

SB

117

(FILE 2)

APR 01 2002

P. O. Box 757
Cooper Landing, AK 99572
March 26, 2003

Senator Robin Taylor
Chair, Senate State Affairs Committee
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Taylor:

We are opposed to the proposed sudden elimination of the Alaska Longevity Bonus. Seniors all over Alaska have included this income in their retirement budgets. To cut this source of funding to them would have disruptive effects on them and the local businesses they patronize. It unfairly targets one group of Alaskans for up to \$3,000.00 per person per year cut in their income. Other budgetary proposals such as the \$10.00 per studded tire fee or the business license increases, or even the ten cent per gallon gasoline tax are minimal compared to this proposal.

We recommend the Longevity Program be allowed to run its course as promised.

Cc: Rep. Cheryl Heinze
Sen. Johnny Ellis
Rep. Paul Seaton
✓ Senator Gary Stevens

Sincerely yours,

James H. Richardson
James H. Richardson

Muriel Richardson



APR 01 2002
PRESBYTERY OF ALASKA

5750 Glacier Highway, C-16 • Juneau, AK 99801

(907) 780-6100
FAX (907) 780-4017

presbyt1@alaska.net
INBOX: PBY ALASKA

March 30, 2003

The Honorable Gary Stevens
Alaska State Senator, District R
Chair, Senate State Affairs Committee
Room 417
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Senator Stevens:

At the 2003 Spring Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Alaska, held on March 21-23, 2003 in Yakutat, Alaska, the Presbytery voted to endorse the enclosed resolution expressing opposition to efforts to repeal or reduce the current Alaska Longevity Bonus Program. The resolution also urges support, if needed to resolve the state's fiscal gap, for only those fiscal measures which have a progressive impact. Included with the Presbytery's adoption of this resolution was a request that the Presbytery's clerk transmit this resolution to the appropriate members of the Alaska State Legislature. This would certainly include yourself since any actions on this matter which are to become law will be considered by the Senate State Affairs Committee.

On behalf of the Presbytery, which is made up of 15 Presbyterian churches from Metlakatla and Ketchikan to the south and Yakutat to the north, I sincerely encourage you to read this resolution and hope that you will consider these positions when the State Affairs Committee, or the Senate as a whole, acts on proposals which could lead to the termination of the Longevity Bonus program.

Sincerely,

Elder Guy Warren
Stated Clerk
Presbytery of Alaska

**Presbytery of Alaska
Alaskan Longevity Bonus Program Resolution**

Whereas, many Alaskans, especially in rural parts of Alaska, live at the sub-poverty level and have the Alaskan Longevity Bonus Program as their only regular source of money to add to their meager incomes; and

Whereas, the Alaskan Longevity Bonus Program is already structured to naturally end; and

Whereas, elimination of the Alaskan Longevity Bonus Program places a disproportionate share of closing Alaska's fiscal gap on a small group of residents.

Now, therefore, be it resolved; that the Presbytery of Alaska, meeting on March 21-23, 2003 in Yakutat, Alaska

- **Opposes any repeal or reduction of the Alaskan Longevity Bonus Program**
- **Urges Alaskan Lawmakers and Governor, to implement, if necessary, only fiscal measures which have a progressive impact.**

Fax.

MAR 24 2003

3/24/03

Senator Robert Taylor
Fax, #907 465 3922

Dear Senator,

This is in reference to H.B. 158 and S B 117. I have lived in our State since 1941 and also voted for Gov. Murkowski at all of his elections. However I am not in favor of the above and believe that Gov. Murkowski is not being fair to our Senlor population. Hopefully these Bills can be stopped.

You may contact me at PH.907 243 4901 or Fax. 907 243 4907.

Thank you & Regards,

Dennis Branham
Box 190184
Anchorage , Ak. 99519

Copy
Sen. Hollis French 907 465 6595

Rep. Ethan Berkowski 907 465 2137

Lorraine A. Lamoureux

2808 W. 32nd Ave.
Anchorage, AK. 99517

Phone: 907-248-4971

Sen. Robin Taylor, Chairman
Senate State Affairs Committee
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Sen. Taylor:

I am one of those seniors affected by the Longevity Bonus. I have lived in Alaska for fifty three years and if it means helping this State I am willing to give up the monthly stipend.

I would be interested in knowing how many of the seniors presently receiving this stipend would have actually qualified under the original plan but who thanks to Ron Zobel were made eligible?

I would just like to see government--Democrat or Republican do for the State what is needed instead of making a political issue out of something that shouldn't have happened in the first place.

I am from a generation who knows there is no free lunch so let us just be thankful for the years we have received to the exclusion of all other non-qualifying, old and needy seniors the "free lunch".

Very truly yours,



Lorraine A. Lamoureux

cc: Rep. Ethan Berkowitz
Sen. Hollis French

3339 Wentworth
Anchorage, AK 99508
907-274-4760
March 26, 2003

Senator Robin Taylor
Chair, Senate State Affairs Committee
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

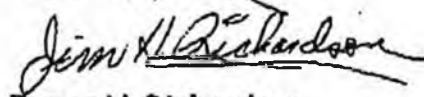
Dear Senator Taylor:

We are opposed to the proposed sudden elimination of the Alaska Longevity Bonus. Seniors all over Alaska have included this income in their retirement budgets. To cut this source of funding to them would have disruptive effects on them and the local businesses they patronize. It unfairly targets one group of Alaskans for up to \$3,000.00 per person per year cut in their income. Other budgetary proposals such as the \$10.00 per studded tire fee or the business license increases, or even the ten cent per gallon gasoline tax are minimal compared to this proposal.

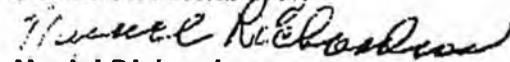
We recommend the Longevity Program be allowed to run its course as promised.

Cc: Rep. Cheryl Heinze
Sen. Johnny Ellis

Sincerely yours,



James H. Richardson


Muriel Richardson

Dist 24

Subject: [Fwd: House Bill 158/Senate Bill 117]

Date: Sat, 29 Mar 2003 13:13:22 -0900

From: Representative Ethan Berkowitz <Representative_Ethan_Berkowitz@legis.state.ak.us>

To: Amy Coffman <Amy_Coffman@legis.state.ak.us>

Subject: House Bill 158/Senate Bill 117

Date: Tue, 25 Mar 2003 15:29:48 -0900

From: "Sue Brown" <suebrown2@worldnet.att.net>

To: <Senator_Robin_Taylor@legis.state.ak.us>

CC: <Representative_Ethan_Berkowitz@legis.state.ak.us>

This email is to express my strong opposition to Governor Murkowski's proposal to eliminate the Longevity Bonus in House Bill 158 and it's companion measure, Senate Bill 117.

My uncle, a recipient of the Longevity Bonus, has been a resident of Alaska since 1945, residing in Anchorage for the past 55 years. As a business owner for over 40 years, through his involvement in politics and his untiring efforts and countless hours of donated time to community service, he has made significant contributions to Anchorage and the state. He is now 91 years of age, in declining health and suffering from dementia. His wish is to die in the state he calls home and dearly loves, Alaska. However, it is becoming increasingly apparent that Alaska, certainly Governor Murkowski, views the elderly as a burden.

As his niece and primary caregiver, I am appalled at the enormous obstacles facing the elderly in Alaska. My perception is a total lack of care and concern. Obtaining basic medical care is extremely difficult at best, impossible at worst, as the elderly in Anchorage are literally abandoned by physicians who refuse to treat Medicare patients. In fact, my uncle currently has NO physician and not one of the 57 physicians listed as accepting Medicare would accept him after his physician left the state in September. This is a fact, I called them all. Now, Governor Murkowski feels the need to eliminate the Longevity Bonus. First, make health care scarce and difficult for anyone enrolled in Medicare, then hit the same folks in the pocketbook. A double whammy. It's shameful. A disgrace.

Prescription costs are staggering and skilled respite care is extremely expensive. My uncle planned financially for his retirement, however, it is still a "fixed" income and the Longevity Bonus is part of that income. He counted on it. Alaska promised it to him. And it helps enormously with the high costs associated with aging.

As a taxpayer, my uncle has contributed to Governor Murkowski's huge government pension fund for many years. I suggest Governor Murkowski now do the right thing and leave the Longevity Bonus alone. Failure to do so sends a clear message to the elderly and those who care for them.....Alaska doesn't need you here and Alaska doesn't want you here.

Sue Brown

1908 W Hillcrest Dr. # 31
A/A 99517
26 6/5 R

From: Amy - Rep. Berkowitz
3467



MAR 25 2003

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

DO NOT ELIMINATE HB-158

I AM A RETIREE & I AM ON A FIXED INCOME

THANK YOU

Signed: [Signature]
Testifier

Representing (optional)
32697th STERLING Highway
Address STERLING AK - 99672

Phone number
907-262-5625

MAR 25 2003

To: Senator Robin Taylor
FR: Roy L. Jones

Dear Senator, I have worked and spent
All my earnings in Alaska for 55 years.

Since I have no normal retirement, I
live on my social security and this
longevity bonus. I have saved and
paid all my extra money on paying off
my house mortgage. I have now done that,
but I doubt that I will be able to remain
without the \$210.00 that I use to pay
insurance, taxes, property and repairs.

I hope you reconsider this

Thank you

Roy Jones

MAR 24 2003

March 24 03

TO: Senator Hollis French - Representative ~~the~~ Ethan Berkowitz

Dear Sirs:

The elimination of HRB 158 is strongly opposed in my view.

It is an integral part of my budget, I, as many other Alaskans live on a fixed income, and the amount of the Longevity Bonus is a part of my yearly budget.

Without it my finances will be extremely compromised.

I have been a taxpayer in the state of Alaska for 35 years, am now 75 years old, and I enjoyed living and working in this state all these years, and I strongly oppose this HRB 158, in that it will affect my quality of life in this state which I have supported all this time with my taxes.

At this time of my life I need this bonus to help me with my medical expenses and prescription drugs. To eliminate that bonus at this or any other time is viewed as a personal affront by me, a longtime resident and taxpayer of Alaska.

signed

Billy Jo Taylor

March 25, 2003

Senator Robin Taylor
Chairman of the Committee
Alaska State Affairs Committee
Alaska State Legislature
Juneau, AK 99801

MAR 25 2003

The Honorable Senator Taylor

Written public testimony in the matter of House Bill 158 and Senate Bill 117

Please accept the following comments to be entered into the record as opposition to the above mention legislation by:

Richard and Patricia Garvin
2822 Knik Avenue
Anchorage, AK 99517

I have been a resident of Alaska June 1942-2003. I have lived and worked in Juneau, Fairbanks and now reside in Anchorage except for a period of November 11, 1944 through November 11, 1946. I served in South Pacific with the 41st Infantry Division and attended Seattle University before returning to Anchorage, Alaska in April 1953 with Mrs. Patricia Garvin.

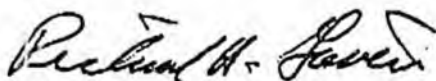
Alaska is our home and truly hope we will be able to stay in Alaska for the rest of our lives as we have planned. I am 76 years of age, still working full time and contributing member of our community and state. We are counting on the Longevity Bonus as an important part of our retirement plan, if we ever can retire. Please do the math. The money does not leave Alaska, nor does our salary, investment returns and savings. It all stays here and ripples through state economies.

We own a home, pay taxes, spend our income here and enjoy the fruits of Alaska. Please know that we have not missed voting since becoming 21, that's 55 years of voting we also care about our state as you and your hard working committee.

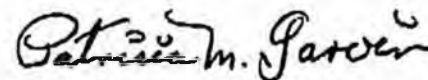
Senator Taylor and committee members consider the promise by our state to seniors; a person's word has always been our way in Alaska. About the Longevity Bonus and the budget? Well, it is a self-solving problem. Please just give a little time.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Richard H. Garvin



Patricia M. Garvin

FAX**To: Senator Robin Taylor Fax No: 907-465-3922****Chair of the Committee, Senate State Affairs****Alaska State Legislature****From: Alfred and Virginia Augestad Fax No: 907-276-1560****Phone: 907-272-0380****SUBJECT: Longevity Bonus****Date: March 25, 2003**

URGENT! URGENT! URGENT!

We greatly oppose Governor Murkowski's action to eliminate the Longevity Bonus in HB 158, and companion measure in the Senate under Senate Bill 117.

As long-time residents the elimination of the Longevity Bonus will pose a hardship to our continued living in Alaska, since our investment earnings have declined while our health care costs have increased. We also feel the Longevity Bonus was a promise and to eliminate it now would be unfair and unjust.

Alaska has been our home for over 45 years, and we urge you and your committee to protect this program on our behalf and for all seniors in Alaska who now receive monies under this program. Surely Governor Murkowski can find a better source than the Longevity Bonus to reduce funds.

**Alfred and Virginia Augestad
1439 Virginia Court
Anchorage, AK 99501 - 4927**

MAR 25 2003

26-685-n-u

**Copy Senator Hollis French - Fax 907-465-6595
Representative Ethan Berkowitz - Fax 907-465-2137**

3-25-2003

Senator Robin Taylor
Chairman State Affairs Committee
State of Alaska

MAR 25 2003

Dear Senator Taylor,

I would like to register my protest for the proposition to eliminate the Longevity Bonus by HB 158.

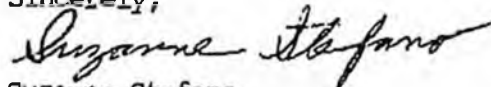
I think it is entirely unfair to these seniors to have such funds eliminated. Many of these people depend on these funds to enable them to stay in Alaska, hopefully in their homes and most often near their families.

By residing here their other funds including social security and retirement funds are spent here and contribute to the local economy.

This program is already being phased out. It should not be a target of the government for source of funds. It was not established to be arbitrarily canceled. This would negatively effect the Senior population that is being phased out by attrition already.

I request this legislation not be enacted. The Senior group of people adds much to the stability of the State, it's welfare and family stabilization.

Sincerely,



Suzanne Stefano
1971 Wildwood Ln.
Anchorage, Ak. 99517

cc: Senator Hollis French
Representative Ethan Berkowitz
Governor Frank Murkowski

Const.

3-25-03

MAR 25 2003

Senator Robin Taylor
Chairman State Affairs Committee
State of Alaska

Dear Senator Taylor,

I would like to register my protest for the proposition to eliminate the Longevity Bonus in HB 158.

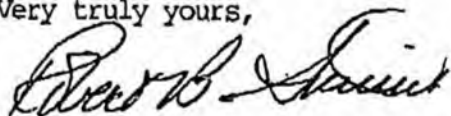
I think it is entirely unfair to these seniors to have such funds eliminated. Many of these people depend on these funds to enable them to stay in Alaska. I don't feel it is fair to target the seniors on this program to balance the statewide budget. The budget affects all Alaskans and it is inequitable to target a particular group to help accomplish this.

Removing these funds would certainly adversely effect many of the Seniors and cause much hardship in many cases. I don't feel welfare type funds should be a substitute for the senior program. Welfare adversely effects the dignity of thoses on a fixed income and would negatively effect their quality of life.

These funds were a promise made to the recipients. This program is already being phased cut so why should it be cut off at this point.

I strongly recommend this legislation not be passed.

Very truly yours,



Robert B. Smith
2013 Wildwood Ln.
Anchorage, Ak. 99517

CC: Senator Hollis French
Representative Ethan Berkowitz
Governor Frank Murkowski

26-645-R

MAR 25 2003

Fax to Senator Robin Taylor 907 465-3922
Chair, Senate State Affairs Committee

Re Senate Bill 117

Many cities encourage older people to settle in their state. Retired people do not require schools and many other services. They bring their retirement funds into the community where it is circulated. Longevity payments encourage seniors to remain in Alaska their home where their funds are spent. Having parents and grandparents near contributes to the stability of Alaska families. We believe Senate Bill 117 and House Bill 158 are ill advised.

Robert E. Renkert Mildred W. Renkert

Robert E. Renkert Fax (907) 277-0354
1225 S Street, Anchorage 99501
Mildred W. Renkert

cc Senator Hollis French Fax (907) 465-8595
Representative Ethan Berkowitz Fax (907) 465-2137

Larry & Ardelle Osenga
1822 Forest Park Drive
Anchorage, Alaska 99517

March 24 2003

Senator Robin Taylor
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Senator Taylor:

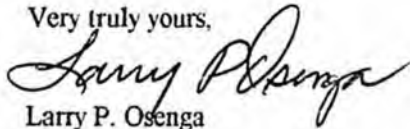
Please be advised that we are opposed to Governor Murkowski's effort to eliminate our Longevity Bonus program for the following reasons:

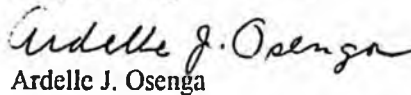
We are retired and have no health insurance. I am sure there are many other senior citizens in our position. This seems like the last place to cut costs. The extra money helps us pay for our prescriptions and other medical costs.

To us, it seems foolish to take away a benefit from older Alaskans. that is slowly dying and will self destruct in five or six years.

Please do all in your power to defeat HB 158 and SB 117

Very truly yours,


Larry P. Osenga


Ardelle J. Osenga

cc; Senator Hollis French
Representative Ethan Berkowitz

26-045-R-R

March 25, 2003

3040 A Wexley Way

Anchorage, Alaska

Representative Ethen Berkowitz
State Capitol - Room 404
Juneau, Alaska

Dear Representative Ethen Berkowitz,

I appreciated your letter regarding the
Longevity Bonus HB 158. I also oppose
the action Governor Murkowski has
taken to eliminate it.

I cannot see the longevity bonus to
apply to my nest.

I am counting on your support to
"remember the seniors."

Peace,

Angelina Dutra

ANGELINA R DUTRA

26-665-D

99517-1404

Sent in
message (author)
(3/14)

Virginia Sommerville
4051 Westland Dr.
Anchorage, AK 99517-1433

To Chair of the Committee
Senator Robin Taylor.

Please don't eliminate the
Longevity Bonus.

I'm one of the few that are
still getting the check. I've
lived up here 50 years and I'm
widowed and I'm only qualified
for \$200.00, to some people that
may not be much, but it pays
all my Utility bills. I'm 73 years
old and working 4 days a week.
so you can see it is very much
needed. Thanking you in advance.
Please let me keep my check.
Virginia Sommerville

MARCH 28, 2003

SENATOR ROBIN TAYLOR:

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

If our Longevity Bonus is taken away from us it would force my wife & I to sell everything & move out of Alaska.

E.R.Ketterer - 55 plus years in Alaska.

Frances Ketterer - 52 plus years in Alaska.

SINCERELY YOURS
E.R.KETTERER
3909 Turnagain Blvd.
Anchorage, AK. 99517

P.S. Will Fax Copy to SENATOR HOLLIS FRENCH & REPRESENTATIVE EATHAN BERKOWITZ.

2904 W. 34th Street
Anchorage, AK 99517
March 26, 2003

Senator Robin Taylor
Chair, Senate State Affairs Committee
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Taylor:

I am opposed to the proposed sudden elimination of the Alaska Longevity Bonus. Seniors all over Alaska have included this income in their retirement budgets. To cut this source of funding to them would have disruptive effects on them as a whole, as well as me personally, and the local businesses they patronize. It unfairly targets one group of Alaskans for up to \$3,000.00 per person per year cut in their income. Other budgetary proposals such as the ten dollar per studded tire fee or the business license increases, or even the ten cent per gallon gasoline tax are minimal compared to this proposal. The budget cuts should be spread more widely, not be made on the backs of the seniors who built the state.

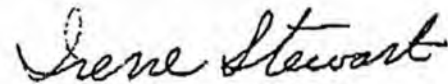
I recommend the Longevity Program be allowed to run its course as promised.

Cc: Senator Hollis French

Sincerely yours,

Rep. Ethan Berkowitz

Irene Stewart



Subj: **Senate Bill 117**

Date: 3/26/03 12:33:02 PM Alaskan Standard Time

From: Seniorstar22

To: ~~Senator John P. Coatsworth~~

REP ~~Ethan~~ BERKOWITZ - ~~907~~ 465-2137

The Longevity bonus is vital to older Alaskans. Maybe not all - but a substantial number of the elderly rely on this to supplement their income. Do not eliminate it - could be determined by need - as upper income Alaskans certainly do not need or depend on it. Elders deserve a quality of life that makes old age bearable. You will be there someday, God willing. Sincerely, Mary Kathleen Bielawski, 2137 Arctic Circle, Anchorage, Alaska - 99517. Age-80 years, 5 months. Alaskan since 1946.

MAR 28 2003

March 25, 2003

Senator Robin Taylor
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: Senate Bill 117

A friend too me named Sophocles wrote:

Wise though his plans are,
artful beyond all dreaming.
They carry him both to evil and to good.

If one can't understand the past, one can't know the evil he may do. I worked under Egan and now I know how to balance budgets. It is not on the backs of small business and retired people no longer working.

My salary in those days was \$900 a month. In the seventies that office was five times higher, in the eighties it was seven times higher, and now it is more than ten times higher. As you can see that was a different time and a incredibly more friendly place.

You see here government is the largest industry and when its in trouble people are too. But with the governments salary base it is the government that should take the hit not its people.

Our budget is \$1200 dollars per month which includes one check for \$250 dollars the other \$250 checks goes for insurance, gas, repairs, paint, and sometimes a cigar. You tell me who should take the hit— the over paid or the under paid. The builders surely not, the takers, yes. Thats Governor Egan all over.

Yours,


James C. Merbs

2082 Esquire Dr,

A/A 99517-1345

26-645-1D

MAR 28 2003

26 March 2003
2419 McKenzie Drive
Anchorage, Alaska 99517

Representative Ethan Berkowitz
State Capitol - Room 404
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Ethan:

My wife and I appreciate the concern you and your fellow Democrats are showing toward Alaska Seniors.

We are both long time Alaskans and were stunned when we read that Governor Murkowski was proposing to do away with the Longevity Bonus. We are both 81 years of age and for myself my health not too good with two open heart surgeries and depended on 10 hours a day of oxygen. My wife has fared better health wise but at 81 well beyond the average mortality rate - enough for the statistics. Guess we aren't dying off soon enough to suit the Governor.

I have a couple recommendations for you and your fellow lawmakers to consider concerning the longevity bonus. Go out with some type of survey to determine those who are currently receiving the bonus checks ^{and} would surrender their rights to any future payments. We all know who these ^{wealthy} people are and may well be surprised what savings could be made. Secondly, if push comes to shove survey

and once married couples receiving ^{two} checks ~~and~~
if they would consider only one spouse
be paid. Between one two options, costs
could perhaps be cut 50% and one Longevity
Program could continue. Don't let one program die
None of the seniors I know would
take relief payments. After 35 plus
years in Alaska, I guess you can
call Alaska home.

Respectfully,

Stanley A. Montague
Audrey J. Montague
Phone: 248-1512

MONTAGUE
2419 McKevzie Dr.
A 99517-1130

26-650-N-A

Subj: **Longevity Bonus cutbacks**
Date: 3/25/2003 8:59:42 AM Alaskan Standard Time
From: [marherbst7](#)
To: Senator_Robin_Taylor@legis.state.ak.us

I am 82 years old and have lived in Alaska without interruption since 1966. I also worked without interruption from that time to my retirement in 1987. Now I count on the \$250 longevity bonus per month to pick up a large part of my living expenses. My life would be severely handicapped without it.

And I urge you to continue it IN ITS PRESENT form. It is a self-destructing measure as you know. Every time an elder dies, the burden on the state is reduced. And because it is now received by only the most elderly (whose needs grow even faster than their number of years do) it cannot be burned alive as so coldly and irresponsibly the present administration is planning to do to it.

From both an economic boon to the state in that almost all of that money is turned back into disposable income here in Alaska, and the human factor to deny the most helpless their promised aid in their last years shows a remarkable lack of real concern by our "Law Makers"

Marvin E. Herbst
3066 Telequana Dr. Apt 4
Anchorage AK 99517

MAR 25 2003

Senator Robin Taylor
Senator Hollis French
Representative Ethan Berkowitz

March 24, 2003

Dear Legislators:

In response to your letter in regard to the proposed elimination of the Longevity Bonus, thank you for contacting us. I have been reading the comments in letters and the most recent in today's Anchorage Daily News, the Compass Point of View, by Governor Murkowski, and feel it is truly time to speak out on this matter. The headline stating the "Longevity bonus creates class clash" truly upsets me. I am sorry that all seniors who were true pioneers were not privileged to get this bonus, because the intent of the program was distorted when everyone who lived in Alaska for one year and had reached the age of sixty-five were allowed to apply. However, those who did qualify and receive the monthly check should continue to get it until they pass on.

As you point out, people on fixed income (and most of us have no possible way to go back to work to make up the loss) have depended on that money in taking care of our monthly expenses. Some of us who were fortunate enough to have a moderate state pension or other income could, as the governor demands, "tighten our belt" and contribute to the state's financial emergency. Others, who also contributed their time and efforts over the years to building this great state, do not have more than a nominal social security check to depend on and would be forced to go on welfare or leave the state and / or fall back on family for support if the bonus check were suspended.

Those of us who grew up in the "Great Depression" and, in some cases, struggled through difficult financial times here in Alaska during the 60's and 70's, as the large companies pursued their monopolies (for instance the pulp mills in Southeast) know what it is like to live on subsistence and make do with the bare necessities, refusing to go on welfare and by the grace of God, surviving until jobs opened up. We did what we could within our communities to contribute to the welfare of all, through school activities and working to get industry and jobs for the small and backwoods areas. I do not think continuing to receive one's monthly Longevity Bonus check should be put on a basis of income, or in other words, the indignity of making a welfare program out of it. Those who were fortunate enough to get into the program should not be deprived of

that to make them even with those who reached 65 after the deadline was changed for entry. That is the "luck of the draw", and should be accepted.

Truly, people in the higher income brackets and those who have lived with wealth all their lives, cannot comprehend what it means to have barely enough income to provide food, clothing and shelter. If they are looking out to be really fair to society in general, they would be pushing for a graduated income tax, so that the people who have the most would pay the most toward keeping our state government financially stable. Those people have received the greatest benefits and would not be deprived of their vacations, numerous dwellings, cars, and other privileges even if they were paying a higher rate of tax than the less well off. Likewise, those who are struggling to take care of themselves in their old age, as well as people with families and working for minimum wage, should not be facing school tax, user fees, and increased rates for licenses that our Governor has proposed as fair for all concerned.

We came to Alaska in 1957, and operated a logging company that gave employment to as many as ten people, some with families who were there with them. We spent 8 years on Tuxekan Island, before moving to Craig, in 1965, which is still home to us tho, for medical reasons, we have spent the last 4 years mostly in Anchorage because of the inadequate medical facilities on Prince of Wales Island. We are fortunate to have two sons, who grew up in Alaska and continue to live here. and give us the moral support we need as we travel the restricted senior road of the Elderly Eighties. We have much to be grateful for and feel blessed to have been able to be Alaskans, a goal we both had as teen agers back in the 1930's. This state is noted for its independent citizens, people who came here looking for adventure and to make their fortune, and ending up just living here because they loved it and wanted to stay. Why should the old timers be penalized at this time in life? There are other ways of solving the problem.

Thank you for asking for our opinion and listening to what we have to say.
Sincerely.

Elizabeth and Albert Dennis
1227 W. 12th Ave
Anchorage, AK, 99501
(907) 258-0133

26-685-U-U

March 26, 2003

Representative
ETHAN BERKOWITZ
State Capital Room 404
Juneau, AK. 99901

MAR 28 2003

ETHAN BERKOWITZ

I am a male person that is 77 years old and have lived in Spenard area for 52 years and have worked for Spenard area for 32 years. Some of the working jobs are these with no pay. (1) Anchorage Neighborhood Housing Service Inc. (9 years) (2) worked for Spenard area for four years to widen Spenard road wide enough so the prostitute houses would be too close to Spenard road to use them as prostitute houses. The prostitute houses were closed from Spenard lake to the railroad track across Spenard road.

From the railroad track to Mainside road the prostitute houses were not closed until there was about 6 years of work done by voluntary lawyers and others. After that the City of Anchorage passed a law that no prostitute house could be located there.

I am still working to reduce the too many general building houses over Spenard and other urban areas. My purpose of writing this letter is to state the following. Do not limit anything from the Longevity Bonus!

Will J. Walker, 4206 Northwood Street
Anchorage, Alaska. 99517 ~~Will J. Walker~~

2 11 22

Dear Senator Taylor,

I am writing to protest
Senate bill # 117.

The seniors who were here
prior to statehood (1959) were
promised the bonus to help
supplement our retirement
income. At the time most
seniors, who helped develop
this state, were having to
move outside instead of
staying with our children
and grandchildren.

Now we're being punished
because two people were
able to take the bonus to
court to say it was unconstitu-
tional. I have never been
able to understand that
decision. I feel if the
"Native Land Claims Act" was
constitutional, why couldn't
the state help our seniors

3

with this Bonus supplement
to our retirement income.

I certainly hope you will
help stop this bill # 117.

Sincerely
Gene H. Delarvie



Alaska State Legislature

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

SB 117

Committee on Eliminating Longevity Bonus dated March 27, 2003 @ 3:30 PM
bill # / subject public hearing date

Message and signatures have been placed on the back

Signed: Senior citizens at the Ninilchik Senior Center on March 26th, 2003
Testifier

Representing (optional)

Ninilchik Senior Center, PO Box 39422, Ninilchik, AK 99639-0422
Address

907-567-3988
Phone number



NINILCHIK SENIOR CITIZENS, INC.
 Phone: 907-567-3968

PO Box 39422
 seniors@ptialaska.net

BIGGEST LITTLE SENIOR CENTER of the PENINSULA
 Alaska 99639-0422
 Fax: 907-567-3968

March 26, 2003

Governor Murkowski
 Juneau, Alaska

WE members of the Ninilchik, Alaska Senior Center on behalf of our fellow Seniors living on the Kenai Peninsula, strongly encourage Governor Murkowski to endorse continuing the Longevity fund. By 2015 the Seniors eligible for the fund will have dwindled to perhaps a few sturdy pioneers. Denying Seniors this help amounts to an Income Tax of up to 10% on our neediest folks. Please remember that almost every penny of this fund is returned to the Alaska economy.

Sincerely,

Mrs Donald Reetz 80
 James A Martin
 Flo Thonthe
 Lois Lasswell
 Fernie
 Harnie Garrothe R
 Donald J. Reetz 81
 Susan Stuck Smith
 Leet Wentworth
 Ernest Wentworth
 Linda Moman

J. Amato
 Rebecca Odell Hanson
 Francis C Barnes
 Loretta Pello
 Janis S Nelson
 Jeffrey L. Smith
 Richard Fella
 Virginia Wilson



Alaska State Legislature

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

Committee on SB 117, dated March 27, 2003
bill #/ subject public hearing date

The Longevity Bonus has become an integral, life-saving part of low and middle income seniors' budget. The seniors receiving Longevity checks are depending on the bit of extra dollars each month to buy prescriptions pay utility bills or buy groceries.

Most seniors who are currently receiving the Longevity Bonus need and strongly depend on the Longevity Bonus for basic necessities. Many of them do qualify for some Medicaid assistance. Some have refused 'welfare' and struggle to keep going with what they have. Without the Longevity Bonus, most of the seniors who receive services at the Ninilchik Senior Center would have to seek financial assistance elsewhere, or have to be supported by family.

Medicaid and Medicare do provide a ghost of a safety net but they do NOT provide what is necessary for life. Medicaid and Medicare provide only SOME of life's necessities. They do not even provide adequately for all medical needs.

Therefore, the Ninilchik Senior Center members strongly recommend that the Longevity Bonus remain in place as it is, and be terminated by attrition.

Signed:

Julianne Welch
Testifier

Ninilchik Senior Citizens, Inc.

Representing (optional)

Ninilchik Senior Citizens, Inc., PO Box 39422, Ninilchik, AK 99639-0422

Address

907-567-3988

Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the

Senate State Affairs Com.
committee name

Committee on State Affairs # 9117
bill# / subject

, dated 3-27-03
public hearing date

The longevity program was originally started as a program to keep Alaska Seniors in Alaska, Many Alaska Seniors use this money to pay for what medicines they use and other living expenses, So it is returned to the Alaska economy and the money does remain in Alaska. Many of the seniors feel they deserve this program to keep them here in Alaska. If this program is revoked many seniors will move elsewhere where the daily needs are less expensive.

Signed:

Dannie W. Garoutte
Testifier

Representing (optional)

PA Box 39122 ninilchik AK 99639
Address

907 567 3934
Phone number



BIGGEST LITTLE SENIOR CENTER on the PENINSULA

NINILCHIK SENIOR CENTER

Transmittal Fax Sheet

POB 39422

Ninilchik Alaska 99639-0422

Telephone: (907) 567-3988

Fax: (907) 567-3968

seniors@ptialaska.net

To: *Senate State Affairs*

From: *Julie Welch*

Fax:

Pages: *1*

C.C.

Date: *28 March 2003*

Subject: *SB 117*

written testimony to be included with the SB 117

list of attendees at the Senate State Affairs Committee public hearing - off-site teleconference at Ninilchik Senior Center.



LARGEST LITTLE SENIOR CENTER on the PENINSULA

NINILCHIK SENIOR CENTER

Transmittal Fax Sheet

POB 39422

Ninilchik Alaska 99639-0422

Telephone: (907) 567-3988

Fax: (907) 567-3968

seniors@ptialaska.net

To: *Sen. Wagones*

From: *Julie Welch, Director*

Fax: *465-4479*

Pages:

c.c.

Date: *1 April 2003*

Subject: *This testimony was submitted to the
Senate State Affairs Committee*

*This is a copy - in case you're
interested in reading it.*

S.B. 117

Senate State Affairs Committee; SB 117

I wish to introduce Minnie Harrington (82),
Lillian Murphy (88), and Oscar Stickiron (75) all
are life long Alaskans.

They live independently and with dignity where
their children, grand-children, and relatives can visit
and share their lives. All of these senior citizens
are so proud to accept welfare. They feel the State
of Alaska has entered into a contract with them
for the duration of their lives.

They reside on the corner of 32nd St and
Cheechako St. Anchorage, Ak. 99503.

I urge a no vote

Sincerely,
Erin D. M. Kump

Copies to Senator Branch & Rep. Berkowitz, Rep. Gruenberg
Senator Ellis

Senator Robin Taylor

Dear Senator,

Regarding Senate Bill 117.

My wife is 73 and I am 83. We both have had Bypass surgery. Our perscriptions every month are over \$600.00. Our combined Social Security and Longevity puts us over the maximum for Medicaide. If this bill passes we may or may not be eligible for Medicaid . We are getting \$450.00 now. With out Longevity there is no way we can afford our perscriptions.

Thanking you for fighting against this Bill.

Sincerely,

Allen J. Kramer

R. Marie Kramer

*Also I pay Property Tax and I do not
get Renters Rebate. Gov. Murkowski said that
I don't.*

Copy of Letter to Senator Taylor

Allen + Marie Kramer

P.O. Box 202253

Anchorage Ak 99520

Senator Robin Taylor
Chair of the Committee Capital
Juneau (907) 465-3922
Senator Robin Taylor @ Legis. State ak.

Hollis / Craft
District

Sir:

It is really harmful opposition to Alaskan Senior
Citizen, mostly to us receiving low income from
the state. Sir, we know every thing going high, and
if our Longivity bonus will be eliminated, it is not fare
to the word promised, if that will be the case, promise
was blowed by the wind. So please, think the life
of the poor Citizen. State Legislative may have more
power and disregarding HB 158.

State Legislative Preihal, Thank you.

Disregarding Senior

Mr & Mrs Antilano Gair.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the SENATE STATE AFFAIRS
 committee name
 committee on SR 117, dated APRIL 3, 2003.
 bill/subject

MR. CHAIRMAN and MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE,
 IN view of the fact that the Longevity
 bonus program is being phased out, this
 program should NOT be cut.

Please instead consider a windfall
 profits tax on oil above \$18 per barrel.

Leave the PFD alone. If you put
 together a package of graduated
 income tax and oil windfall profits
 tax that would be fair.

Once Again, please DO NOT PASS SB117

Signed: Jim Sykes Jim SYKES
 Testifier

Representing (Optional)
PO Box 696 Palmer, AK 99645
 Address
745-6962
 Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

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

committee on Longevity Bonus, dated 4-3-03
bill/subject

Please leave the longevity Program in place as is. It is phasing out.

The Gov. and some legislators have targeted the elderly to help balance a large portion of the budget deficit. He even went on television to convince the general public he needs it. I don't think he needs to balance the budget on our backs.

There are so many ways to cut spending and raise revenue. Most of the suggestions are called regressive til it comes to the elderly 72 yrs + up. Then it becomes alright.

The governor and some legislators must greatly dislike us. If you eliminate the program we will still be required to pay the user fees, gas taxes, tire taxes and ~~or~~ sales taxes you may enact.

Signed: J. A. Staropaul
Testifier

myself

Representing (Optional)

P.O. Box 826013 Wasilla, AK 99687

Address

(907) 376-4466

Phone No.

Page 2

Hi I am William Church

4/3/2003

I have been in Alaska since 1935----- I am 70 years old.

I Have spent all of my life in Alaska.

Most of my life I have heard the statement, from real OLD timers, We stayed because we never had the money to leave. In most cases this was a big joke; they loved Alaska. And would not leave for any reason.

I feel I am a relative new comer to the state.. But it is my home. I will be here until the end...

I do not receive Longevity.

Have been fortunate enough to have been employed all of my adult life, up until I retired. as have the rest of My family. so can get along with out it .

I agree that a few hundred dollars a month would be very nice to have coming in. I also figured I would get longevity at retirement age, but unfortunately it didn't turn out that way.

As one of my old friends said ,the other day, this is her mad money..It would be a terrible thing to take it away..

I am also quite sure there are those who can not live with out it.

Thank you for your time
Bill Church



Alaska State Legislature

Page 1

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate State Affairs
 committee name
 committee on SB117, dated 4-03-03
 bill/subject

2 pages

Signed: _____

Testifier

William Church

Representing (Optional)

Address

Phone No.

page 2

their 70's, 80's and 90's to find jobs and go back to work. They would be forced to ask for "public assistance" which would be demeriting to many and also cost the state more.

We urge you to vote "NO" on SB117.

Thank you.



Alaska State Legislature

Page 1

2 pages

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

committee on SB 117 Longevity, dated 4-3-03
bill/subject Bonus

My name is Louise Harris. I am President of Palmer Senior Center.

We believe there are several reasons to retain the Longevity Bonus for Alaska citizens over 72.

To begin, this payment to seniors is spent right here in Alaska each month and is a boon to the economy. It probably costs the state less than "public assistance" and has a different meaning for older Alaskans.

Secondly, there are many senior citizens in Alaska who do not have social security or individual pensions, and this check each month pays for prescription drugs, groceries, utilities, rent and other necessities.

Thirdly, the Bonus is phasing out as seniors die. Finally, it would be very difficult for those in

Signed: Louise Harris (over)
Testifier

Palmer Senior Center
Representing (Optional)

831 S. Chugach St, Palmer
Address

907-745-5454
Phone No.

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

50 Front St. Suite #203
Ketchikan, Alaska 99901



Phone: 225-9675
Fax: 225-8546

LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION OFFICE

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

NAME: Mabel Smeltzer
 ADDRESS: 298 Sunset Drive
Ketchikan AK 99901
 PHONE: 907-247-2319
 EMAIL: mmsmex@Klovet.net
 BILL# or SUBJECT: SB 117
 COMMITTEE: (S)STA

It should not be a surprise
 that seniors need and use their
 generosity. They understand hard
 times, but targeting this group
 for cuts is not only a slapdash
 but also an insult.

These seniors help support their
 community, by living here,
 supporting merchants and neighbors.

They are also the greatest volunteers
 in the community and are
 more than willing to work for
 the betterment of all.

We urge you to rethink this
 action which is strongly opposed.

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

50 Front St. Suite #203
Ketchikan, Alaska 99901



Phone: 225-9675
Fax: 225-8546

LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION OFFICE

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

NAME: ERNEST SMELTZER
ADDRESS: 298 SUNSET DR. N
KETCHIKAN ALASKA 99901

PHONE: (907) 247 2319
EMAIL: _____

BILL# or SUBJECT: SB117
COMMITTEE: (S)STA

I AM OPPOSED TO DOING AWAY
WITH THE LONGEVITY SB117

I AM A LIFE LONG RESIDENT OF ALASKA
A WWII VET.

I PAID STATE INCOME TAX.
I CANT REMEMBER BEING UPSET PAYING
STATE TAX. IT WAS SIMPLE TO PAY. I
EVEN MADE OUT MY OWN FEDERAL & STATE TAX
PAPEERS.

WHY DONT YOU WANT TO NOT HAVE
A STATE TAX?

EVEN A STATE SCHOOL TAX OF 100⁰⁰
PER YEAR. THIS WOULD INCLUDE SEASONAL
WORKERS. THEY WORK HERE IN THE SUMMER
& TAKE ALL THEIR WAGES & LEAVE.

WE SENIORS WHO RECEIVE THE LONGEVITY
SPEND OUR BENEFITS HERE IN ALASKA

Ernest Smeltzer

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

50 Front St. Suite #203
Ketchikan, Alaska 99901



Phone: 225-9675
Fax: 225-8546

LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION OFFICE

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

NAME: GUY H TOWNSEND
 ADDRESS: 8130 PETERSON ST
KETCHIKAN AK 99901
 PHONE: 907-225-4371
 EMAIL: _____

BILL# or SUBJECT: SB 117
 COMMITTEE: (S)STA

I AM OPPOSED TO LONGEVITY BONUS
PROGRAM LOSS. I AM 73³ YEAR-ARRIVING
IN KETCHIKAN IN 1936 & BEING EVACUATED FROM
ALASKA NOV 1942 & I NOW WONDER
IF THIS IS THE START OF LONGEVITY
PEOPLE LEAVING ALASKA WITH LOSS OF
THESE FUNDS. IF THIS HAPPENS
THE PERMANENT FUNDS WILL NO DOUBT
BE REMOVED. WE DO NEED THIS MONEY @200
FOR LOCAL EXPENSES. I HAVE 2
GRAND CHILDREN IN KETCHIKAN & WANT TO
REMAIN IN KETCHIKAN.

THANKS
Guy H Townsend

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

50 Front St. Suite #203
Ketchikan, Alaska 99901



4.3.03

Phone: 225-9675
Fax: 225-8546

LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION OFFICE

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

NAME: Don Macmillan, age 72
 ADDRESS: 615 MAIN ST.
KETCHIKAN AK

PHONE: 907 226 4348
 EMAIL: _____

BILL# or SUBJECT: SB 117
 COMMITTEE: (S)STA

I am ~~the~~ 3rd generation Alaskan.
Grandparents arrived in AK 1898.
To live here, the expenses are
troubling.

Don't Pass SB 117.

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

50 Front St. Suite #203
Ketchikan, Alaska 99901



Phone: 225-9675
Fax: 225-8546

LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION OFFICE

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

NAME: Sherley Carlin
 ADDRESS: Box 7735
Ketchikan, Alaska
99901
 PHONE: 225-3860
 EMAIL: _____

BILL# or SUBJECT: SB 117
 COMMITTEE: (S) STA

I strongly oppose taking
 The Longevity (or Permanent Fund)
 away from the Seniors.
 We came here in 1950 and
 decided when we 65 & 70 we were
 going to stay here. Part of that we
 lived were getting Longevity (Farm)
 funds. I get no retirement except
 the so with this we felt we could
 afford to live here.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate State Affairs
 committee on SB117, dated 4/03/03
 bill/subject committee name

Canceling this Bonus program is the same as
 as firing 18,000 low salaried state employes
 as far as the economy is concerned. The
 results will be exactly the same.

May I ask - what is Governor Murkowski
 adding, from his pocket, to help the state
 recover.

Signed:

Lester Smith
 Testifier
Self
 Representing (Optional)
71060 Box 4840
 Address
907-895-4901
 Phone No.

2 of 2



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate State Affairs
 committee on SB 117, dated 4/03/03
 bill/subject committee name

The Longevity Bonus: We are told there are 18,000 people drawing this bonus each month. A fact to consider is that the minimum age of these 18,000 people is 73 years old. What is the life expectancy of this group - perhaps 5 years at best, on average.

The program will self-eliminate in a very few years so why not let it be and it will cancel itself out. What some may not realize is that the Longevity Bonus is the life blood of many rural communities economy. That bonus check one person receives is depended upon by all the businesses of the community.

The State of Alaska could not, if the best minds in the country were involved, find a better way to support its economy than this Bonus Plan.

Signed: Leston McNeil
 Testifier Leston McNeil
 Representing (Optional) Self
 Address H/O Box 4840
~~Sub~~ 845-4801
 Phone No.

10 of 2



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the _____
committee on SB 117, dated 4/03/03.
bill/subject committee name

I DO NOT APPROVE OF BILL #SB 117.
I MAY NOT BE ABLE TO STAY IN ALASKA
IF IT IS PASSED. AND THIS IS TAKEN OUT
OF MY BUDGET.

Signed: Lawrence W Heral
Testifier

Representing (Optional)
P.O. Box 368 Delta Junction
Address
907-895-4825
Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the _____

committee on SB117, dated 4/03/03
bill/subject committee name

I DO NOT APPROVE OF BILL # SB117.
AS I MAY NOT BE ABLE TO CONTINUE
TO LIVE IN ALASKA IF THIS BILL IS
PASSED. MY HUSBAND LAWRENCE
AND I HAVE LIVED HERE FOR 29 YEARS.
AND WE WOULDN'T WANT TO LIVE
ANYWHERE ELSE IN THE WORLD.

Signed:

Catherine M. Hernal

Testifier

Representing (Optional)

Address

P.O. Box 368 Delta Jct. AK 99737

Phone No.

1-907-895-4825

LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION OFFICE
 PO BOX 1189
 ROOM 218 JARVIS OFFICE CENTER
 DELTA JCT., AK 99737

FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL SHEET

TO: SENATE STATE AFFAIRS	FROM: Elizabeth Sarver <i>ES</i>
COMPANY:	DATE: April 3, 2003
FAX NUMBER: 465-3517	TOTAL NO. OF PAGES INCLUDING COVER: 5
PHONE NUMBER:	SENDER'S REFERENCE NUMBER: (907) 895-4236
RE:	YOUR REFERENCE NUMBER: (907) 895-5017 fax

Written testimony for Senate State Affairs Committee hearing on 4/03/03 on SB 117.



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate State Affairs
(committee name)

committee on SB 117, dated 4/3/03
(bill/subject)

LONGEVITY PROGRAM MUST GO

Oee, how awful, some Longevity Recipients won't be able to spend an extra month in Hawaii. Or, vacation travel will be shortened. Or, retirement income will be reduced and we seniors will no longer enjoy an "independent life style". It is about time we (yes, I am a senior and have lived in Alaska all my life) face up to the fact the present program is inequitable and should be eliminated.

The program today has little resemblance to the intent set forth 30 years ago. In 1973, 4,753 applicants received 2.6 million. By 1994 23,850 recipients received 70.4 million. Yes, the program is being phased out, but not soon enough as it will continue to cost millions of dollars per year to continue.

This program is not "NEEDS BASED" The \$150,000 Senior property tax is not "NEEDS BASED". We only have to be alive and breathe Alaskan Air to qualify for a Permanent Fund Dividend. We Seniors have it pretty good. What other State provides benefits at this level?? Is Arizona, California, Hawaii or Minnesota providing their seniors at the same level as Alaska. I don't think so.

We should focus on the real needs of all Alaskans, such as struggling single parents - those citizens without health insurance - those without affordable housing - education challenges - economic development, and of course Seniors who NEED assistance.

Let's not focus only on ourselves and whine about what we may be losing. We should be thankful for where we live, what we have, and direct our energy towards meeting the REAL NEEDS OF ALL ALASKANS.

Signed:

[Signature]
(Testifier) Margaret Anderson

[Signature]
(Representing / Optional)

11125 Park St Seward AK 99664
(Address)

907-224-5571
(Phone No.)

3/27/03

Longevity Bonus (HB 162/SB 117)

I attended the hearing at the Nome LIO with 10 others and 5 testified. The memo headed "Longevity Bonus (HB 162/SB 117) dated March 25, 2003" has several paragraphs explaining the issue on this bill. The testimony heard does not support the statements contained therein. All of the testimony I heard does not support this bill and the hearing had to be continued to the 3rd of April to give participants the opportunity to be heard on this issue.

There is written testimony I would like to see on this issue and I do not think seniors not receiving this bonus are critical of those that are. I do not understand the savings; if you take this bonus from our seniors and then put them on one of the other safety net programs (which by the way cost more because they are needs based and require more paperwork to document this). It's more like placing controls on how they can spend their income. When these seniors have the bonus removed they have no other choice but to move to programs that impose more rules and controls on their ability to glide through their golden years!

The majority of our longevity bonus recipients are not banking this money they are spending it as fast as it arrives. This money is helping keep utility companies, stores, and other economic entities available to our region. This assures them that they can have at least one choice not dictated by a needs based program. The need for freedom of choice should be theirs in the years they have limited by their age and the basic cost of living.

We have to remember we are only as strong as our weakest link. With the State trying to remove a promise by our Legislature in 1993 to let attrition phase out this program and then our city government attempting to impose controls through taxation on our childcare providers when will we have time to enjoy some of the benefits of our labor to promote healthy lifestyles?

M. Carter
MARY A. CARTER
Box 948
Nome, AK 99762



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate State Affairs
 committee name
 committee on SB 117, dated 03-06-03
 bill/subject

IN Response to Gov. Murkowski's Letter dated March 25, 2003
 Page 1 Paragraph 5 he States we are treating Senior's differently
 who were 65 before "1994" and who were 65 after "1996", I
 strongly disagree! We Seniors who were 65 and older (9 years ago)
 calculated the Longivity Bonus money into our financial Plan's
 to pay our debts, to keep our homes and maintain our Alaskan
 life-style in our few last remaining years, those people before
 994 (9 years ago) knew and Realized the Longivity bonus Plan was
 being phased out and could plan accordingly, We Seniors 75 and older
 are now having the financial rug ripped out from under us, and
 making it very difficult to survive, on less, what are we to do?, Sell
 our homes? Some of us have no living relatives or surviving family
 its a sad day in Alaska that some of us may spend our last days in
 overbt. there are many other ways to raise our State Revenue's
 by spreading the burden over the younger working population, the
 non-Residents and Alien's who are taking money out of state!
 Why Target the vulnerable? — Elderly?

Signed: Nancy Malcom
 Testifier

47 year's Alaska Resident.

Representing (Optional)
P.O. Box 870206 Wasilla, AK. 99687
 Address
907-376-5850 03-31-03
 Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the

Senate State Affairs
committee name

Committee on SB 117 Eliminate Longevity Bonus, dated
bill # / subject

April 3, 2003
public hearing date

1. We believe that the people who receive the longevity Bonus, depend on it as part of their monthly budget.
 2. We believe the longevity Bonus is instrumental in helping to pay for the costs of medicine. Alaskans pay the highest costs for medicine of all the 50 States.
 3. The longevity recipients are entitled to their dignity. The option of going on Welfare is not an option for most of these long time residents.
 4. This longevity program is eliminating itself. In 10 yrs, the program w/ be down \$30 million, w/ only 17 million left to pay out.
- AARP believes the longevity Program should not be eliminated!

Signed:

Vivian Swanson (Pres. local AARP chapter)
Testifier

AARP

Representing (optional)

PO Box 1483 Soldotna, AK 99669

Address

(907) 260-3966

Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

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

Committee on SB 117 Eliminate Longevity Bonus, dated April 3, 2003
bill # / subject public hearing date

*Where did the nine hundred million go?
Where would the forty seven million go
Will it go back in to Gen Fund & just disperse
All of our income stays in Alaska*

Signed: W. C. Jolin
Testifier

Representing (optional)
23213 S Colha Rp Rd Kenilaf, AK 99610
Address

907-262-5884
Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Longevity Bonus Program
committee name

committee on 117, dated 4-3-2003
bill/subject

I am opposed to eliminating the longevity bonus.
I am a 63 year resident and do not qualify for program
but I feel the citizens of Alaska who do should continue
receiving it.

I feel there are many other places where reductions can be
made. I also feel that possibly taking \$200.00 from each
Permanent Dividend check would pay for state of Alaska Senior
benefit programs. Lets take care of our seniors and get
on with state business.

Signed: [Signature]

Testifier

Bill and Barbara of Alaska

Representing (Optional)

900 Selma Lane Uccille Alaska 99654

Address

(907) 376-3452

Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

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

Committee on SB 117 Eliminate Longevity Bonus, dated April 3, 2003
bill # / subject public hearing date

What a slap in the face to the old timers in Alaska...all 18,000 of them. I cannot believe the new governor would consider something like this. Would the governor, senators & representatives in the state take a \$250 per month cut?

Signed: Earl Miller
Testifier

Self
Representing (optional)

33526 Johnsons Dr Soldotna, AK 99669
Address

262-2718
Phone number

April 4, 2003
Sen. Gary Stevens
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Sen. Stevens,

As a resident of Alaska, I would like to urge you to recognize that Alaska's economic future depends upon the University of Alaska. You have been elected because your constituents trust that you will use your best judgment when allocating state funding. I hope that the decision you make regarding University funding takes into account the thousands of Alaskan citizens that will be affected by the University of Alaska's funding or lack thereof.

The University of Alaska president, Mark Hamilton's theme for the University this year is, "It's Working." As a student I would like to reiterate this fact. I have found an incredible education here at the University. Here are some highlights about the University:

- Enrollment is up 9.5% this fall
- Alaska high school graduates are returning from outside to attend UA
- Private donations have increased 77%
- Student retention and graduation rates have increased

I would like to encourage you to support the University. The University is an important part of Alaska's future. I appreciate your time and hope that you will consider taking part in funding the University and being involved in the future of Alaska.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,



Ben Ortez

4 Apr. 2003

In re: Executive Order 107 (EO 107)

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Please address House and Senate Committee Resolution Number One (H&SCR No.1) to move it to the floor so that the legislature is able to vote on it. Governor Murkowski's EO 107 to combine the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADFG) with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is tantamount to attempting to combine protection of animals that Alaskans depend on with resource development. Both protection and development are important to Alaskans: we hunt and fish to feed our families and for recreation; and the fishing industry has been important to our economy for more than a century. Alaska's gold, silver, copper, oil and gas and more have each supported Alaska's economy over the same times.

How can one agency provide for both protection and development? Alaska's wealth in fish and mammals requires expert personnel to protect them. At the same time Alaska's wealth in minerals, trees, oil and gas requires expert personnel to develop them. If ADFG and DNR are combined, there will be insufficient personnel to adequately manage both.

It would be a blow to Alaska's economy to combine ADFG and DNR, therefore we support House and Senate Committee Resolution Number One (H & SCR No. 1) and oppose Executive Order 107 (EO 107). We urge a floor vote on H and SCR No.1. Please report it out of your committee.

Constance Griffith
Constance Griffith
P.O. Box 175
Haines, AK 99827-0175
907-766-2408

Dear Chairperson:

Please have (EO 107) removed as an executive order. The legislature needs to move "House and Senate concurrent Resolution Number 1" out of the seven committees so that the full House and Senate can vote on it.

The Alaska Fish and Game should not be moved to the Department of Natural Resources. Their missions are not compatible. It would put fish and game at risk to no longer be able to manage and protect the fish and game that are so important to our lives and the economy of Alaska.

Naomi Kerwin
P.O. Box 618
Haines, AK 99827



Enid J. Lincoln
P.O. Box 25
White Mountain, Alaska 99784
Phone: (907) 638-2068

facsimile transmittal

To: Governor Murkowski Fax: C/o (907) 443-2162
From: Enid J. Lincoln Date: 04/03/03
Re: Longevity Bonus Pages: 1
CC: File

Urgent For Review Please Comment Please Reply Please Recycle

Notes:

- My name is Enid Lincoln, member of the Native Village of White Mountain, mother of 8 and grandmother of 6. I would like to speak to your proposal to cut the Longevity Bonus to our Senior Citizens.
- I would challenge the Governor to come to one of our villages in the Region and spend a week as our Elders dependent on the Longevity Bonus spend their week.
- An overwhelming majority of our Elders depend on a fixed income that takes care of their food, shelter, heat and clothing. Often this Longevity Bonus is the one piece of income that keeps our Elders warm or fed.
- In some cases this income enables our Elders to pay someone to empty their honeybuckets, chop their wood, and pack their water. In other cases their electricity would have to be disconnected. In others their only means of communication with others in their community and their loved ones outside their community - the telephone - would have to be disconnected.
- Our Elders have worked their entire life for others and are now dependent for everything they need from others. To take away their Longevity Bonus would grossly affect what little independence they have in living out their 'golden years.'
- Governor Murkowski, come and live for one week (7 days) as our Elders - dependent on the Longevity Bonus - live.

Net requirement and the 5% Gross Proceeds Tax will cause a significant reduction in the amount of money that Alaskan charities will be able to raise. We also believe that the proposed tax will not result in a significant increase in tax revenue to the State of Alaska. In fact, we believe that the 28% ideal net requirement will drive players away from pulltabs in such volume that fewer tax dollars will be collected even with the new taxation rate.

The strongest markets in today's charitable gaming industry are those that allow for a high percentage of the proceeds (78%+) to be paid back to the player by way of prizes.

Additionally, experience teaches us that gross proceed taxes, such as the proposed 5% Gross Proceeds Tax, cannot be "added on" to the price of pulltabs like other sales taxes. Instead the 5% Gross Proceeds Tax must be "paid" by reducing the charities' net proceeds. As discussed above, increasing the Ideal Net (making the pulltab player pay the price increase) cannot be relied upon to absorb the price increase because player participation will decrease as the cost to play pulltabs increases. Accordingly, the Charities will pay a significant portion of the 5% Gross Proceeds Tax out of the Charities' Net Proceeds.

50 Front Street, Suite 203
Ketchikan, Alaska 99961
Phone: 907-225-9675
Fax: 907-225-8548

STATE OF ALASKA
Legislative Information Office



Fax

(S) STATE AFFAIRS CMTE +
 To: REP. WILLIAMS
 SEN. TAYLOR

From: ED ZASTROW VIA KTN LIO

Fax: Date: 14.03.03

Phone: Pages: (3) INC COVER

Re: (S) STA HEARING - Longevity Bonus

Visit our website at: www.legis.state.ak.us/lios/ketchikan/index.htm

4-3-03

THE ATTACHED SIGNATURE LIST IS
FROM THE KETCHIKAN SENIOR CENTER
LUNCHEON GROUP WHICH IS OPPOSED
TO THE ELIMINATION OF THE
LONGEVITY BONUS PROGRAM - THERE
COMMENTS WILL BE COMMUNICATED
TO YOUR COMMITTEE - VIA LIO OFFICE
KETCHIKAN 3:30 PM - APRIL 3RD

~~Private~~

ty

Ed Zastrow



Alaska State Legislature

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

Committee on SB 117 Eliminate Longevity Bonus, dated April 3, 2003
bill # / subject public hearing date

To cut this program or reduce: the amount at this time is just another TAX to a select group! It is not needed. The program is self limiting, We old-timers will soon be dead and gone!

If you want to save the state money than do as any large company or coporation does;; Use a percentage cut i.e. ALL DEPARTMENTS CUT.. At lest 10-% each year until the out-go and in-flow are equal.

There is NO department that cannot re-adjust.. There are NO SACRED COWS.

Signed: R.W. BOGARD

Testifier

MANY OLD_TIMERS OF ALASKA

Representing (optional)

Box 1404 Sterling.ak 99672

Address

907-262-4985

Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

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

Committee on SB 117 Eliminate Longevity Bonus, dated April 3, 2003
bill # / subject public hearing date

Don't interfere with the longevity

Signed: *Charles W. Paulson*
Testifier

Representing (optional)

Box 224 Sterling, AK. 99672
Address

(907) 262-5662
Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

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

Committee on SB 117 Eliminate Longevity Bonus, dated April 3, 2003
bill # / subject public hearing date

Leave the longevity alone

Signed: Denise L. Paulson
Testifier

Self
Representing (optional)

Box 224 Sitka, Ak. 99672
Address

907-263-5667
Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the SENATE STATE AFFAIRS
committee name

Committee on ^{SB} #117 - Longevity Bonus dated 4-3-03
bill # / subject public hearing date

Please don't take the Longevity! I was widowed 2 months ago. I found out (because I have had the good fortune to live to a fairly healthy old age) that my ^{husband's} naval pension of \$535 a month has been adjusted to \$376! (Because he didn't die before I was 62 years old) Also my insurance informed me that since I was over 72 years old the amount I could collect, if necessary, would be cut in half!

I'm slowly, but surely, finding out that in a lot of ways, things aren't always as they seem & that my generation has always paid their way & then more.

Thank you for reading this

Signed: M. L. DeWitt
Testifier

Representing (optional)

P.O. Box 5 - Sterling, AK 99672
Address

1-907-262-4737
Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

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

Committee on SB 117 Eliminate Longevity Bonus, dated April 3, 2003
bill # / subject public hearing date

By and most seniors, understand about having to cut budgets. I would ask that all of you that are dealing with this issue tell seniors how you are cutting your income as you are asking seniors to cut ours. Think about it.

We are older our health issues need more medical attention, and those costs are rising, especially in prescription drugs. Heating, electrical and living costs are also on the rise.

Many of our seniors are left alone, having lost their spouses. They find that what they are left with will not meet all the bills. This only leaves them not being able to pay bills or seek income from other State programs.

It makes more sense to most of us that if we are able to survive on our present income, and that we spend this money in this State, that taking away the Longevity Bonus is not wise or responsible.

Thanks for including this in your testimony.

Signed: Fern Chamberlin
Testifier

Representing (optional)
Box 109 Sterling AK 99672
Address
907-262-4193
Phone number

April 3, 2003

TO: Senate State Affairs Committee
Senator Gary Stevens, Chair

FR: Barbara A. Oleson
P.O. Box 6
Nome, AK 99762

RE: Testimony in Opposition to Senate Bill 117

I am in opposition of Senate Bill 117.

If today you cut the Longevity Bonus Program, what will you cut tomorrow? This program becomes less expensive to the State each year, as its participants are dying off. Let them enjoy dignity in their last years through your continued support.

When my father realized what the medical expenses were doing, he got out of retirement and back into private business. That even created employment for others. My parents knew they did not want to move away from family and they knew they couldn't cut back.

The State has cut back as far as it can. Now the State needs to start generating income. I believe a State Income Tax to be the most fair. Any sales tax would be regressive and I could not support that. However, I believe there is two things the legislature can do right away. First, impose a School Tax. You can decide if that should be collected by the Dept. of Revenue through employers or from the Permanent Fund Dividend from every man, woman, and child, or a combination of both so you get the people who work in-state, but live out-of-state. Second, look at legalized gambling.

Please support continuation of the Longevity Bonus Program and begin the process of creating a financially healthier State government and State economy. Thank you.



APR 03 2002

LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION OFFICE
119 N. CUSHMAN, SUITE 101
FAIRBANKS, AK 99701
452-4448

DATE: 3/28/03

Please accept the enclosed original(s) of written
testimony for the

SB117 teleconference scheduled on

3/27/03. A copy of this testimony was
transmitted to your committee via fax.

Thank you,

NIC



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the HSS
 Committee on _____ Dated 3-27-03
 Committee on SB 117 Bill / Subject _____

The Longevity Bonus is part of the budget/
 long range plan of the people who have
 been receiving it for all these years.
 Since this plan is gradually disappearing,
 as we all die off, This doesn't seem a real
 assistance to a budget deficit!

I think it would be fair to take a dollar
 or two from every benefit program, so that
 everyone helps a little bit and no one
 gets hurt to a large extent.

SIGNED: IRFENE PEYTON Irene Peyton
 Testifier

Me
 Representing

Address / Phone Number
Box 80588 99708 907 479 2861



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the (S) STA
 Committee on SB 117 Committee Name Dated 3-27-03
Bill / Subject

I feel we should keep the Longevity for the Senior Citizens of the state of Alaska. So many of us depend on our Longevity each month to help us pay our bills. The costs of medicine, fuel bills, doctor bills & etc. going up all the time. It would be a hardship on many on limited income. I hope we can continue the Longevity.

SIGNED: Darlene Lundberg
 Testifier
myself
 Representing
1523 Evergreen St FBKS, AK 99709
 Address / Phone Number



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the (S) STA
Committee Name
 Committee on SB 117 Dated _____
Bill / Subject

Many Senior Citizens depend on the Longevity Bonus for their basic needs, which would create a hardship if it were discontinued.

Medicare premiums are increasing again which will create a further need to continue receiving the Longevity Bonus. I strongly urge the Legislature to consider these factors as they vote!

SIGNED: Anna D. Brantner
 Testifier

Representing _____
1502 Everspeer St. HB, AK 99709
 Address / Phone Number
(907) 456-4191



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the (S) STA

Committee Name

Committee on SB 117 Dated _____

Bill / Subject

Everything is going ^{up!} including Medicare, and Thanks to you Gov. your relievie dumped on us & old folks.

I'm glad I didn't vote for you (!!!) (+ also LISA). I remember the 60" Mins interview ~~a~~ number of year ago, when you were head of Alaska National Bank ---, that if you were making "BIG" money - that you should move.!!! A real "fippen" answer for the Junior Senate from the State of Alaska - "NEVER" - became a Junior Senator - and then "downgrade" to Governor - !!! you - Steven + young had this figured out

SIGNED:

Richard W. Ventuse (76) a long time ago!
Testifier

Representing

1502 Evergreen St., Fairbanks AK 99709

Address / Phone Number

(907)-456-4191



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the (S) STA
Committee Name
 Committee on SB 117 Dated 3-27-03
Bill / Subject

I am against our Governor Murkowski's plans of eliminating the Longevity bonus checks that are mailed to Senior Citizens once a month and are vital to many and important towards their income. Many will suffer if the Governor decides to cut this program.

SIGNED:

Jane Hallman
 Testifier

Representing

Address / Phone Number
131 Adak St. Phone # 456-4322
Taikeke, Alaska
99701-3205



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the (S) STA
 Committee on Longevity Bonus Checks Dated 3-26-03
 Bill / Subject SB 117

Please do not let this bill go through - our elders have enough difficult times. My 91 yr old mother lives in the village and purchase her wood & groceries. My elder husband 80 years old sees this forwards his stipends - he has no medical coverage.

SIGNED: Arene E. Roberts / Bogowife #
 Testifier
Lucy Roberts (#daughters)
 Representing
H.A. Bogowife / husband
 Address / Phone Number
POB 73115 - FBlg AK 99707 9074578823

When the longevity bonus program was set up, it was designed to "self destruct". Only pioneers who had been in the state for 30 years or more and were living in the state in 1959 were eligible for the longevity bonus. Eventually we'd all die off and that would be the end of it.

Then some lawyer got the law changed so anyone over 60 years of age, who lived in Alaska for ONE year or more, was eligible. Relatives from the Lower 48 moved to Alaska to reap the benefits. Many hadn't lived in Alaska before and never endured any pioneer hardships at all.

Now the state wants to penalize the pioneer residents and others (mostly single women, some men) who are too old to work and don't have enough money to live on and pay for necessities of life.

Sad to say I've worked most of my life but was so busy just surviving and caring for a family I didn't plan ahead. So, I have no pension, no retirement, no IRA, no 401K, just my social security, and annual permanent fund bonus, plus my longevity.

I've worked most of my life, but never more than four years on any one job; I've freelanced writing for 20 years, also intermittently sell my watercolors. So I count on the longevity to pay studio rent and whatever gifts I give my children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren for Xmas/birthdays, etc augmented by my social security (which pays for perscriptions and travel primarily).

I was a widow for nine years and totally responsible for all expenses for myself and family- housing, transportation, food, clothing, medical care, taxes, etc. Even now I share expenses with my present husband-especially for my own children and sometimes travel.

PLEASE do NOT eliminate the LONGEVITY BONUS for us folks past 70's & 80's who have lived in Alaska since before 1959. (I came to Fairbanks in 1928 at age 13 and have lived in Alaska continually, except for four years during WorldWarII, when I worked for Boeing Air in Seattle.)

Helen L. Atkinson, Fairbanks, Alaska

*Helen L. Atkinson 4:30 PM Tues 3/25/03
666 11th Ave #301
Fairbanks, AK 99701*



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate State Affairs
Committee Name
 Committee on SB 117 Dated 3-27-03
Bill / Subject

See Attached.

P.S. Local Press was here earlier, they ask us if anyone was in favor of cutting the longevity Bonus, of the 60-70 Seniors here were all against the Governor's Proposal.

SIGNED: Don Bee
 Testifier
Donna Kanaaga
 Representing
299 1ST AVENUE, FBKS, AK 99701
 Address / Phone Number

Good afternoon, my name is Don Lee; Executive Director for Denakkanaaga Inc, the regional native elder's organization for the Doyon/TCC region. We have been in operation since 1982, providing a variety of services to Elders for 20 years.

1300 Elders from District C will be negatively impacted, if the proposed cut takes place.

The impact of cutting the Longevity Bonus program will be devastating and traumatic for our Elders of the region.

Within the Doyon/TCC region, the proposed cut will impact at least 388 native Elders enrolled to Doyon, who are 72 years old or older, of which 116 live in Fairbanks, 45 live in Anchorage, and 278 reside in the rural communities of the Doyon/TCC region.

Most of these Elders live near the national poverty level even with the longevity bonus. By deducting \$250/month from their incomes, would reduce their monthly income by 25-30% of their already impoverished incomes. I think all of us would agree that a 25-30% reduction in our incomes would dramatically impact our standard of living. We ask you to consider what an even greater impact such a reduction would have on elderly people who are already impoverished. Is this fair? The loss of the longevity bonus will cause serious financial hardship for all involved an even greater impact on rural residents, considering the higher cost of living.

There are many good reasons not to reduce the income of Alaska's "eldest" Elders. You have heard those reasons from others already, throughout the state.

I would close by simply stating that Alaska's people have a solid sense of fairness and what is right. WE value the hard work and pioneer spirit of our Alaskan Elders. This part of the governor's budget proposal does not reflect our Alaskan values. It's not fair; it's not right, that's not the way we treat our Elders.



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate State Affairs
 Committee on SB 117 Dated 3-27-03
Committee Name
Bill / Subject

MR. Governor —

You have only one recourse, that is to remove about 12,000 employees from the state payroll. This would balance the budget. If you need a guideline, look up to 1959 and eliminate all services we did not render at that time and start over. What a waste. More state employees than we need or require. You have only 2 years to do the job!

SIGNED:

Randall K. Acord
 Testifier

Self
 Representing

452-5609 - Box 70937 Fair AK
 Address / Phone Number

497107



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate State Affairs
 Committee on SB 117 Committee Name Dated 3-27-03

Bill / Subject

My name is Karen Wood. I hold a master's degree in Gerontology. I am a senior working with seniors in the interior of Alaska.

It is imperative to the health, welfare and dignity of the elderly receiving the longevity bonus that this program not be eliminated as proposed in Gov. Murkowski's FY04 budget.

Tightening the belt in Alaska should not be accomplished by strangling and disrespecting the elderly who are unable to replace the loss of income in their long established budgets. The burden will fall on families for those who have families and on the state for those who do not. The caregiver family cannot take on the additional burden.

Increasing safety net programs is insignificant in relation to the increase in the senior population in Alaska, the second fastest growing in the nation in proportion to the total population.

Elimination of the Longevity Bonus is a false economy as the fall out burden will far outweigh the initial savings.

I respectfully encourage you to vote "NO" in behalf of Alaska's pioneer program

SIGNED:

Testifier

Karen Wood

Representing

PO Box 85228 Fairbanks, AK 99708-5228
 Address / Phone Number

907 474-2121



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate State Affairs
 Committee on SB 117 Committee Name Dated 3-27-03
Bill / Subject

I leave the Longevity Status as it is.
 It is very important to us since from
 month to month expenses.

SIGNED: Warren R Smith
 Testifier

Representing
 # 15 Fairwell, #312 Fairbanks AK 99701
 Address / Phone Number



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the (S) STA
 Committee on _____ Dated 3/27/03
 Committee on SB 117 Dated _____
 Bill / Subject

I am an 84 year old lady that came to Alaska June 24, 1944
 aam now classed as legally blind. My husband was employed by
 the Civel Service Administration (Federal Aviation Agency). He
 worked 33 years with the Agency and retired here in Fairanks.

The longivety BONUS was started to keep the retired Seniors
 from moving back to the states to spend their pay . The BONUS
 would assist them to stay here in Alaska and spend their
 retirement pay here. If the BONUS goes I am sure many of us will
 have to leave Alaska regardless of how much we love our homes.
 Think about how you would get reelected if we all are put out
 to pasture in the states.

SIGNED:

X Ernest M. Erwin

Testifier

Representing

212 FZT... AVE Fairbanks AK 99701
 Address / Phone Number (907) 456-5204



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate State Affairs
 Committee on SB117 Committee Name
 Dated 3-27-03
Bill / Subject

I would like to say the longevity is very important as it is all I have besides Soc. Sec.

SIGNED: *Lillian P Smith*
 Testifier

 Representing

15 Farewell #312
 Address / Phone Number

Fairbanks AK



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate State Affairs
 Committee on SB117 Committee Name Dated 3-27-03
Bill / Subject

I am 100% agents eliminating the
 Longevity bonus

SIGNED: Mervill J. Hakala, Mervill J. Hakala
 Testifier
Self and all Seniors
 Representing
140 Front St Fairbanks, AK 99701
 Address / Phone Number Ph # 907-456-5498



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate State Affairs
 Committee on SB 117 Dated 3-27-03
Committee Name
Bill / Subject

I am retired and need the Longevity Bonus to pay my fuel oil bill each month. In order to remain in Alaska where I have lived for 53 years I rent my basement to a tenant to help pay my mortgage and the costs of garbage, water and sewer continues to rise. I need the Longevity Bonus to survive in Alaska.

SIGNED: Blaise M. Jerry
 Testifier

Representing
PO Box 83524 F6kw
 Address / Phone Number 479-6927



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate State Affairs
 Committee on SB117 Dated 3-27-03
Committee Name
Bill / Subject

I object to the elimination of
 the longevity bonus for the welfare
 of seniors in Alaska.

Age 75 - resident of Fairbanks
 since 1953.

SIGNED:

Phyllis Treese
 Testifier

Myself and seniors in general
 Representing

1647 Madison Ave., FBK, AK 99709
 Address / Phone Number
479-4463



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate State affairs
 Committee on 117 Committee Name
 Dated 27 Mar 03
Bill / Subject

*Please do not take away our longevity
 payment. We depend on it and we spend it
 here. This is my 51st winter in AK and
 I want to be able to stay here*

SIGNED:

Robert E. Franz
 Testifier

Representing

3624 Holden Rd, FBKS, AK 99707

Address / Phone Number



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate State Affairs
Committee on SB 117 Dated 3-27-03
Bill / Subject Committee Name

I collected this testimony from
the elders on 3-27-03 along
with 7 signatures.

SIGNED:

Theresa S. Paul

Testifier

Fairbanks Native Assoc Elders Coordinator

Representing

317 Wendell St FBKS, AK 99701

Address / Phone Number

451-7250

3-27-03

I don't think that it would
be nice to cut off the longivity Bonus
check because the use it for oil & wood
and food in the Villages

I guess all elders think that
in all Villages

Thomas Madros - Thomas Madros
Peter Peter
Walter Newman Sr. - "where's mine"
Albert Albert
David W. John
Gus W. David
Pouline Hayton

This was written by the elders at
the Fairbanks Native Association
elders program and was
signed by the elders. 3-27-03



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate State Affairs
Committee Name
 Committee on SB 11 Dated _____
Bill / Subject

I do not receive the monthly bonus, but I am concerned for the seniors who do receive and rely on their longevity bonus. It seems to me that if this is discontinued we will have seniors suffering, ^{because} ~~and/or~~ ^{they do not go to other resources, or} adding to other programs that will still need to be funded by the state. i.e. welfare, medical care, meals on wheels. Keep the longevity bonus rather than borrowing "from Peter to pay Paul."

(Age 71 - but program cut off just before I turned 65 lived here 40 years.)

SIGNED:

Keith Jolley Knappman Larry N. Knappman
 Testifier

Self
 Representing

1280 Gilmore to 99712 / 457-6386
 Address / Phone Number



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the

Jason SB 117
Committee Name

Committee on

SB 117
Bill / Subject

Dated

3-27-03

I am for continuance of the Longevity Bonus. The youngest receiving the bonus is 72. Soon the elder population will be gone.

If this bonus has to cut down on its spending, maybe the people who come in under the "new" rules could be cut. I am one of the new ones and I would give up the bonus to those who really need it.

SIGNED:

Robert J. Larson
Testifier

322 Fairbanks St
Representing All bonus recipients
Fairbanks, Ak, 99709

Address / Phone Number



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate State Affairs
 Committee on SB 117 Committee Name Dated 3-27-03
Bill / Subject

I dont feel they should take our
 longevity, because hard times are
 comming the prices of stoff are
 going up. And our budget just
 covers for things we really need.

al grant need his longevity
 to help pay bills.

Ruth Age 70 - resident 70 years.
 Al Age 73 resident 73 years

SIGNED:

Ruth Grant - Al Grant
 Testifier

1615 - 27th Ave
 Representing

FBKS, AK 99707 - 452-6977
 Address / Phone Number



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the SB 117
 Committee on LONGEVITY Committee Name Dated 3/27/03
Bill / Subject

I object to this bill as it will cause a real hardship to those seniors who didn't retire with the pensions people have today. These pioneers deserve to be supported to maintaining themselves here in Alaska

SIGNED:

Donna M. Thier
 Testifier

Representing

601 Ditch ST FAIRBANKS 99712
 Address / Phone Number
457-5889



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate State Affairs
 Committee on SB117 Committee Name
Bill / Subject Dated 3-27-03

I object to the elimination of the
 Longevity Bonus for the welfare of
 the seniors in Alaska

age 83, Alaska resident for 62 years).

SIGNED:

Donald J. Cook
 Testifier

Representing

Address / Phone Number

Box 80093 Fairbanks 99708 479-2487



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate State Affairs
 Committee on SB117 Committee Name Dated 3-27-03
Bill / Subject

I just want to object to
 the elimination of the
 Longevity Bonus

age 89 - resident of Fairbanks
 since 1935 and in
 Alaska all 89 years!

SIGNED: ✓ Douglas B Colby
 Testifier

Representing _____

Address / Phone Number
1101 Barnette St Fairbanks Ak 99701 456-7002



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate State Affairs
 Committee on SB 117 Dated 3-27-02
Committee Name
Bill / Subject

I object to the elimination of
 the Longevity Bonus for
 Seniors in Alaska

Age 78 - lived in Alaska 78 years

SIGNED: Andrew W. Maslovich
 Testifier

Representing _____

Box 71489, Fairbanks, AK 99707
 Address / Phone Number (907) 456-6107



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate State Affairs
 Committee on SB 117 Committee Name
Bill / Subject Dated 3-27-03

*I pay for my rent and I need
 my longevity very badly.*

SIGNED:

Theresa Hensch
 Testifier
Fairview Manor IF4
 Representing
FBK, AK 99701 456-9233
 Address / Phone Number



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate State Affairs
 Committee on SB 117 Committee Name Dated 3-27-03
Bill / Subject

I support the senior citizens
 who are receiving longevity checks
 why? - some of the elders need more
 help

from 1932 always lived in Alaska

SIGNED: ✓ Clara Joseph
 Testifier

Representing

455 3rd Ave. Apt 518
 Address / Phone Number

Four banks, AK 99701 - 907 456 8117



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the State State Affairs
 Committee on SB 117 Dated 3-27-03
Committee Name
Bill / Subject

The Longevity Bonus is a part of my monthly income. It is used for light & heat. I cannot make it without the Longevity Bonus.

I am 73 yrs old, a native Alaskan. I live temporarily in Fairbanks. My home is in Nulato.

SIGNED: Theresa Silas Theresa Silas
 Testifier
 Representing
1516 Silas #8 Fairbanks, AK 99701
 Address / Phone Number 474-1619



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate State Affairs
Committee Name
 Committee on SB 117 Dated 3-27-03
Bill / Subject

I rely on the longevity Bonus for special foods because I am diabetic PLEASE DON'T CUT ME OFF!

Age 75 - female - native Athabascan

SIGNED:

Maggie Brock
 Testifier

Representing

Apt 108

2012 Sandvick Rd, Fairbanks AK

Address / Phone Number

907 479-8326



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate State Affairs
 Committee on SB 117 Committee Name Dated 3-27-08
Bill / Subject

The majority of the recipients receiving the Longevity Bonus - need it. It isn't optional in their budget. It's what I live on plus Social Security & PFD.

It's vital to my livelihood.

I'm a 40 yr. resident. I retired in 1989. My husband passed away the same year. I've been self supporting for many years. Would hate to have to leave Alaska because I not being able to afford to live here - I love Alaska. My heart goes out to all the Seniors.

SIGNED:

Judy Riddle
 Testifier

Representing

166 8th Ave. Fairbanks 99701
 Address / Phone Number 456-5518



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the

State Senate Affairs

Committee Name

Committee on

SB 117

Bill / Subject

Dated

3-27-03

We rely on the \$200 our family gets from the Longevity Bonus. It is a major part of our monthly income. Living in the city now it's more expensive.

We have to pay for everything. Our monthly income just barely covers now. It will have to be replaced by something.

I am 72 and my wife Rita is 70. We were born in Minto. Our only source of income is social security.

SIGNED:

Fred Alexander

Testifier

Representing

1002 27th Ave. Ft. Belknap AK 99701 452-1972

Address / Phone Number



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the State Affairs Committee
Committee Name
 Committee on SB 117 Longevity Bonus Dated March 27, 2003
Bill / Subject

As president of the Fairbanks Chapter of AARP, I have the opportunity to speak with Longevity Bonus recipients. They acted responsibly in planning for retirement, and in their budgets they included the longevity checks. Based on that they made life decisions such as whether to leave the state or stay; whether to stay in their apartments or move to lesser quarters. If SB 117 passes, they will be faced with making the same decisions again. But now, they are 75 years old or older and they are out of the labor market. It just does not seem right!

SIGNED:

S. Clifford Brennan, President
 Testifier

AARP, Fairbanks Chapter
 Representing

P.O. Box 80865 Fairbanks AK 99709 479-6742
 Address / Phone Number



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the SSTA
 Committee on HB 62 / SB 117 Conserv. by Bonus Dated 3/27/03
 Bill / Subject

I urge you not to cut the Longevity Bonus. I do work with seniors weekly and know that all the people I work with need this income. Their medical bills are astronomical and they are going up. ^{The} Bonus enables many seniors to age in place, in their own homes, without further assistance. It's a dignity issue. Less of this income will force many to leave Alaska or seek state ~~subsidized~~ subsidized facilities.

SIGNED: HAROLD A. LEVEY Harold A. Levey
 Testifier

Self
 Representing

2790 WALDHEIM DRIVE, FAIRBANKS, AK / 907-458-7161
 Address / Phone Number

FAX To: 907-465-3517 ATT: SENATOR GARY STEVENS, CHAIR



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the

STATE AFFAIRS
committee name

Committee on

SB 117 / LONGEVITY
bill # / subject

, dated

APRIL 3, 2003

COMMENTS: FOR MY WIFE AND I (WHO ARE IN OUR 70's) THE ELIMINATION OF THE LONGEVITY BONUS WOULD RESULT IN AN IMMEDIATE 20% (TWENTY PERCENT) LOSS OF OUR TOTAL INCOME! FOR US (AS FOR MOST PEOPLE) THAT WOULD BE DEVASTATING. WE BELIEVE THE GOVERNOR HAS BEEN ILL ADVISED REGARDING THE LONGEVITY PROGRAM. LOSS OF THIS PROGRAM WILL CAUSE A CHANGE IN LIFESTYLE PLUS POSSIBLE RELOCATION FOR MANY ALASKA SENIOR CITIZENS!

Signed:

(STEPHEN STEVE BOOTH)

Testifier

Representing (optional)

P O BOX 2786 SOLDOTNA, ALASKA 99669
Address

907-262-4790 (FAX: 907-262-2922)

Phone number

CC: SENATOR TOM WAGDNER



APR 09 2002

Alaska State Legislature

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

Committee on SB 117 Eliminate Longevity Bonus, dated April 3, 2003
bill # / subject public hearing date

What a slap in the face to the old timers in Alaska...all 18,000 of them. I cannot believe the new governor would consider something like this. Would the governor, senators & representatives in the state take a \$250 per month cut?

Signed: Earl Miller
Testifier

Self
Representing (optional)

33526 Johnsons Dr Soldotna, AK 99669
Address

262-2718
Phone number



302 Erskine Avenue
Kodiak, Alaska 99615
Tel. 486-6181

APR 07 2002

March 28, 2003

Governor Frank Murkowski
Alaska State Senators
Alaska State Representatives

Longevity Bonus

Dear Gov. Murkowski and Alaska State Legislators,

The following people 60 and older on Kodiak Island oppose Governor Murkowski's proposal to eliminate the Longevity Bonus Program for Alaska seniors.

For many seniors who live on our island, the Longevity Bonus provides a safety net of income that allows seniors to continue to live in our community. Seniors use the amount they receive, whether it is \$250 or \$100 to pay for prescription drugs, rent, food, other staples as well as contributions to charitable organizations and businesses. The Longevity Program is definitely an incentive for seniors to remain in Alaska.

The safety nets that would remain in place if the Longevity Bonus Program was eliminated are Medicaid or Public Assistance and the Choice Medicaid Waiver program for those who are assessed to be needing nursing home care, but who opt to stay in their own homes and receive home and community based care. For a senior whose income is over the Medicaid limit of \$1025 a month or who does not need nursing home care, there are no safety nets. A senior could have only \$15,000 a year as income and not meet the income or medical criteria of the safety net programs mentioned by Governor Murkowski. The additional \$3,000 a year that a senior would continue to receive from the Longevity Bonus Program would help assure that senior to continue to live in our state and contribute to the economy.

Although we greatly appreciate Governor Murkowski's support for the continuation of Medicaid and the Medicaid Waiver Programs, as well as the home and community based, assisted living, Pioneer Homes, and other supportive programs for seniors, the Longevity Bonus continues to meet the basic retirement needs of Alaska seniors. Thank you all for your consideration.

Betty B Reid

BX 713 Kodiak AK 99615

Olaf Omlid

BOX 545 KODIAK AK

3/28

Shuley Lisk

Box 2068

John Bjorkner

Box 1493

Dorothy M. McKelly

Box 2731

Gertrude Larson

Box 669

James Larson

Box 669

Marie Omlid

Box 2746

David Blacketer

1949 MISSION RD #9

Marcella Dillon

Box 461

Nancy E. Anderson

Box 1454

Kodiak

Mary F. Herder

BX 1706

Carlene Mable

BX 374

Sarah Bandy

BX 374

Mary Harvath

Box 952

Janice L. Harvath

Box 952

Ed Gunderson

Box 96

BOTH Gunderson

Box 96

Thomas Frost Jr.

309 Erskine Ave apt 410

Evelyn M. Mortimer

910 WILLOW

Ernest

Emily

Vincent

Helma Betty Crawford

Alvin

Hal Cummins

Edwin Gunderson

Angel

BOX 2064
P.O. Box 205
309 ERSKINE AVE APT. 416
KODIAK, AK. 99615
309 Erskine Ave - #301
Kodiak, AK. 99615
1522 Selvit

1611 Simeonoff St

916 REZANOF

Box 1273 KODIAK AK 99615



302 Erskine Avenue
Kodiak, Alaska 99615
Tel. 486-6181

March 28, 2003

Governor Frank Murkowski
Alaska State Senators
Alaska State Representatives

Dear Gov. Murkowski and Alaska State Legislators,

The Senior Citizens of Kodiak, Inc. Board of Directors oppose Governor Murkowski's proposal to eliminate the Longevity Bonus Program for Alaska seniors.

For many seniors who live on our island, the Longevity Bonus provides a safety net of income that allows seniors to continue to live in our community. Seniors use the amount they receive, whether it is \$250 or \$100 to pay for prescription drugs, rent, food, other staples as well as contributions to charitable organizations and businesses. The Longevity Program is definitely an incentive for seniors to remain in Alaska.

The safety nets that would remain in place if the Longevity Bonus Program was eliminated are Medicaid or Public Assistance and the Choice Medicaid Waiver program for those who are assessed to be needing nursing home care, but who opt to stay in their own homes and receive home and community based care. For a senior whose income is over the Medicaid limit of \$1025 a month or who does not need nursing home care, there are no safety nets. A senior could have only \$15,000 a year as income and not meet the income or medical criteria of the safety net programs mentioned by Governor Murkowski. The additional \$3,000 a year that a senior would continue to receive from the Longevity Bonus Program would help assure that senior to continue to live in our state and contribute to the economy.

Although we greatly appreciate Governor Murkowski's support for the continuation of Medicaid and the Medicaid Waiver Programs, as well as the home and community based, assisted living, Pioneer Homes, and other supportive programs for seniors, the Longevity Bonus continues to meet the basic retirement needs of Alaska seniors. Thank you all for your consideration.

Senior Citizens of Kodiak, Inc. Board of Directors

William Mortimer *Margaret J. Hall* *Elwin Dunbarson*
Bill Cratty *Louise Anderson*
James Brooks *Beryl M. Lassen*



APR 07 2002

State Of Alaska
Legislative Affairs Agency
Kenai LIO
145 Main St Lp Ste 217
Kenai, AK 99611
907-283-2030

Date: 4-3-03

Please accept the enclosed original(s) of written testimony for
the SSTA teleconference hearing that was
scheduled on 4-3-03.

A copy of this testimony was transmitted to your committee via
fax on 4-3-03 & 4-4-03.

Thank you,

MB Byrne



APR 07 2002

Alaska State Legislature

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

Committee on SB 117 Eliminate Longevity Bonus, dated April 3, 2003
bill # / subject public hearing date

Many of our seniors, understand about having to cut budgets. I would ask that all of you that are dealing with this issue tell seniors how you are cutting your income as you are asking seniors to cut ours. Think about it.

We are older our health issues need more medical attention, and those costs are rising, especially in prescription drugs. Heating, electrical and living costs are also on the rise.

Many of our seniors are left alone, having lost their spouses. They find that what they are left with will not meet all the bills. This only leaves them not being able to pay bills or seek income from other State programs.

It makes more sense to most of us that if we are able to survive on our present income, and that we spend this money in this State, that taking away the Longevity Bonus is not wise or responsible.

Thanks for including this in your testimony.

Signed: Irene Chamberlain
Testifier

Representing (optional)
Box 109 Sterling AK 99672
Address
907-262-4193
Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the

SENATE STATE AFFAIRS
committee name

Committee on ^{SB} #117 - Longevity Bonus dated
bill # / subject

4-3-03
public hearing date

Please don't take the Longevity! I was widowed 2 months ago. I found out (because I have had the good fortune to live to a fairly healthy old age) that my ^{share of my} husband's naval pension of \$555 a month has been adjusted to \$376! (Because he didn't die before I was 62 years old) Also my insurance informed me that since I was over 72 years old the amount I could collect, if necessary, would be cut in half!

Fin. slowly, but surely, finding out that in a lot of ways, things aren't always as they seem & that my generation has always paid their way & then more.

Thank you for reading this

Signed:

James M. L. Dentick
Testifier

Representing (optional)

P.O. Box 5 - Sterling, AK. 99672
Address

1-907-262-4737
Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

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

Committee on SB 117 Eliminate Longevity Bonus, dated April 3, 2003
bill # / subject public hearing date

Leave the longevity alone

Signed: Donna L. Paulson
Testifier

Self
Representing (optional)

Box 224 Sitka, Alaska 99672
Address

907-262-5662
Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

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

Committee on SB 117 Eliminate Longevity Bonus, dated April 3, 2003
bill # / subject public hearing date

Don't interfere with the longevity

Signed:

Charles W. Paulson
Testifier

Representing (optional)

Box 224 Sterling, AK. 99672
Address

(907) 262-5662
Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

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

Committee on SB 117 Eliminate Longevity Bonus, dated April 3, 2003
bill # / subject public hearing date

To cut this program or reduce the amount at this time is just another TAX to a select group. It is not needed. The program is self limiting, We old-timers will soon be dead and gone!

If you want to save the state money than do as any large company or coporation does;; Use a percentage cut i.e. ALL DEPARTMENTS CUT.. At lest 10 % each year until the out-go and in-flow are equal.

There is NO department that cannot re-adjust..
There are NO SACRED COWS.

R.W. Bogard

Signed: R.W. BOGARD
Testificr
MANY OLD_TIMERS OF ALASKA
Representing (optional)
Box 1404 Sterling.ak 99672
Address
907-262-4985
Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

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

Committee on SB 117 Eliminate Longevity Bonus, dated April 3, 2003
bill # / subject public hearing date

*Where did the nine hundred million go?
Where would the forty seven million go
Will it go back in to Gen Fund & just disappear
All of our income stays in Alaska*

Signed:

W. C. Jolin
Testifier

Representing (optional)

23213 S Colac Hwy Rd Kaslof, AK 99610
Address

907-262-5884
Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the _____

Senate State Affairs
committee name

Committee on SB 117 Eliminate Longevity Bonus, dated _____
bill # / subject

April 3, 2003
public hearing date

1. We believe that the people who receive the longevity Bonus, depend on it as part of their monthly budget,
 2. We believe the longevity Bonus is instrumental in helping to pay for the costs of medicine. Alaskans pay the highest costs for medicine of all the 50 States.
 3. The longevity recipients are entitled to their dignity. The option of going on Welfare is not an option for most of these long time residents.
 4. This longevity program is eliminating itself. In 10 yrs, the program will be down \$30 million, w/only 17 million left to pay out.
- AARP believes the Longevity Program should not be eliminated!

Signed: Vivian Swanson (Pres. local AARP chapter)
Testifier

AARP

Representing (optional)

PO Box 1483 Soldotna, AK 99669

Address

(907) 260-3966

Phone number

APR 15 2002

April 8, 2003

Re: Longevity Bonus

Janet B. Girard
1245 Scotwood Drive
Wasilla
Alaska 99654

Dear Governor Murkowski:

Yes Governor Murkowski, I am sure all of us eldest seniors, the ones on the longevity bonus, would be happy to lead Alaska in an effort to right Alaska's financial problems and would like to share the load--if we possibly could. But despite our age we still have the urge for self-preservation and many of us are still endeavoring to give worthwhile service to our communities and families. We are not dunderheads only to be patted on the head and be expected to willingly walk the plank to an early death. Despite being conscientious when it comes to our health care--eating correctly, exercising, including being active in the community, for those who still can, and doing all to maintain mental acuity our bodies still continue to degenerate. With this normal aging process we often need medications that are very costly and difficult to afford without help. We deserve the opportunity to fulfill our lives without having to commit suicide.

Many of us cannot qualify for Medicaid (which still is at least partly paid by the state), but yet the exorbitant cost of medicine today makes our survival questionable. Without the longevity bonus, many of us will not be able to make it. It is that vital to us.

Do you really feel that the eldest of Alaskan seniors (age 72-onward) are so unimportant and useless that you are willing to sacrifice us for the extra money Alaska needs, causing us great hardship, and in some cases great pain and needless death for lack of medication or food? Surely there must be another more humane way to scare up the bucks.

Many of our oldest seniors have been the pioneers of Alaska and have given much to the state. The already aging children of these seniors would find it hard to replace the loss of the longevity bonus to their parents. Their younger descendants would be just starting out with their own heavy expenses. What you do to us impacts the lives of many others as well.

Can't we at least end our years in a productive way as long as possible and with dignity? Please don't ask us to die sooner than we need to. We are still worthwhile citizens but most of us unfortunately are unable to bear anymore loads, no matter how much we would like to, and now we ourselves are in need of a helping hand. We have given to Alaska--now we need your help. Please don't condemn us to this catastrophe. Please keep the longevity bonus. We and our families will be eternally grateful.

Sincerely yours,

Janet B. Girard

APR 07 2002

Senator Gary Stevens
Chair Senate State Affairs Committee
State Capitol Room 417
Juneau, Alaska 99801

March 27, 2003

RE: HB 158 and SB 117

Senator Stevens

Some twenty plus years ago, the State Legislature passed a bill creating the Longevity Bonus. And in 1994 they realized the rising costs to the state as additional enrollees were added. Sean Parnell authored a bill to modify the program by means of sun setting the enrollment. No new Alaskan seniors have joined the program since 1997. The seniors that are receiving this bonus, for the most part are on very fixed incomes and after 20 or more years on the program have grown to depend on it as part as their monthly budgets. We are not physically able to seek employment to replace this monthly allotment. We are proud and do not feel that the longevity bonus is like welfare, it is a show of support and recognition for our part in the growth of Alaska, before and since Statehood. The Longevity Bonus *saves us* from having to resort to welfare

I need some one to explain to me how you can take 47 million from the hands of Alaskan Citizens, and not affect the economy. Bang! One fell swoop, and then replace that money in some way that will return that same amount of money back into our everyday economy, without having some severe everyday impact on how people conduct their lives before the elimination of the bonus. The loss of funds to this group does not only affect the seniors but impacts any small business that the recipient spends his or her money. This is truly ugly trickle-down to the gas stations, grocery stores, clothing stores drug stores etc. Our budget items are not for frills but for actual living expenses. This is a monthly shot of 47 million yearly into the cash flow of the state. Not only are you asking the seniors to sacrifice, you are negatively impacting the very people who cater to them for their retail business. I am referring to that group of citizens, the seniors who have been receiving the Longevity Bonus since it's inception. They became eligible for this benefit mainly for their contribution to Alaska and remaining here instead of leaving.

I believe I am now being told by the newly elected Governor and Legislature that I am going to have to sacrifice more to continue to live in the place where I have made my home for the last fifty-three years. I never asked to have this entitlement but it came to be a reality and now I am being told that I must give up this important part of my retirement income, just because these same elected officials have not acted fiscally responsible in the past. They have not faithfully and prudently budgeted for the future. Now I must pay the price if I am going to remain here.

The Longevity Bonus was a promise made to us, and when the program was sun set, I felt doubly promised. Those that were enrolled in the program felt very secure that

the program would continue for them until they died. Every year, the impact of the program is smaller to the state as our seniors age and pass on. I would like to suggest that before you take away our program, you consider funding the Longevity program from the income of the Permanent Fund prior to allocating for the PFD. This way all Alaskans can share in the "sacrifice" not just us senior citizens. Most PFD money is spent for extra's, a vacation, special "toys" or to pay down bills. The senior citizens use their longevity to SURVIVE.

Please consider that a large portion of active senior citizens, at least in Anchorage, volunteer countless hours a year to non-profits, the school district, hospitals, the museum just to name a few places. If you force us to leave the state because we can no longer afford to live here, who will do that work and at what cost.?

Please remember : A promise made is a debt unpaid.

Respectfully



James "Hank" Langman
3921 Astro Circle
Anchorage, AK 99517

Cc: Senator Hollis French
State Capitol - Room 504
Juneau, AK 99801

Senator Ethan Berkowitz
State Capitol-Room 404
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Stevens:

Please read and circulate the letter below
that I sent to Governor Murkowski

Thank you.

April 3, 2003

F. L. Girard

RE: LONGEVITY BONUS

Frank L. Girard
1245 Scctwood Drive
Wasilla
Alaska 99654

Dear Governor Murkowski:

We read your article in the Daily News of March 24 and your
letter to me of March 25.

Many years ago, I started receiving the longevity bonus (LB) that
was a godsend then and now even more so. Without it my wife and I
would lose our home or starve. We are not amused by your argument
that since there are 20,000 post-1996 seniors who don't get the
bonus we should give up ours. "It is unfair to have two classes
of senior citizens." Inequity between two classes is the rule and
not an exception. Consider the difference between the vast
majority of seniors and retired successful politicians. We
understand that your retirement income will be in the five
figures per month at tax-payers' expense. We trust that you will
gladly donate a large chunk of your lavish retirement income for
"education, public safety and safe transportation systems" that
you state in your letter we must give up our LB for.

One could just as well argue that the 20,000 not on the LB
program should be put on it to alleviate the unfairness. If we
lose the LB, it will not help those currently not receiving it to
any noticeable degree.

All LB receivers are now at least well into their 70s. Those
seniors not on the LB program didn't enter the state early enough
or didn't reach 65 soon enough. Therefore the seniors not getting
the LB are younger than those receiving the LB or are recent
entrants to Alaska, hardly to be considered Alaska pioneers.
There is no question that the older one becomes, on average, the
more one's health deteriorates. With failing health comes higher
expenses of many kinds, some crushing. Therefore, this older
group of seniors getting the LB are, in general, in greater need
of it than the younger group not getting the LB.

We think it's appalling that to help make up state financial
shortages you target the most helpless of Alaska's citizens--the
18,000 oldest and sickest of any age group. Perhaps you imagine

that their votes are of little consequence and that many of them are too senile to fight you anyway. I assure you that large numbers of us not only have all our marbles but have even larger numbers of friends and relatives who also vote and have long memories!

Are you sure, Governor Murkowski, that your fiscal policies for Alaska are not driven by the same political motives that drive your man, Bush? Among these are super tax cuts and other financial advantages for the wealthy, the special interests while help for the less fortunate is lacking.

If the state's finances are really so bad that beleaguered seniors are asked to sacrifice, then tax church property. Exempting religion from its fair share of public expense, which the rest of us must make up, violates the First Amendment, separation of church and state. Individual parishioners will not starve or lose their homes if their church is taxed. Another option is a state lottery. Why not? Many states already do this.

We are sure you are reasonable, Governor Murkowski, and that you will reconsider your determination to eliminate the LB.

Sincerely,

Obviously we want the LB left as it is.

We understand there are several LB changes short of elimination being considered - for example, means testing. Several years ago, it ostensibly was shown that means testing for the LB wouldnt be worth the effort. The number of LB seniors who could go without the LB is too small.

Nearly all LB money is spent in Alaska. This must provide some economic stimulus with some of this money eventually returning to the state.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate State Affairs
committee on SB 117, dated 4/03/03.
bill/subject committee name

I DO NOT APPROVE OF BILL #SB 117.
I MAY NOT BE ABLE TO STAY IN ALASKA
IF IT IS PASSED. AND THIS IS TAKEN OUT
OF MY BUDGET.

Signed: Lawrence W Heral
Testifier

Representing (Optional)
P.O. Box 368 Delta Junction
Address
907-895-4825
Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate State Affairs
committee on SB117, dated 4/03/03
bill/subject committee name

I DO NOT APPROVE OF BILL # SB117.
AS I MAY NOT BE ABLE TO CONTINUE
TO LIVE IN ALASKA IF THIS BILL IS
PASSED. MY HUSBAND LAWRENCE
AND I HAVE LIVED HERE FOR 29 YEARS.
AND WE WOULDN'T WANT TO LIVE
ANYWHERE ELSE IN THE WORLD.

Signed:

Catherine M. Aheral
Testifier

Representing (Optional)

Address

P.O. Box 368 Delta Jct. AK 99737

Phone No.

1-907-895-4825



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate State Affairs
 committee on SB 117, dated 4/03/03
 committee name
 bill/subject

The Longevity Bonus: We are told there are 18,000
 People drawing this bonus each month. A fact
 to consider is that the minimum age of these 18,000
 people is 73 years old. What is the life expectancy of this
 group - perhaps 5 years at best, on average.

The program will self eliminate in a very few years so
 why not let it be and it will cancel itself out.

What some may not realize is that the Longevity Bonus is
 the life blood of many rural communities economy.
 That bonus check one person receives is depended upon
 by all the businesses of the community.

The State of Alaska could not, if the best minds in the
 Country were involved, find a better way to support its
 economy than this Bonus Plan.

Signed: Leston McNeil
 Testifier Leston McNeil

Self

Representing (Optional)

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