

HB

299



REPRESENTATIVE SCOTT OGAN

Alaska State Legislature

House District 27 • Palmer • Greater Palmer • Sutton • Chickaloon • Sheep Mountain

*** For Immediate Release ***

01/19/2000

Legislation To Fix Pioneer Home Rates

House Bill 299, to prevent further agency increases in Pioneer Home rates except through legislation, was introduced by Representative Scott Ogan. "I have visited with many residents who were told what their costs would be, only to have them raised. Most of these folks have made the commitment on where to live out their days and really do not have other options. They deserve a rate they can trust."

Under Ogan's bill, only the Legislature could change the rates. "If there is a need to raise rates it should be brought before the Legislature. If the legislature is persuaded to increase a rate it should be applied to those admitted after the increase, not before."

Ogan is concerned with rate increases that weigh on the minds of those in the homes. "Our homes have changed from primarily residential to long term care and with that change should come a higher level of protection. I just don't want folks already seriously challenged to constantly worry about rate increases," said Ogan. "We set education funding levels in the Legislature for a reason and we should provide the same careful stewardship for our Pioneer Home rates."

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2221 Egan Ave, Box 115
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701
February 26th, 2000

Rep. Janette James
Chrm. House State Affairs Committee Rm 102
Juneau, Alaska, 99801

Dear Rep. Janette James,

H-B-299, introduced by Rep. Scott Ogan, was discussed at the February 25th Resident Council meeting at the Fairbanks Pioneers' Home - the Council authorized me to write this letter expressing gratitude to Rep. Ogan for addressing Senior concerns about rate increases. We urge you to schedule a hearing as soon as possible and we urge you to move H-B-299 out of committee.

Please distribute a copy of this letter and accompanying signature sheet to each member of the House State Affairs Committee.

Respectfully Yours,
Charles A. Swain

The undersigned residents of the Fairbanks
Pioneers' Home urge you to have a hearing for
H.B. 299 and we urge you to move it out of
committee as soon as possible.

Frances A. Swain
Claude E. Swain
Ray Rybo
Mathilde E. Link
Helen L. Douglass
Janne A. Silides
Leo Schestfest
June M. Stanfield
Ruth L. Olson
Nellie A. Lanstra
Francis P. Baker
M. J. Miller
C. Elizabeth Pekman
Rosa Lamson
Robert E. Davis
Robert W. Wilker
Dorcas J. Hoch
Marie M. Killian
M. Edward Matthews, Ph.D.
Clara M. Anderson
Dorothy Marie Sage
Roberta Stout

Ella G. Mauer
R. C. Richards
Richardson Soepa
Robert H. Hart
G. O. Stenquist
Marie S. King
Lorraine P. Davis
L. R. Cunningham, D.D.S.
Lillian King
Catherine Fulton



REPRESENTATIVE SCOTT OGAN

Alaska State Legislature

House District 27 • Palmer • Greater Palmer • Sutton • Chickaloon • Sheep Mountain

MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 21, 2000

TO: Representative Jeanette James
Chairman, State Affairs Committee

FROM: Representative Scott Ogan

SUBJECT: Hearing Requests

Since we are both strong supporters of the "public process", I am once again requesting that HJR 49 and HB 299 be placed on the calendar in State Affairs.

Let's give the public process that we both honor an opportunity to work.

*Thanks,
Scott*



REPRESENTATIVE SCOTT OGAN

Alaska State Legislature

House District 27 • Palmer • Greater Palmer • Sutton • Chickaloon • Sheep Mountain

Memorandum

To: Representative James / Chair of State Affairs

From: Representative Scott Ogan

Date: January 29, 2000

Re: HB 299 / Pioneer Home Rates

It would be most appreciated if you could help me move this bill for Seniors out of your committee as soon as possible. HB -299 prevents agencies from raising Pioneer Home rates absent legislative consent. After many rate increases and violations of agreements our Pioneers have made it is time to end the stress on these folks.

The bill has been given 3 referrals so your expeditious treatment would be most beneficial to its passage.

Thank you.

(no subject)

Subject: (no subject)
Date: Mon, 21 Feb 2000 10:15:07 -0900
From: Linda Hay <Linda_Hay@legis.state.ak.us>
Organization: Alaska State Legislature
To: Barbara Cotting <Barbara_Cotting@legis.state.ak.us>

Here is the information for the letter I gave you on HB299.

Mrs. Claude E. Swaim
2221 Egan Avenue
Fairbanks, AK. 99701
907-479-6756

She left this message on our phone Friday afternoon.

Thanks and yes I did notice we were the only people in the US working today!

Linda Hay

February 18 - 2000

Dear Representative Scott Ogan:

Please inform me if I should send a copy of this letter to anyone — If so, to whom?

I would send it with a cover letter saying:

Today my husband and I read, with interest, Scott Ogan's press release on H. B. - 299.

For the past three years I have expressed concern over the rate increases at several hearings. Apparently others throughout the state have also. We are pleased that Representative Ogan is responding. We urge you to move the bill out of committee with a recommendation to pass.

I send a copy of a letter we sent to Mr. Kohn in April of '99. One of the issues we addressed was the cost increases and we asked him, "How would you like that?" We ask you the same thing.

Respectfully,

Mrs. Claude Sussner

2221 Egan Ave Box 115
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701
April 17, 1999-

Dear Mr Kohn,

I write in response to your letter of March 19th, 1999 addressed to my husband, Claude Savin.

My husband, Claude, and I moved to the Fairbanks Pioneer Home in January of 1996. - At that time our rent was \$1595 - three years later it is \$2680 - that's a monthly increase of \$1085 (in July it will increase \$400 more) Furthermore, during that time my husband's level of care was reduced from Basic Assisted Living to Coordinated care so he is receiving less care. During this same period our Government monthly Civil Service and Social Security payments reflected a cost of living allowance increase of \$84.72 How would you like that?

My husband is on a number of medications and we were very happy when for five months plus we received medications from the Pioneer Home Pharmacy at a substantial saving - now we receive a letter from you saying that benefit has been withdrawn. How would you like that? - - - - - It says to us that you are discouraging residents from any independency - If we were to ask a nurse to give us medications, we could save with the State

pharmacy program, but management ~~is~~ ^{is} ~~not~~ ^{not} ~~allowing~~ ^{allowing} us in the Assisted Living Category and charge us an additional \$1620.00 each month. That's ridiculous! How would you like that?

I am younger than my husband and I'm still involved in several community activities. Sometimes I am away during the lunch hour. One of our sons works approximately 1/2 mile from the Pioneer Home. If he comes to eat lunch with his father on the days I am absent, we pay for my reserved meal plus a guest meal for our son.

My husband and I take vacation trips each year, being gone sometimes for three or four weeks. We have no problem with full pay for our rooms but we think a discount is in order for the cost of meals not served. How would you like that?

On March 31st a big rambunctious Rasky dog that was leashed to a lamp post along an entrance sidewalk to the Pioneer Home jumped up on my husband, knocking him down and breaking his left femur. We don't blame management, but nevertheless, the accident was caused by a life threatening hazard on the Pioneer Home grounds. My husband is 96 years old and the bone

repair and cardiac arrest that followed the surgery have been very hard on him -- How would you like that?

I have attended Resident Council meetings at the Pioneer Home. There, I've heard residents say they have written to you but received no reply.

The last paragraph of the letter you sent my husband invites questions. An invitation for questions, I think, implies a reply. We will expect a direct answer from you letting us know how you would like:

1. To be cut off from the Pioneer Home Pharmacy, just because you could take your own medicines?
2. A Government raise of \$1085.00 for your monthly rent compared to a government cost of living monthly allowance increase of \$84.72?
3. To be charged for meals when you are absent from the Home for an extended time?
4. To have your life endangered by a big dog at the Pioneer Home? Our Dr. states that my husband's survival so far is a miracle. To date it's been a painful experience and his quality of life has probably been adversely affected for the balance of his life.

We have high praise for the staff and
for the care we receive at the *Franklin* Business
Home -

Our major complaints concern the directives
that come from *Jensen* -

Respectfully yours,
Mrs Claude E. Larson.

2-18-2000

Mr Kohn did reinstate
Claude in State Pharmacy
Program -

2221 Egan Ave Box 115
Fairbanks, Ak 99701
March 2, 2000

Rep. Janette James
Chair, House State of Affairs Committee Rm 112
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Representative Janette James,

The Fairbanks Pioneers Home Family Council met
last night - I send a signature sheet of
those in attendance who strongly support HB-299
and want it to move out of committee.

Respectfully yours
Francis A. Swain

Post-It [®] Fax Note	7671	Date	3/2/00	# of pages	2
To	Rep. James	From	FAKS LIO		
Co./Dept.		Co.			
Phone #		Phone #			
Fax #	465-2381	Fax #			

We, the undersigned, urge you to schedule a hearing for H.B. 299 and we urge you to move it out of committee as soon as possible.

Dorothy Diste

Ruth E. Storch

Mary Wegmiller

Norma E. Richards

Mary Margaret Davis

Frieda M. Peters

John M. Peters & P.O.A. (Frieda Peters)

Shirley Watson

Chris Hayes

Jamara Hornbuckle

Michelle Thomas

Danette Scott

Condon Dow

Sharon McLeod, Everett

Virginia E. Davidson

FEB 24 2000

2-22-00

-Dear Rep. Egan,

We support your efforts in the proposed legislation to curtail yearly rate increases for the state Pension Home, House Bill 299.

The rate increases make it very difficult for families & residents of these homes.

Thank you for your concern & efforts in this matter.

Also, do hope the other Valley legislators will support this bill.

Sincerely,

Willard T. Tuberson, Trustee

Box 520365, Big Lake, MN 55657

40299

Letters to the Editor

Anchorage Daily News

Letters
Published
Wednesday
February 23,
2000

Tuesday
February 22, 2000

Monday
February 21, 2000

Sunday
February 20, 2000

Saturday
February 19, 2000

Friday
February 18, 2000

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February 17, 2000

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February 16, 2000

Publication
Policy

How to submit a
letter

Home

Back break for pioneers
Halt intrusion on space
News stifles Civil War rebuttal
Cast a vote for our youth
Time for state to listen
Sue or stay out. district
Failure may pay off
We're paying for failure
Separate conduct. grade issues
Remedies must be lawful
Larson. Lincoln taught how
Letter gets failing grade

Back break for pioneers

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I see where Rep. Scott Ogan has introduced a bill that would freeze what the residents pay now in the Pioneers' Homes. We all wish him the best of luck (approximately 700 of us).

I am not sure that the general public knows that there is a governor's advisory board consisting of citizens from all over the state - Fairbanks, Wasilla, Ketchikan, etc. Their duty is to advise the governor on issues pertaining to the six Pioneers' Homes. One thing that residents of all the homes dislike is that the board advised the governor to raise the cost of living in the homes \$200 on the first of July each year. This is being done - "taxation without representation."

When I moved into the Palmer Pioneers' Home in October 1986, I paid \$375 a month. I realize that was a real bargain, as my wife needed special care - which she received. I was paying \$750 a month for the two of us. No one told either one of us that the rates would be going up each month. I think that was a form of

entrapment. Now, living in the Palmer Pioneers' Home as a widower, I pay \$1,478.22 a month. Do I eagerly look forward to having this go up \$200 a month on July 1, 2000? None of us do.

I would hope that the legislators would see the light and go along with Rep. Scott Ogan. I know that Rep. Vic Kohring, Sen. Lyda Green and Sen. Rick Halford will back Rep. Ogan's bill. Hopefully they all will.

- Ed S. Lynch

Palmer Pioneers' Home

Halt intrusion on space

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Far North Bicentennial Park is a very special place. Solitude and beauty. A home for wildlife. Forests that purify our waters. Open spaces that feed the soul.

A small group of individuals wants to privatize (de facto) this valuable public park land by expanding the Hilltop Ski Area. More lights. More noise. More snow fog. Less forest. Less wildlife. Less peace. With every cut of the knife into the park, Anchorage bleeds a little more. The Far North Bicentennial Park is dying a death by a thousand cuts.

The reason given for the "expansion" is to reduce long lift lines, a hyperbolic claim, while even if true, is solvable by a faster lift system. Boosters claim the expansion is needed for Anchorage youth. But there is a lesson here far more important than skiing and snowboarding. What does frivolous ski development really teach kids? That waiting five minutes is more important than protecting and preserving our park lands? What of the values we ought to teach to our kids - about sharing, living within our means and protecting the environment for future generations?

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2000 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. HB299

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction) _____	Dept. Affected	Administration
Title _____	BRU	Alaska Longevity Programs
"An Act relating to rates charged in a Pioneers' Home."	Component	Pioneers' Homes
Sponsor Rep. Scott Ogan		
Requester (H) STA	Component No.	1950

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
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CHANGE IN REVENUES ()	(1,275.0)	(1,493.0)	(1,543.0)	(1,543.0)	(1,543.0)	(1,543.0)
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FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

FUND SOURCE	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006
1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF	1,275.0	1,493.0	1,543.0	1,543.0	1,543.0	1,543.0
1005 GF/Program Receipts	(1,275.0)	(1,493.0)	(1,543.0)	(1,543.0)	(1,543.0)	(1,543.0)
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type)						
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2000) cost: _____

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

HB 299 rolls back Pioneers' Home rate increases to July, 1998 (FY 1999). A comparison between the present FY 2000 rate and the rate proposed in HB 299 is as follows, resulting in a revenue loss to the state:

HB 299 Proposed Monthly Rates	Present Rates (FY 2000)
Coordinated Services: \$1,340	\$1,540
Basic Assisted Living: \$2,150	\$2,580
Enhanced AL: \$2,730	\$3,315
ADRD: \$2,815	\$3,430
Comprehensive: \$3,395	\$4,160

Prepared by: <u>James Kohn, Director</u>	Phone: <u>465-2159</u>
Division: <u>AK Longevity Programs</u>	Date/Time: _____
Approved by Commissioner – <u>Robert Poe, Jr.</u>	Date: <u>3/8/00</u> <u>3/6/00</u>
Agency: <u>Dept. of Administration</u>	

PREPARER TO PROVIDE ALL DISTRIBUTION COPIES TO GOVERNOR'S LEGISLATIVE OFFICE

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Pioneers' Homes Rate History

Effective Date	Coordinated Services	Basic Assisted Living	Enhanced Assisted Living	Alzheimer's & Dementia Related Disorders	Comprehensive Services
July 1996	\$934	\$1,289	\$1,553	\$1,579	\$1,864
July 1997	\$1,140	\$1,720	\$2,140	\$2,200	\$2,630
July 1998	\$1,340	\$2,150	\$2,730	\$2,815	\$3,395
July 1999	\$1,540	\$2,580	\$3,315	\$3,430	\$4,160

Notes : July 1996 was the first rate increase in the Pioneers' Homes Advisory Boards seven year plan to move charging Pioneers' Homes resident the full cost of care.

A payment assistance program is available for residents who cannot afford to pay the monthly rates.

Pioneers' Homes Proposed Rate Increases

Effective Date	Coordinated Services	Basic Assisted Living	Enhanced Assisted Living	Alzheimer's & Dementia Related Disorders	Comprehensive Services
July 2000	\$1,735	\$3,005	\$3,905	\$4,040	\$4,920
July 2001	\$1,935	\$3,435	\$4,490	\$4,655	\$5,685
July 2002	\$2,135	\$3,865	\$5,080	\$5,270	\$6,450