMPORARY	0	0	0	0	0	0

Estimate of current year impact: _____

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

SCR11 establishes a 12 member Long-Term Care Task Force consisting of the Commissioners of H&SS, Commerce and Administration or their designees, 3 public members appointed by the Governor, and 6 Legislators appointed by the Presiding Officers of the Alaska State Legislature. This task force will review recommendations for long-term care, prepare plans, draft legislation, hold public hearings and submit a plan with proposed legislation and funding options to the Governor and the Legislature by the convening of the 1st Regular Session of the Twenty First Alaska State Legislature.

Prepared By: Karla Schofield, Deputy Director *Karla Schofield* Phone: 465-3852
 Division: Administrative Services Date: 2/27/98
 Approved By: Pamela A. Varni, Executive Director *Pamela A. Varni*
 Agency: Legislative Affairs Agency Date: 2/27/98

CONTINUATION OF FISCAL NOTE: HCR11

Travel

Travel costs for the public members and the Legislative members of the Long-Term Care Task Force are included in this fiscal note. Travel for the Executive Branch members will be paid for by the Executive Branch.

The task force is expected to begin work in FY99 and travel 3 times to hold meetings or public hearings. For purposes of this fiscal note the task force is expected to meet once in Fairbanks, once in Anchorage, once in Juneau.

For the purposes of this fiscal note, the public members of the task force appointed by the Governor are assumed to be 1 from Fairbanks, 1 from Anchorage and 1 from Ketchikan. The Legislators are assumed to be 2 from Anchorage, 2 from Fairbanks, 1 from Ketchikan, and 1 from Juneau. Two days of per diem are calculated for each meeting.

	<u>Per Diem</u>	<u>Travel</u>	
<u>2 Anchorage Meetings</u>			
Anchorage - 1 public members/2 Legislators	-	-	
Fairbanks - 1 public members/2 Legislator	1,278	1,110	
Ketchikan - 1 public member/1 Legislator	852	1,240	
Juneau - 1 Legislator	426	470	
<u>1 Fairbanks Meeting</u>			
Anchorage - 1 public members/2 Legislators	1,086	1,110	
Fairbanks - 1 public members/1 Legislator	-	-	
Ketchikan - 1 public member/1 Legislator	724	1,560	
Juneau - 1 Legislator	362	655	
<u>1 Juneau Meeting</u>			
Anchorage - 1 public members/2 Legislators	1,008	1,410	
Fairbanks - 2 public members/1 Legislator	1,008	1,965	
Ketchikan - 1 public member/1 Legislator	672	580	
Juneau - 1 Legislator	-	-	
Total FY99 Travel	7,416	10,100	TOTAL 17,516

Contractual

	Phones \$100/month	Postage \$50/month	Advertizing \$750/meeting	TOTAL
FY99	600	300	2,250	3,150

Teleconference charges and expenses for printing the report will be absorbed by the Agency.

CS FOR SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 11(HES)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTIETH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE SENATE HEALTH, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Offered:

Referred:

Sponsor(s): SENATORS SHARP, Duncan

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Long-Term Care Task Force.

2 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

3 WHEREAS the establishment of a system to meet the long-term care needs of aging
4 Alaskans is an important issue not only for elderly persons but also for young and middle-
5 aged Alaskans as they attempt to meet the needs of their parents at the same time that they
6 are facing their own and their children's needs; and

7 WHEREAS the cost of long-term care, whether in a home setting or in an institution,
8 often exceeds an individual's ability to pay for the care either immediately or after a short
9 period of time, causing extreme economic and social stress and hardship for many people who
10 have worked hard for many years and still do not have sufficient assets or income to bear the
11 costs of their care; and

12 WHEREAS residents in a Pioneers' Home have been asked to pay the full cost of
13 their long-term care within seven years, resulting in as much as a 30 percent increase this year
14 in some rates for care in the system; and

15 WHEREAS 80 percent of the cost of care for persons now receiving long-term care
16 in privately operated long-term care facilities is paid through state and federal funds under the
17 Medicaid program; and

1 **WHEREAS** current federal and state long-term care policies of the state have resulted
2 in large subsidies from the state's general fund that will increase in the future, competing with
3 funding for other state programs; and

4 **WHEREAS** the legislature established a working group in 1996 to analyze issues
5 regarding long-term care services in the state, including projected costs to the state of various
6 alternative methods of providing long-term care;

7 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature establishes the Long-Term Care
8 Task Force to develop an equitable plan for providing long-term care for all Alaskans; and
9 be it

10 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the task force shall consist of the following nine voting
11 members:

12 (1) three members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker
13 of the House of Representatives; at least one member shall be a member of the majority and
14 at least one a member of the minority;

15 (2) three members of the Senate appointed by the President of the Senate; at
16 least one member shall be a member of the majority and at least one a member of the
17 minority;

18 (3) three members of the public, one each chosen by the Governor, the Speaker
19 of the House of Representatives, and the President of the Senate, from among people who are
20 receiving long-term care, have relatives who are receiving long-term care, are from an
21 organization that represents the interests of people in need of long-term care, or have had
22 experience with an Alaska Native organization that delivers long-term care services in a rural
23 area of the state; and be it

24 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the following persons may serve on the task force as
25 nonvoting members:

26 (1) the commissioner of health and social services or the commissioner's
27 designee;

28 (2) the commissioner of commerce and economic development or the
29 commissioner's designee; and

30 (3) the commissioner of administration or the commissioner's designee; and
31 be it

1 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the public members of the task force shall serve without
2 compensation but are entitled to per diem and travel expenses authorized for boards and
3 commissions under AS 39.20.180; and be it

4 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the task force shall select a chair and vice-chair from
5 among its voting members, shall meet as frequently as the task force determines necessary to
6 perform its work, may meet during the interim, and may meet and vote by teleconference; and
7 be it

8 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the task force shall

9 (1) review the work done and the recommendations made by the long-term
10 care working group established under sec. 3, ch. 84, SLA 1996, if available;

11 (2) prepare a plan, including drafts of legislation that might be necessary to
12 implement the plan, for establishment of an actuarially sound system of long-term care and
13 propose funding options, including options that would allow prepayments by persons desiring
14 coverage for long-term care and require reasonable copayments by the recipients of the care;

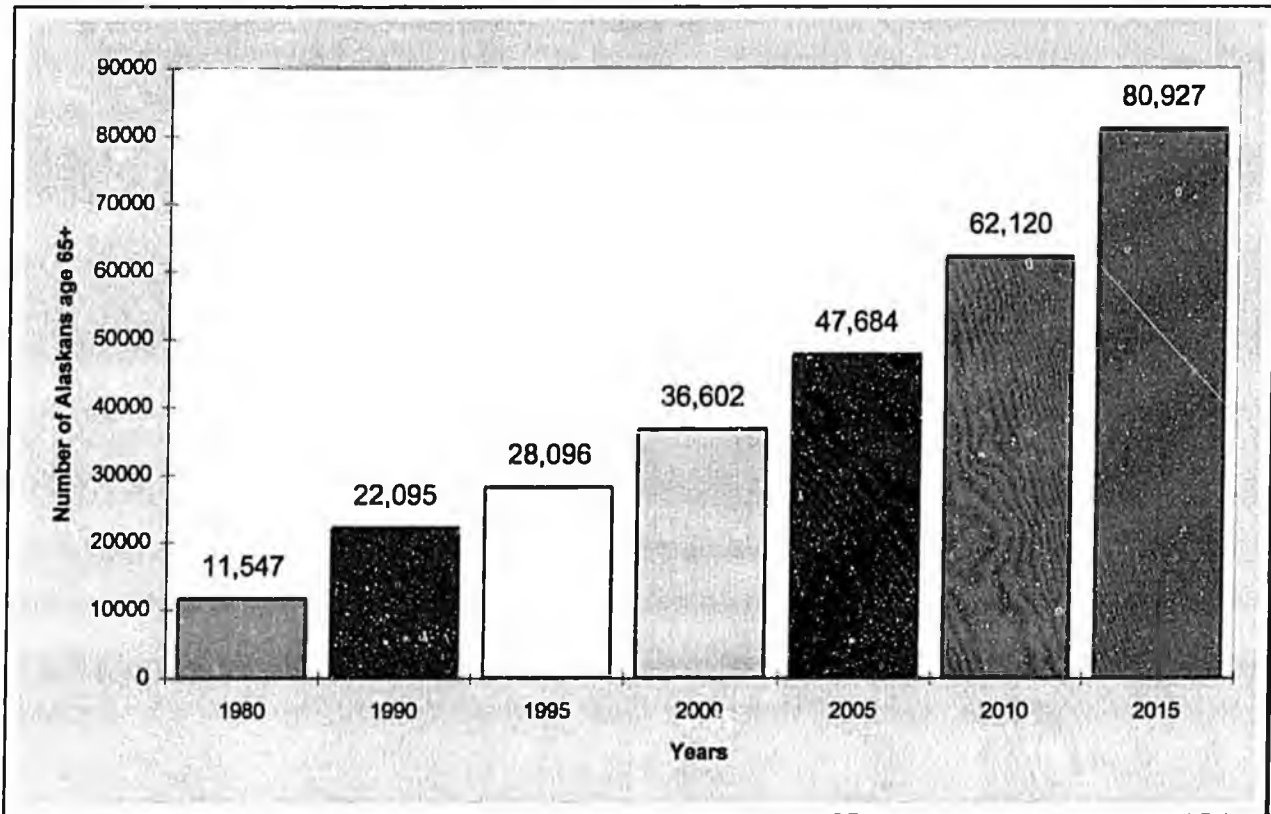
15 (3) hold public hearings on the plan, legislation, and funding proposals
16 developed under (2) of this clause;

17 (4) redraft the plan, legislation, and funding proposals based on the comments
18 received at the public hearings and other information that becomes available to the task force;
19 the final plan, with proposed legislation and funding options, shall be available for public
20 review at least 30 days before the convening of the First Regular Session of the Twenty-First
21 Alaska State Legislature; and

22 (5) submit the plan, proposed legislation, and funding options to the Governor
23 and the legislature by the convening of the First Regular Session of the Twenty-First Alaska
24 State Legislature; and be it

25 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the task force may begin work immediately upon the
26 appointment of its full voting membership and is terminated upon the convening of the First
27 Regular Session of the Twenty-First Alaska State Legislature.

Senior population growth skyrockets



Alaska's Projected Senior Population Growth 1980-2015

The number of Alaskans age 65 + is *growing dramatically*. Alaska must prepare now for the impacts of this rapidly accelerating growth.

Alaska is second in the nation in the proportional growth of our senior population – with a 42% increase in people age 65 + in only 6 years (1990-96). Only Nevada had a greater rate (45%) in the same period of time

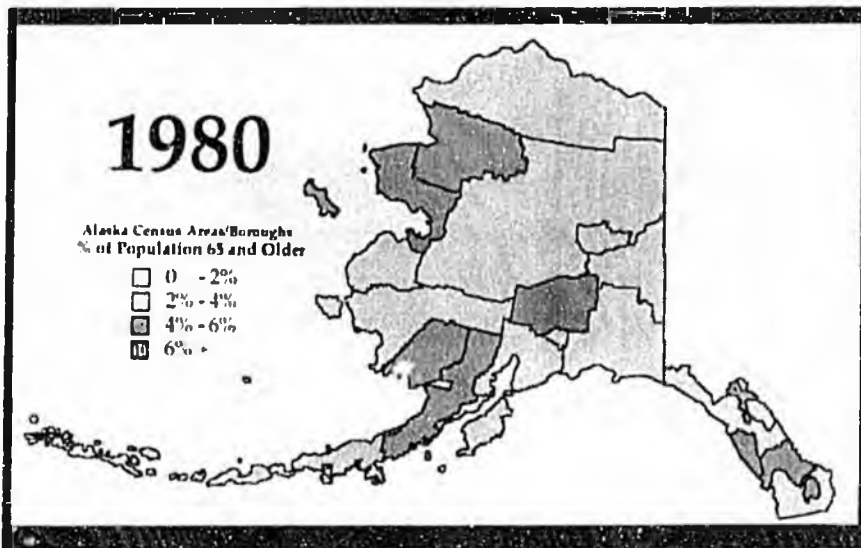
Equally impressive is the anticipated long-term growth of Alaska's senior population. In 1980, there were 11,547 people over the age of 65. Using moderate growth projections, population experts agree this number may reach

80,927 by the year 2015. This is a 600% increase in only 35 years.

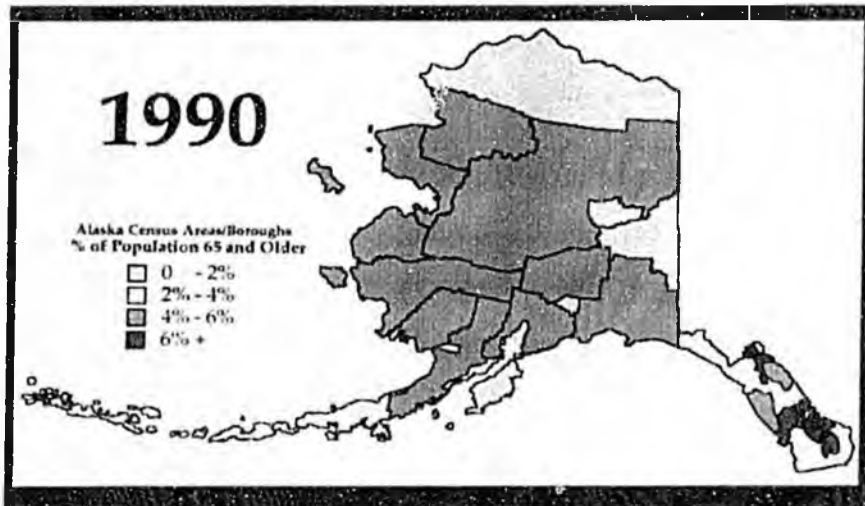
The impact of this trend ripples across the social and economic fabric of our state. As Alaskans we are challenged to develop our communities to be hospitable and supportive to growing numbers of seniors, who in turn enrich our communities socially and financially.

The increased number of Alaskan seniors is a credit to our state's successful public health programs, a more stable Alaskan economy which makes it feasible for seniors to retire here, and community based programs which assist seniors to stay at home in their community of choice.

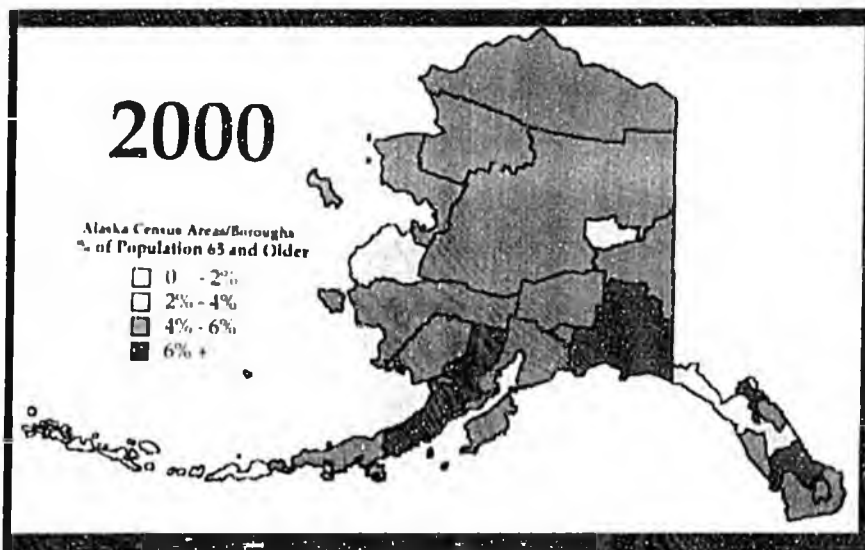
The Graying of Alaska 1980-2000



In 1980, 3% of Alaskans (11,547 people) were 65 years of age and older. There were no census areas reported where more than 6% of the population was 65 years of age and older.



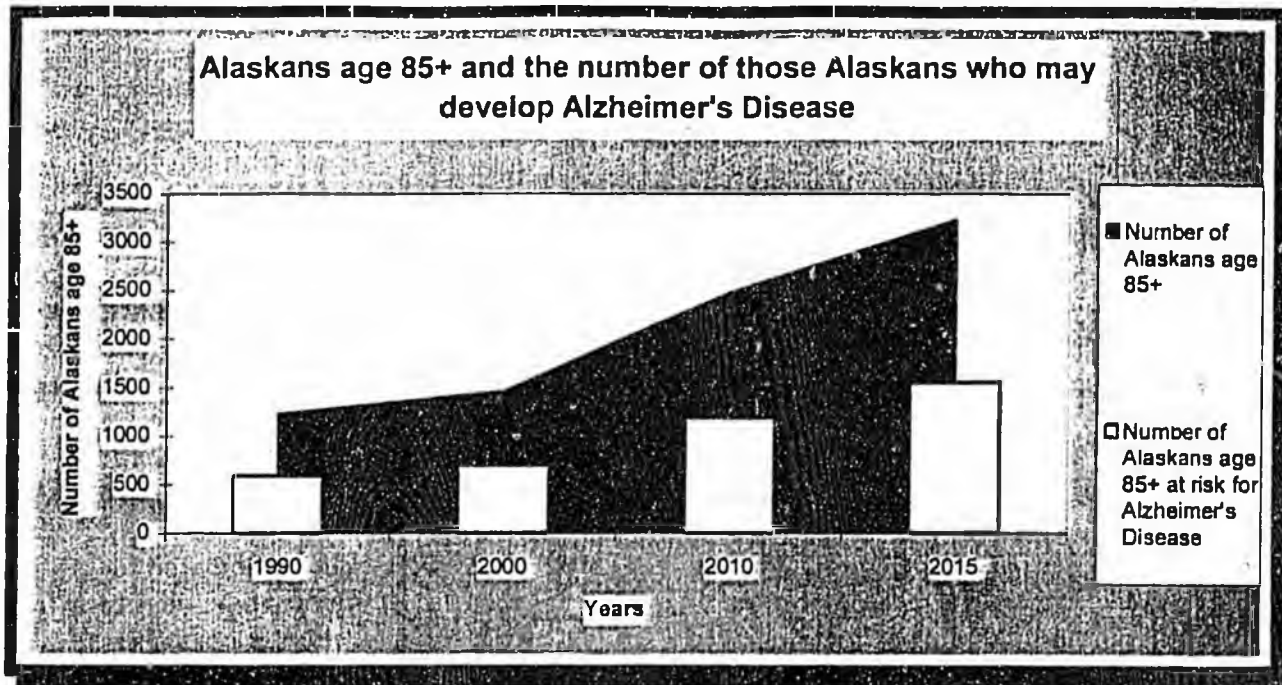
By 1990, 4% of Alaskans (22,469 people) were 65 years of age and older.



By the year 2000, it is estimated that 6% of Alaska's population (36,602 people) will be 65 years of age and older.

The Graying of Alaska is a graphic created by Information Insight, Fairbanks, AK, and has been reproduced with their permission and distributed by the Alaska Commission on Aging, Juneau, AK. (907) 465-4798.

Alaska's population of seniors age 85+ rises sharply



In 1995, scientists estimated the average person age 65 could expect to attain an additional 17.4 years (*1995 A Profile of Older Americans*, AARP). Thus, the *average* senior might live to be 83 years old. Everyone hopes these added years of retirement will find healthy, active seniors enjoying life to the fullest. It is equally realistic to assume that some people within this segment of the senior population are likely to be in need of community based services. The Commission on Aging must also plan for the needs of this age 85 + population, as they continue to age.

Incidence of Alzheimer's Disease has been estimated to be 48% of the total population over age 85 (*Estimated Prevalence of Alzheimer's Disease in the United States*, Denis A. Evans, et al., *The Milbank Quarterly*, Vol. 68, No.2, 1990). By 2015, the number of people over age 85 who may be affected by Alzheimer's Disease could reach 1,500 or more. This age group will comprise 17% of the total number of Alaskans over the age of 60 (9,064 people) who may have Alzheimer's Disease in the year 2015.

Future Issues of "Living Longer, Growing Stronger"

Topics to be covered over the next few months are listed below. If you have a story idea related to one of these topics, please contact Barbara Knapp (465-4798).

- March: Alaska's Community Long Term Care
- April :Assisted Living Homes in Alaska
- May: Older Alaskan's Month & Successful Aging
- June: The Science of Aging
- July: Alaska's Pioneers' Homes
- August: Fighting Fraud through the senior network
- September: Senior Employment
- October: Preparing for retirement
- November: Long-term care resources & Veteran's issues

Please feel free to copy and distribute the information in this issue to:

- seniors
- advocacy groups
- friends
- city planners
- decision makers

Generations of sharing



Meet Martha Sam (right), and her 91 year old mom, Lily Northway (center), members of the "Sandwich Generation." Betty Denny (left), is the Project Director of the Upper Tanana Development Corporation (UTDC) Elders Program, who brings home-delivered meals to Lily when she can't make it to the senior center in Tok.

Lily, who is 91 years old, has always lived in Northway, which is nestled in the Alaska Range half-way between the city of Tok and the Canadian border. The village is named for her late-husband's family. With a total population of less than 500 people, there are five generations of Northways represented in the village now.

Walter, who passed-on recently at the age of 114 years, and Lily have lived with Martha for too many years. While Martha has helped care for them, she also raised nine children, participated in lives many more grandchildren and worked full-time driving the UTDC Senior Citizens van.

The "Sandwich Generation" is a term recently coined to describe children like Martha who actively care for their children (one grandson still lives with her), and parents at the same time.

As Alaska's elder population reaches the mark of 85+ years, Martha will have lots of company. Younger elders must find ways to balance the needs of their children with those of their parents.

How to inform your community of senior issues:

- ◆ Use stories, figures and charts from "Alaskan Seniors: Living Longer, Growing Stronger" in your agency newsletter. To report a local slant on the issues contact the director of your local senior center and the nearest city Planning Department.
- ◆ A press kit containing the information contained in "Alaskan Seniors: Living Longer, Growing Stronger," has been distributed to radio, television and print media across the state. To initiate a story in your area, contact the media and refer to this information packet.
- ◆ Write or speak to community groups about the growth of the senior population and the impact this growth makes in your community. You are welcome to use and distribute any of the information you have found within this information packet.

Spotlight on Alaska's senior volunteer efforts:

Every day, seniors across Alaska are making positive differences in the lives of people in their home communities. You can learn more about Alaska's senior volunteers every month in "Living Longer, Growing Stronger."

In addition to filling vital roles in our communities, volunteering seniors enrich programs with valuable time and skills that many programs just can't afford to buy.

More Volunteers in Anchorage:

The AnchorAge Senior Center relies on a wide variety of volunteers every day. Executive Director Billie Lewis counts on 500 volunteers each year to assist in every aspect of the Anchorage program.

Billie depends on volunteers in the administrative offices who assist with secretarial functions and putting together publications such as the monthly newsletters. Others volunteer in the art and crafts rooms, or selling items hand crafted by seniors in the gift shop.

If you like to be outside, a cadre of volunteers maintain the lawn and gardens at the AnchorAge Senior Center. And if

eating is your favorite pastime consider joining the volunteers working in the Center's restaurant, "The Arctic Rose Café."

AnchorAge Senior Center volunteers logged 23,700 hours of service last year. At the current minimum wage (\$5.65) these hours of service would be valued at \$133,905.

Update on Alaska Community Services Inc.:

A significant portion of the volunteer hours logged by Alaska Community Services (ACS) were not reported last month.

Additional hours of Foster Grandparents in the North Slope Borough, statewide RuralCAP programs, and Anchorage area Foster Grandparents and Senior Companions need to be combined with the hours of service reported from ACS and Volunteers of America.

The additional hours of service by seniors increases the FY97 total of the two organizations to 239,374 volunteer hours.

1998	Organizations	FY97 Hours of volunteer service	Value at Minimum Wage (\$5.65)
January	Alaska Community Services, Inc. and Volunteers of America	239,374 hours	\$1,352,463
February	AnchorAge Senior Center	23,700 hours	\$ 133,905
	Total	263,074 hours	\$1,486,368

To learn about other volunteer opportunities in your area, contact public and private schools, Head Start Centers or other pre-school programs, local senior centers, assisted-living homes, nursing homes, or correctional facilities. To obtain a list of senior centers in your area or information on senior issues contact: Barbara Knapp, Alaska Commission on Aging, PO Box 110209, Juneau, AK, 99811-0209 (907) 465-4798

FAX-Back... to...1-907-465-4716

We will be pleased to have you join us with future monthly issues, each highlighting a different aspect of *Alaskan Seniors: Living Longer, Growing Stronger*. To make these issues informative and useful, please take a few moments to let us know how we might better meet your needs.

1. Did you use the information contained in this issue? YES NO If yes, how?

Did you pass other information along to seniors? YES NO If yes, what & how?

2. Did you receive any inquiries from the media as the result of Media packets distributed by ACoA? YES NO

Did you hear or read any stories about this month's topic by any media? If yes, where?
YES NO

3. Did you initiate local media contacts as the result of this issue? If yes please indicate whether you contacted print, radio or TV.

4. Would you like to use Internet Web-site to receive monthly information packets?
YES NO

Would you be interested in receiving future issues by email or FAX? If yes please give FAX number and/or email address:

If you have received this by FAX, were the graphics clear enough to reproduce?

Do you have a story idea or a person to contact for a story, for an upcoming issue of "Living Longer, Growing Stronger" (see the topics for upcoming issues elsewhere in this issue)? Please include your phone number.

5. What can we do to improve this information packet to make it more usable for you?

FAX your response to: 1-907-465-4716 email to: Barbara_Knapp@ADMIN.state.ak.us
or mail to: ACoA, PO Box 110209, Juneau, AK 99811-0209



Official Business

Alaska State Senate

Senate Finance Committee

Mail Stop 3100
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

SPONSOR STATEMENT

SCR-11

BY: SENATOR BERT SHARP

AS ALASKA'S SENIOR COMMUNITY GROWS, IT IS NECESSARY THAT WE PLAN FOR THE LONG-TERM CARE AND NEEDS OF THESE CITIZENS.

WHILE IT IS THE DESIRABLE GOAL OF MOST FAMILIES TO PROVIDE HOME CARE FOR THEIR ELDERLY PARENTS, THE REALTY IS THAT MOST WILL LIVE IN A LONG-TERM CARE FACILITY. EITHER WAY, THE COSTS OF PROVIDING LONG-TERM CARE IS BECOMING INSURMOUNTABLE TO THE STATE AND TO OUR PRIVATE CITIZENS.

IN AN EFFORT TO ASSURE OUR SENIOR CITIZENS ARE GETTING THE BEST CARE POSSIBLE, THE LEGISLATURE, IN 1996, ESTABLISHED A WORKING GROUP TO ANALYZE LONG-TERM CARE SERVICES AVAILABLE IN THE STATE AND THEIR PROJECTED COSTS.

SCR-11 WILL CREATE A LONG-TERM CARE TASK FORCE. THEIR MISSION IS TO REVIEW THE FINDINGS OF THE WORKING GROUP AND TO DEVELOP AN EQUITABLE PLAN FOR PROVIDING AN ACTUARIALLY SOUND AND AFFORDABLE LONG-TERM CARE FOR ALL OF ALASKA'S SENIOR CITIZENS .

I URGE YOUR SUPPORT IN PASSING THIS VERY IMPORTANT AND NECESSARY RESOLUTION. THANK YOU.

Alaska State Legislature

SENATOR
BERT SHARP

DISTRICT P

CO-CHAIRMAN
SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE

MEMBER
RESOURCE COMMITTEE



Senate

FAIRBANKS
DENALI BANK BUILDING
119 N. CUSHMAN, SUITE 201
FAIRBANKS, ALASKA 99701
(907) 452-7885/7886
FAX (907) 456-4221

SESSION ADDRESS:
STATE CAPITOL, ROOM 516
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801-1182
(907) 465-3004/4921
FAX (907) 465-2070

MEMORANDUM

TO: Senator Gary Wilken, Chair
Senate HESS Committee

FROM: Senator Bert Sharp, Co-chair
Senator Finance Committee

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B Sharp".

SUBJ: Hearing Request

DATE: February 18, 1998

I am requesting a hearing on SCR-11, "A Resolution creating the Long-Term Task Force," at your earliest convenience.

I would like to add that a technical amendment is required on page 3 lines 14, 17, 20 and 21 deleting the words Second and Twentieth and replacing them with the words First and Twenty-first. Thank you.



REPRESENTING
GOLDEN HEART
OF ALASKA



Alaska Chapter

January 31, 1998

Someone to Stand by You

Anchorage Services
240 E. Tudor Road
Suite 110
Anchorage, AK 99503
(907) 561-3313
FAX: (907) 561-3315
Toll Free in Alaska
(800) 478-1080

Fairbanks Services
P.O. Box 12791
Fairbanks, AK 99707
(907) 452-2277

Juneau/Southeast
Services
3200 Hospital Drive
Suite 201
Juneau, AK 99801
(907) 586-6044

Caregiver
Information
System
(907) 561-3322
Toll Free in Alaska
(800) 478-2022

Senator Bert Sharp
State Capitol
Room 516
Juneau, AK. 99801-1182

Dear Senator Sharp;

I am writing this letter as the Public Policy Chair of the Alzheimer's Association Alaska Chapter and as a private citizen with parents who reside in a long term care facility. We would like to state our support of senate concurrent resolution 11, creating the Long-Term Care Task Force. It is our mission at the Alzheimer's Association to provide for all Alaskan's affected by the disease and related disorders, a way to manage with dignity and comfort until we find a cure. While it is our goal and the goal of most families to provide for that care in the private home for as long as possible, it is also a reality that some will live in a long term care facility as my parents are doing.

With the reality of the demographics of baby boomers and the estimated statistics of 6500 Alaskans with ADRD (Alzheimer's disease and related disorders) by the year 2010 (see attachment), it seems obvious this task force is needed in our state. We support having a Long-Term Care Plan in place as soon as possible.

It is obvious from your sponsorship of this resolution, that you and Senator Duncan are friends of the elderly, we look to you both as allies in reaching our goals for maintaining the dignity and comfort of those suffering from ADRD.

Sincerely,

Mary H. Weymiller
Board member
Public Policy Chair
1357 Viewpointe Dr.
Fairbanks, AK 99709-6750
e-mail: weymilln@polarnet.com

Cc: Senator Duncan
Alaska Chapter Alzheimer's Assoc.

Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders Association, Inc.

cc:Mail for: Senator Bert Sharp

Subject: <No subject>

From: fbappel@eagle.ptialaska.net (Frank Appel) at CC2MHS1 02/18/98 2:15 PM

To: Senator Bert Sharp at LAA_SSHA

Dear Senator Sharp:

I support Senate Concurrent Resolution 11 to create a Long-Term Care Task Force. Alaska has a growing community of seniors. It is important that we plan for the long-term care needs of these individuals.

Thank you,

Frank B. Appel

ROBERT L. HUFMAN

1018 Galena Street - Fairbanks, AK 99709-4826

(907) 474-0549

February 17, 1997.....VIA FAX 465-2070

Senator Bert Sharp
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol Building #514
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Bert:

I appreciate receiving a draft copy of the Senate resolution concerning the proposed Long Term Care Task Force. It looks good to me and is the first step towards what will hopefully evolve into a long term care program for Pioneer Home residents and other seniors.

I requested Joe Alter to contact your office and Senator Duncan with any suggestions he may have as chairman of the Pioneer Home Advisory Board.

Thanks and best wishes,



Bob Huffman

TONY KNOWLES, GOVERNOR

STATE INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL

March 3, 1997

Senator Bert Sharp
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

1016 West 6th Ave, Suite 205
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-1963
Phone: V/TTY (907) 269-3571
Message TTY: (907) 269-3635
Fax: (907) 269-3571 3633
Toll Free: 1-888-330-6488

Dear Senator Sharp:

The State Independent Living Council is in support of Senate Concurrent Resolution #11, "Creating a Long-Term Care Task Force". As a council representing the interests of persons with disabilities, especially those persons with disabilities being housed in nursing homes against their will, we supported the effort to place a moratorium on the building of any more nursing home beds two years ago and the establishment of the working group charged with providing a report on long term care. We have reviewed that report and are anxious to begin working on some needed changes in our long term care system.

We understand the need of establishing a Long-Term Care Task Force to further define the State's solution. However, we also feel that our brothers and sisters with disabilities living in nursing homes today, in which there are dozens, would be horrified to see the State embark on yet another study to investigate the problem and define the solution. Our friends want out now, and the State of Alaska has been "foot dragging" on this issue for much too long.

*Therefore, we suggest passing this resolution with an added continued moratorium on any more nursing home beds while the state continues to "study" the problem. (In Vermont they did something similar, but put in benchmarks for decreases in long-term care beds). We also suggest the Task Force be charged with interviewing all persons with disabilities living in nursing homes currently, and that a plan of release into community based, independent living situations be developed for each and every person wishing to make this transition. This, in itself, would do more to push the long-term care system into a new and better mode of thinking. The SILC, with our partner Centers for Independent Living around the State, would welcome the opportunity to work cooperatively on this endeavor with this Task Force. Furthermore, *the SILC would also welcome the opportunity to recommend a member to serve on this Task Force.**

Thank you and should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me at 269-3571.

Sincerely,



Patrick Reinhart
Executive Director

CC. Senator Gary Wilken, Chair, Senate HESS
Members of Senate HESS Committee



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Health & Social Services

Committee Name

Committee on SCR 11 "creating a long-term care task force" Dated 3/2/98

Bill Subject

I am testifying on behalf of myself and as a board member of the Alzheimer's Association. We are in favor of SCR 11.

My mother and two of her siblings have Alzheimer's. When the time came in my mother's life for us to seek help outside our family, we were forced to place her in a nursing home out of Alaska. We tried first to look for care my father could afford by visiting assisted living homes. Her level of Alzheimer's was more advanced than they were equipped to handle. The cost of private nursing homes in Alaska was above my father's means and the pioneer homes were not available. We placed Mom in a home in Colorado, which was the first time she had lived outside Alaska. This came at a time when she needed her family the most and we needed reassurance she was receiving the best care. As a life long Alaskan she lost her longevity bonus and permanent dividend through no fault of her own. Ours is just one story in the lives of many Alaskans who are struggling with the high cost of care in our state.

Based on the Ladd Report March 1996, LONG-TERM CARE IN ALASKA:

Recommendations for Reform, there are two costs in nursing homes that far exceed those of the lower 48, they are property and administration. We need to find the reasons for this and bring them more into line if possible. It is predicted with the high growth rate of the elderly, by the year 2010 there will be 6000 Alaskans with Alzheimer's and related dementia. We need to find a way to increase funding for home and community based care as this is the most cost effective in the long run and the preferred way of life for most Alzheimer's patients and their caregivers. We need to increase the number of assisted living homes and be able to regulate the level of care received in these homes. Nursing homes should be used only for those with extensive medical problems needing skilled nursing care.

We encourage you to pass SCR 11 to help resolve the problems of long-term health care in Alaska so aging Alaskans can continue to live with dignity and peace of mind.

Thank you for your time.

SIGNED: Mary H. Deemiller

Testifier

Alzheimer's Assoc. Ak Chapter & myself

Representing

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ALASKA STATE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

LONG-TERM CARE
POSITION PAPER
1998

AARP POSITION:

Advocate for a state long-term care plan which provides quality home and community-based care that promotes independence in the least restrictive setting necessary.

DISCUSSION:

State law should be established which address accessibility, quality, affordability and safety. The State Long-Term Care system should:

- Respond quickly to Alaskans in need of home and community-based needs;
- Maintain and expand affordable home and community-based services as needed;
- Preserve the integrity, independence and safety of individuals and their families;
- Explore public/private options for affordable long-term care insurance;
- Protect Alaskans from fraud and abuse in the long-term care delivery system;
- Promote a transportation system which supports independence and access to community-based services; and
- Strengthen and expand the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program.

For further information, please contact:

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(Over, please)

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