

HB

158



# FISCAL NOTE

**STATE OF ALASKA**  
**2003 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

Fiscal Note Number: 1  
 Bill Version: HB 158  
 (H) Publish Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): 3/27/04 (correction) Dept. Affected: Administration  
 Title: \_\_\_\_\_ BRU: Longevity Bonus  
 Component: Longevity Bonus Grants  
 Sponsor: Governor  
 Requester: \_\_\_\_\_ Component No. 26

**Expenditures/Revenues** (Thousands of Dollars)

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

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims	(44,777.9)	(41,543.3)	(38,344.2)	(35,203.3)	(32,130.4)	(29,080.8)
Miscellaneous						
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>	<b>(44,777.9)</b>	<b>(41,543.3)</b>	<b>(38,344.2)</b>	<b>(35,203.3)</b>	<b>(32,130.4)</b>	<b>(29,080.8)</b>

<b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURES</b>						
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<b>CHANGE IN REVENUES ( )</b>						
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**FUND SOURCE** (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF	(44,777.9)	(41,543.3)	(38,344.2)	(35,203.3)	(32,130.4)	(29,080.8)
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type--Do not abbreviate)						
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>(44,777.9)</b>	<b>(41,543.3)</b>	<b>(38,344.2)</b>	<b>(35,203.3)</b>	<b>(32,130.4)</b>	<b>(29,080.8)</b>

Estimate of any current year (FY2003) cost: 0.0

Mark this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2004 budget proposal:

**POSITIONS**

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

**ANALYSIS:** (Attach a separate page if necessary)

This reduction reflects the FY2004 savings from eliminating the Longevity Bonus program. The reduction is included in the FY2004 budget. This fiscal note is for information purposes only.

This corrected fiscal note shows expected savings in each fiscal year when compared to forecast expenditures under the existing program.

Prepared by: Dan Spencer Phone 465-5655  
 Division: Administrative Services Date/Time 3/27/03 10:30 AM  
 Approved by: Mike Miller Date 3/27/2003  
 Agency: Commissioner

APRIL 16, 2003      Testimony to the Senate Finance Committee  
BUDGET HEARINGS

My name is Marie Darlin and I am the Capital City Task Force Coordinator for AARP in Alaska. You have a copy of my previous detailed testimony on the Longevity Bonus and you have letters from the AARP Office in opposition to legislation repealing the bonus program.

I wish to speak on the importance of the Longevity Bonus for our seniors and want to reiterate a few facts for your consideration.

The main purpose of the bonus was to keep our seniors in Alaska.

1994 phase-out legislation made a promise to seniors - no more changes!

12,000 of the 18,000 recipients are over age 75 that receive \$250. Costs decrease at 3 million or more each year.

The economic impact on the state from seniors is well over 1 billion per year - most of it spent here.

Every dollar spent turns over at least twice. Therefore, the 47.5 million the Governor's bill saves takes 95 million out of the economy.

Seniors provide volunteer hours worth approximately 60 million per year and they give at least 20 hours per month of caregiver services totaling an equivalent of 6300 full time jobs.

In 1999 6,000 seniors lived on less than \$1,000 per month (poverty level) and the bonus provided 10% of the income for single seniors.

The longevity bonus allows our seniors to remain independent contributing members of our communities and is much less expensive than caring for them with the Governor's safety nets.

PLEASE LEAVE THE LONGEVITY BONUS IN THE BUDGET!



Marie Darlin - AARP

4  
**5-year phase out**  
**20% per year**

Fiscal Year	\$250/month		Phase-Out Cost	\$200/month		Phase-Out Cost	\$150/month		Phase-Out Cost	\$100/month		Phase-Out Cost	Combined Totals		
	Average No. Monthly Payments	Status QuoCost		Average No. Monthly Payments	Status QuoCost		Average No. Monthly Payments	Status QuoCost		Average No. Monthly Payments	Status QuoCost		Average No. Monthly Payments	Status QuoCost	Phase-Out Cost
2004	11,646	34,936.6	27,949.3	1,681	4,033.3	3,226.6	1,827	3,288.7	2,631.0	2,099	2,518.3	2,014.6	17,252	44,776.8	35,821.5
2005	10,702	32,107.4	19,264.4	1,607	3,856.6	2,314.0	1,756	3,160.0	1,896.0	2,015	2,418.3	1,451.0	16,080	41,542.3	24,925.4
2006	9,783	29,349.1	11,739.6	1,520	3,648.3	1,459.3	1,644	3,027.5	1,211.0	1,932	2,318.3	927.3	14,879	38,343.1	15,337.3
2007	8,893	26,680.4	5,336.1	1,432	3,436.6	687.3	1,595	2,871.2	574.2	1,845	2,214.1	442.8	13,766	35,202.3	7,040.5
<u><u>83,124.6</u></u>															

# FISCAL NOTE

**STATE OF ALASKA**  
**2003 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

Fiscal Note Number: 1  
 Bill Version: HB 158  
 (H) Publish Date: 3/5/03

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): \_\_\_\_\_ Dept. Affected: Administration  
 Title: \_\_\_\_\_ BRU: Longevity Bonus  
 Component: Longevity Bonus Grants  
 Sponsor: Governor  
 Requester: \_\_\_\_\_ Component No.: 26

**Expenditures/Revenues** (Thousands of Dollars)

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

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims	(47,519.3)	(47,519.3)	(47,519.3)	(47,519.3)	(47,519.3)	(47,519.3)
Miscellaneous						
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>	<b>(47,519.3)</b>	<b>(47,519.3)</b>	<b>(47,519.3)</b>	<b>(47,519.3)</b>	<b>(47,519.3)</b>	<b>(47,519.3)</b>

<b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURES</b>						
-----------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--

<b>CHANGE IN REVENUES ( )</b>						
-------------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--

**FUND SOURCE** (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF	(47,519.3)	(47,519.3)	(47,519.3)	(47,519.3)	(47,519.3)	(47,519.3)
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type--Do not abbreviate)						
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>(47,519.3)</b>	<b>(47,519.3)</b>	<b>(47,519.3)</b>	<b>(47,519.3)</b>	<b>(47,519.3)</b>	<b>(47,519.3)</b>

Estimate of any current year (FY2003) cost: 0.0  
 Mark this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2004 budget proposal:

**POSITIONS**

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

**ANALYSIS:** (Attach a separate page if necessary)

This reduction reflects the FY2004 savings from eliminating the Longevity Bonus program. The reduction is included in the FY2004 budget. This fiscal note is for information purposes only.

Prepared by: Dan Spencer Phone 465-5655  
 Division: Administrative Services Date/Time 3/5/03 9:13 AM  
 Approved by: Mike Miller Date 3/5/2003  
 Agency: Commissioner, Dept. of Administration

THE  
FOLLOWING  
DOCUMENT(S)  
ARE  
POOR  
ORIGINAL  
COPIES

**Pioneers of Alaska, Igloo 26 and Auxiliary 10  
PO Box 715  
Petersburg, Alaska 99833**

March 28, 2003

To: Chairman Bruce Weyrauch and Members of the House State Affairs Committee

Reference: HB 158

At a regular meeting of The Pioneers of Alaska Igloo 26 and Auxiliary 10, Petersburg, Alaska Wednesday evening March 26, 2003 the members voted vigorously and unanimously to oppose HB 158 legislation to discontinue the Alaska Longevity Bonus.

Sincerely,



Ed Sarff,  
Designated Correspondent  
For Igloo 26 and Auxiliary 10

Cc: Honorable Frank Murkowski, Governor of the State of Alaska  
District A Senator Robin Taylor  
District 2 Representative Peggy Wilson



# Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House State Affairs  
committee name

Committee on HB 158 Eliminate Longevity Bonus, dated 3-25-03  
bill # / subject

THE LONGEVITY BONUS IS VERY IMPORTANT AND NECESSARY FOR MY HUSBAND AND MYSELF TO BE ABLE TO MAINTAIN OUR HOUSEHOLD EXPENSES. We are at poverty level now and without the bonus we would only be receiving \$1449 monthly between us. My husband is 83 yrs of age - is on oxygen all night and a nebulizer four times daily. I am 76 and unable to work due to complication of diabetes. Anything you can do would be appreciated to save the bonus. We know a good many people who are in the same fix we are in. Thanks for your patience and concern.

Signed: Mrs. Mary K. Dallas Barb W. Walcott  
Testifier

Representing (optional):

P.O. Box 797 Sterling, Alaska 99672  
Address

(907) 262-2869  
Phone number

**Subject:** [Fwd: Longevity Bonus]  
**Date:** Fri, 02 May 2003 12:54:10 -0800  
**From:** Bruce Weyhrauch <Representative\_Bruce\_Weyhrauch@Legis.state.ak.us>  
**Organization:** Alaska State Legislature  
**To:** Ginny Austerman <Ginny\_Austerman@legis.state.ak.us>

long bonus file

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**Subject:** Longevity Bonus  
**Date:** Thu, 01 May 2003 18:23:30 -0800  
**From:** Ken Kareen <kenk@alaska.net>  
**To:** Representative\_Bruce\_Weyhrauch@legis.state.ak.us

As a life long Alaskan over the age of 60 who will not receive a longevity bonus I urge you to reject proposals to eliminate or modify the program.

My mother and aunt have lived in Alaska since 1937. They both receive and need the monthly check. One of them if not both could qualify for public assistance. But like many of their generation they would never consider applying or accepting it. A "needs based" program is no different to these seniors than public assistance or welfare.

There is no dispute with the statements of Commissioner Mike Miller that the program is not what was originally conceived. However, with all due respect to the Commissioner, he neglects to mention the 1992 amendments sunset a program that has gone beyond its intents. He also fails to mention the number of current recipients who are exactly the same people that the original program was intended to serve. My mother and aunt are two and I am friends with numerous others who have lived in Alaska continuously since prior to 1959. (My family still considers anyone who arrived post World War II as a new comer).

I attended hearing and spoke with legislators when the 1992 amendment was adopted. At that time there certainly appeared to be a consensus of those legislators with whom I spoke that the amendment was to protect the people eligible under that amendment and the program would not be revisited.

Even though the statements of former legislators do not bind current legislators or yourself, I still consider it a moral commitment and would be extremely disappointed if it is not honored.

Please do not rob these people of their dignity during their twilight years just because they are not dying fast enough.



# Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House State Affairs  
committee name

Committee on HB 158 Eliminate Longevity Bonus, dated March 25, 2003  
bill # / subject

*I Homesteaded in 1952  
and I feel I have earned  
The Bonus. Keep politics out of it.*

Signed: *Howard G. McBrody*  
Testifier

Representing (optional)

*Box 586 Kenai AK*  
Address

*907* *283-4353*  
Phone number



# Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House State Affairs  
committee name

Committee on HB 158 Eliminate Longevity Bonus, dated March 25, 2003  
bill # / subject

*The longevity Bonus has help to may our  
lives a little easier to get by and pay  
some of our bills.*

Signed: Alicia R. McHardy  
Testifier

Representing (optional)

Box 286 Kenai AK 99611  
Address

907-283-4353  
Phone number



# Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House State Affairs  
committee name

Committee on HB 158 Eliminate Longevity Bonus, dated March 25, 2003  
bill # / subject

I AM VERY MUCH IN FAVOR OF OUR  
 LONGEVITY, BONUS, PLEASE VOTE NO ON H.B. 158  
 THIS CHECK, EVERY MONTH MEANS, SO MUCH  
 TO MOST OF ALASKA SENIORS, WITHOUT IT,  
MOST MAY HAVE TO LEAVE THE STATE -  
 IF YOU MULTIPLY THIS X7 LOOK AT WHAT  
 HAPPENS TO OUR ECONOMY, ITS NOT WORTH IT  
 THIS WILL DIE ON ITS OWN, LET THIS  
 PROGRAM DIE IN PEACE THE WAY IT WAS  
 INTENDED

Signed: Alvin R. Meehan  
Testifier

MY DIST-33 + ALL SENIORS REC. THIS CHECK  
Representing (optional)

381-SENIOR CT. APT 302 KENAI, AK 99611  
Address

907-283-7618  
Phone number



# Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House State Affairs  
committee name

Committee on HB 158 Eliminate Longevity Bonus, dated March 25, 2003  
bill # / subject

*Please donot take the  
LONGEVITY BONUS FROM  
the seniors of this  
state*

Signed: Billy W Osborn  
Testifier (✓)

myself  
Representing (optional)

P.O. Box 3003 KENAI, AK. 99611  
Address

907-283-7936  
Phone number



STILL NEEDS  
**Ala TO BE FAXED legislature**

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House State Affairs  
committee name

Committee on HB 158 Eliminate Longevity Bonus, dated 3-25-03  
Bill # / subject

March 24, 2003

Mr. Mike Chenault:

As our representative I'm asking you to really look seriously at taking our longevity check. I'm 75 years old and unable to work. I'm seperated from my husband who contributes nothing to my living as he is on a very low fixed income also. How come it is always pick on the poor to do the cutting. I pay my rent with that check and live on \$228.00 SS Check. How about the Government live like we have, lets cut them down to our size. I have lived here 34yrs and spend all I get in Alaska.

I hope you take a good look at the Problem.

Laura Steger/

Signed: Laura B. Steger  
Testifier

Longevity Program  
Representing (optional)

Po Box 464 Sterling AK. 99672  
Address

907-262-8806  
Phone number



# Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House State Affairs  
committee name

Committee on HB 158 Eliminate Longevity Bonus, dated March 25, 2003  
bill # / subject

At the rate the Seniors are dying off, in 5 years there won't be many left to collect the Longevity. They take our food and medicine away from us.

We voted you in, in good faith  
So leave the Longevity alone!

Remember you may want to be reelected again.

Signed: Helen M. Hynson David L. W. [unclear]  
Testifier

Representing (optional)

P.O. Box 127 Soldotna, Ak. 99669  
Address

(907) 283-4653  
Phone number



# Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House State Affairs  
committee name

Committee on HB 158 Eliminate Longevity Bonus, dated 3-25-03  
Bill # / subject

I am 85 years old - Widow for 15 years - my husband of 50 years and I settled in Sterling in 1970, over 32 years ago. We have been proud and happy in helping and seeing the community of Sterling develop into a beautiful place to live year around.

I would like express my feeling in wanting everything possible done to prevent anything or anybody from disturbing the present way set up for the elderly people who want to live here the rest of their lives.

My sincere appreciation for the needed help (for medical, doctor bills, etc.) the longevity program has been to me.

Signed: Mrs. Luella P. Barker  
Testifier

Representing (optional)

P.O. Box 723 Sterling AK 99672  
Address

(907) 262-7782  
Phone number



# Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House State Affairs  
committee name

Committee on HB 158 Eliminate Longevity Bonus, dated 3-25-03  
bill # / subject

*Keep the bonus, we are  
dying real fast, and need the  
help just to survive.*

Signed: Margaret L. Schadle  
Testifier

Representing (optional)

36680 N Kimberly Ct.  
Address Soldotna AK

907-262-6318  
Phone number



# Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House State Affairs  
committee name

Committee on HB 158 Eliminate Longevity Bonus, dated 3-25-03  
Bill # / subject

*Please don't take the Longevity Bonus from the senior Alaskans. Many depend on it to survive.*

Signed: Harriette Turcotte  
Testifier

Representing (optional)

P.O. Box 687  
Address

262-3761  
Phone number



# Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House State Affairs  
committee name

Committee on HB 158 Eliminate Longevity Bonus, dated 3-25-03  
bill # / subject

*The seniors are the ones who  
live and put their money in the  
seats, some rely on this just to  
exist*

Signed: Edgar Plais Schall  
Testifier

Representing (optional)  
36680 N. Kenai Hwy (S. Soldna AK 99665)  
Address  
907 262-6318  
Phone number



# Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House State Affairs  
committee name

Committee on HB 158 Eliminate Longevity Bonus, dated 3-25-03  
Bill # / subject

Can't take the longevity from the  
Seniors. The ones who have served  
our places for many years, and now we  
can't work to supplement our income  
you want to cut out what we spend  
on. Thank you

Signed: Mary Sapp  
Testifier

Representing (optional)

P.O. Box 184 Sterling, Ak. 99672  
Address

(907) 262-~~5719~~ 9719  
Phone number

03/17/2003 11:53



# Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House State Affairs  
committee name

Committee on HB 158 Eliminate Longevity Bonus, dated 3-25-03  
bill # / subject

*Those on social security alone are highly dependant on the longevity bonus. I have seen it and the permanent fund divided disappearing.*

*Then perhaps thousands will depart the state desiring the offer of hunting the scenery.*

Signed: *Lee C. Lupp*  
Testifier

Representing (optional)

*PO Box 654 Sterling AK 99672*  
Address

*907 262 9715*  
Phone number



# Alaska State Legislature

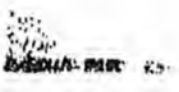
Please enter into the record my testimony to the House State Affairs  
committee name

Committee on HB 158 Eliminate Longevity Bonus. dated 3-25-03  
bill # / subject

*PLEASE keep the Longevity Bonus. It would  
MAKE hardship on the Senior, The Utilities,  
Medicine, and grocery have gone up.  
Even tho you can get help with medicine  
you still have A balance to pick up.*

Signed: William J Bull  
Testifier

Representing (optional)  
P.O. Box 725 Sterling Ak. 99672  
Address  
907-262-5119  
Phone number





# Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House State Affairs  
committee name

Committee on HB 158 Eliminate Longevity Bonus, dated 3-25-03  
bill # / subject

3-15-03

Dear Sirs:  
 It would make a very big hardship on our lives, since the medicines, groceries, electric + natural gas going so high.  
 I came up here in 1958 and have made my home in Alaska since then, we struggle, but then to make this a better state, it is. Please keep the Longevity Bonus.

Signed: Mahine J. Bullington  
Testifier

Representing (optional)

P.O. Box 725 Sterling AK 99672  
Address

907-262-5119  
Phone number



# Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House State Affairs  
committee name

Committee on HB 158 Eliminate Longevity Bonus, dated 3-25-03  
bill # / subject

*you have taken the steps to eliminate the  
Program and it is phasing out due to attraction.  
more of us use this income to pay for the  
necessities of life. It has helped many of us  
attain an acceptable standard of living.  
I hope you will reconsider this move.*

Signed: *Ernestine L. Alexander*  
Testifier

Representing (optional)  
*PO Box 527 Sterling, AK 99672*  
Address  
*907-262-5157*  
Phone number



# Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House State Affairs  
committee name

Committee on HB 158 Eliminate Longevity Bonus, dated March 25, 2003  
bill # / subject

*Please do not take the Longevity Bonus from the  
seniors it is needed by them*

Signed: *Leona M Stanley*  
Testifier

Representing (optional)

*621 Fir St Kenai*  
Address

*283-3730*  
Phone number

982.9638

Phone number

P.O. Box 545 Ste. 105 AK 99570

Address

Registration (optional)

*[Handwritten Signature]*

Title

Signed:

I believe that as a state we made a promise  
to our citizens who currently qualify  
for the longevity bonus and should  
remain at. However in life do become  
people expect to make contributions employees  
willingly or otherwise and then changes our minds  
and get to keep our respect and trust.

Bill # / Subject

Committee on HB 158 Eliminates Longevity Bonus, dated

3-25-03

Committee Name

House State Affairs

Please enter into the record my testimony to the

Alaska State Legislature



Phone number

283-1150

Address

P.O. Box 4336  
Soldotna 99669

Representing (optional)

Title

W. J. ...

Signed:

I am in favor of the Longevity Bonus.

Bill # / subject

Committee on HB 158 Eliminate Longevity Bonus, dated

3-25-03

House State Affairs

Please enter into the record my testimony to the

# Alaska State Legislature



MAR-14-2003 FRI 12:01 PM KENAI L10

FAX NO. 907 283 3075



# Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House State Affairs  
Committee Name

Committee on HB 158 Eliminate Longevity Bonus, dated 3-25-03  
Bill # / subject

*Please do not eliminate the longevity  
Program from our elderly residents  
they desperately need it to help with  
the cost of living*

Signed:

*[Handwritten Signature]*  
Testifier

Representing (optional)

*PO Box 2037*

Address

*907-283-1642*

Phone number

Phone number

262 2884 262 9412 ext

Address

PO Box 1043 Shelton Alaska 99673

Representing (optional)

Title

Michael G. Breda Michael Breda

Signed:

Please do not eliminate the long program from or elderly residents who would make them move out of

Bill # / subject

Committee on HB 158 Elders Longevity Bonus, dated

3-25-03

Committee name

House State Affairs

Please enter into the record my testimony to the

Alaska State Legislature



MAR-14-2003 FRI 12:01 PM KENAI L10

FAX NO. 907 283 3075

P. 02/03



# Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the

House State Affairs

COMMITTEE HEARINGS

Committee on HB 158 Eliminate Longevity Bonus, dated  
bill # / subject

3-25-03

*I do not support the termination of the Longevity Bonus.  
Given inflation the funds are a continuing requirement for many.  
Would the legislators reduce their pay as well.*

Signed:

*William A. Campbell*  
Testifier

Representing (optional)

*P.O. Box 989, Sterling AK 99672*  
Address

*(907) 262-3255*  
Phone number



# Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House State Affairs  
committee name

Committee on HB 158 Eliminate Longevity Bonus, dated 3-25-03  
bill # / subject

*I strongly oppose the elimination of the Longevity Bonus plan. This would make a hardship on the seniors that have come to rely upon this.*

*How many of the legislators would be willing to give up the same percentage of their income?*

Signed: Mary E. Barker 3-20-03  
Testifier

Representing (optional)  
PO Box 733 Sterling Alaska  
Address  
907-262-4132  
Phone number

MAR-14-2003 FRI 12:01 PM KENAI L10

FAX NO. 907 283 3075

P. 02/03



# Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House State Affairs  
committee name

Committee on HB 158 Eliminate Longevity Bonus, dated 3-25-03  
bill # / subject

*I believe that seniors should be entitled to the longevity checks, because a lot of them count on these checks to live on.*

Signed: *Don F. Jensen*  
Testifier

Representing (optional)

39650 Forest Lane Soldotna AK 99669  
Address

(907) 262-7987  
Phone number

25<sup>TH</sup>. 26<sup>TH</sup> March

# LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION OFFICE

630pm

Email: Ketchikan\_LIO@legis.state.ak.us

50 Front St., Suite 203  
Ketchikan, Alaska 99901

Phone: (907) 225-9675  
Fax: (907) 225-8546

## WRITTEN TESTIMONY

NAME: Grace Comstock,  
ADDRESS: 2437-5<sup>th</sup> Ave.,  
Ketchikan, Ak. 99901  
PHONE: 907-225-9013

BILL# or SUBJECT: HB 158 Longevity Bonus

COMMITTEE: State Affairs

I wonder how I would live if I didn't receive the longevity bonus. My social security is \$869, "match" you and \$250. makes \$1,119 a mo.

Have had to get Medicare for prescriptions medicine. also helps with rent, oil lights.

Please think again on doing this

I'm eighty-two & not able to work.

Sincerely,  
Grace Comstock



# Alaska State Legislature

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committee name

Committee on HB 158 Eliminate Longevity Bonus, dated 3-25-03  
bill # / subject

THE LONGEVITY BONUS IS VERY IMPORTANT AND NECESSARY FOR MY HUSBAND AND MYSELF TO BE ABLE TO MAINTAIN OUR HOUSEHOLD EXPENSES. We are at POVERTY LEVEL NOW AND WITHOUT THE BONUS WE WOULD ONLY BE RECEIVING \$1449 MONTHLY BETWEEN US. MY HUSBAND IS 83 yrs. of AGE - IS ON OXYGEN ALL NIGHT AND A NEBULIZER FOUR TIMES DAILY. I AM 76 AND UNABLE TO WORK DUE TO COMPLICATION OF DIABETES. ANYTHING YOU CAN DO WOULD BE APPRECIATED TO SAVE THE BONUS. WE KNOW A GOOD MANY PEOPLE WHO ARE IN THE SAME FIX WE ARE IN. Thanks for your PATIENCE AND CONCERN.

Signed: Mrs. Mary K. Grotz Carl W. Wickett  
Testifier

Representing (optional)  
P.O. Box 797 STERLING, ALASKA 99672  
Address  
(907) 262-2869  
Phone number

Page 1 of 2

Fax # (907) 465-2273

Attn: Ginny

To: Rep. Vileybrauch, Chairman  
House State Affairs Committee

From: Barbara C. Lewis Tele (907) 766-3413  
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I am opposed to cutting the longevity

Bonus Program. The majority of the

recipients I know, utilize the money

to pay for essentials i.e. Food,

Electricity, Heating Fuel, Insurance,

durable medical equipment not covered,

by Medicare, Prescription Medication

Glasses for those not on Medicaid,

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For Pioneer Home, Nursing Home and

Assisted Living facilities the \$250

is an automatic portion of their

payment for these services.

The Longevity Bonus Program,

unlike other programs, ~~is~~ is

presently set up to be phased

out in the future.

Please do not balance the

budget on the backs of Senior

Citizens, "who for years worked and

supported essential services" for

every resident in Alaska. Thank you  
for the opportunity to testify.

Testimony to House State Affairs Committee March 11, 2003

Mr. Chairman and Committee Members -

My name is Marie Darlin, I am Coordinator of the AARP Capital City Task Force. You have received a letter from our State Office regarding our concern about HB 158, which does away with the Senior Longevity Bonus. I want to add a few additional comments.

The Longevity Bonus is important to many seniors and is phasing itself out. The cost has dropped 13 million in the last four years and will continue to decrease. One of the reasons for the longevity bonus was to keep our seniors in Alaska, and they are staying, as our statistics show. The 65+ population in December 2001 was about 45,000. There are reasons you should want them to stay in Alaska, and the bonus helps them do that.

Governor Murkowski wants to grow Alaska with resources and business.

Seniors are both, although they are usually overlooked or ignored when either is mentioned. I would refer you to the December 2001 study entitled "Issues Affecting the Economic Well-Being of Alaska Seniors" prepared by the McDowell Group for the Alaska Commission on Aging, and also to the Dept. of Labor Trends issue of December 2001

Seniors are a basic industry. They bring revenue into the state -- retirement pensions income, investments and assets, medicare and medical payments, veterans benefits, SS payments, etc -- that came to a total of 1 billion, 217 million in 1999. Most of it was spent here. If you apply the multiplier of two to this income this is a 2.4 billion impact on our economy generating more income than most of the state's leading industries. Also, the 47 million the Governor saves by eliminating the bonus takes 94 million out of Alaska's economy.

And that is not all - The seniors are also an important resource

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that gets overlooked most of the time. 20,000 seniors over age 60 provide 400,000 hours a month of volunteer time to our communities. This is the equivalent of 2400 full time jobs worth approximately 60 million per year. Many non-profit organizations could not exist without this help.

Then we have the senior caregivers who provide an average of 20 days per month of unpaid care to someone. That is an equivalent of 6300 full time jobs.

In 1999 there were 6,000 Alaska seniors living on less than \$1,000 per month, and the Longevity Bonus is important to them. That is the poverty level. 8% of our seniors are at or below the poverty line and many more (over 40%) have incomes less than the HUD low income level. The Bonus provides 10% of the income for most single seniors and 22% for a couple.

The seniors in Alaska are an important part of our communities and critical to many of our families. We would hope that even those new seniors who do not qualify for the Bonus would support our seniors who do, and hope to spend the rest of their lives here.

These statistics show how our seniors fit into the economy. I want to thank the Alaska Commission on Aging for the McDowell Study, which has been needed for a long time. And I urge all legislators to read it.

Thank you for your time.