

SB

4



February 19, 2007

The Honorable Betsy Davis, Chair
Senate Health, Education and Social Services Committee
Alaska State Capitol, Room 30
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

RE: SB 4 (Olson)—Support

Dear Chair Davis:

On behalf of the members of AARP in Alaska, we encourage you and your colleagues on the Senate Health, Education and Social Services Committee to support SB 4, authored by Senator Donald Olson.

SB 4 will extend the SeniorCare Program beyond the sunset date of June 30, 2007 and will increase the monthly cash benefit from \$120 to \$150.

Approximately 7,000 older Alaskans participate in the SeniorCare program. The majority of them were too young to be eligible for the former Longevity Bonus. The majority of new enrollees to SeniorCare have just turned 65. They were low income when they were 64 and are now eligible for SeniorCare to help them cope with the daily costs of living in Alaska and help them remain in our state as they get older. These are not wealthy individuals. The assets test for SeniorCare is \$6,000 for an individual and \$9,000 for a couple. In order to receive the monthly stipend an individual's income must be below \$16,133 annually or \$21,641 for a couple. These income limits were set at 135% of the federal poverty level for 2005. They have not increased since SeniorCare was inaugurated. Because of the flat dollar amount, some eligible seniors are knocked off SeniorCare each year when they receive their Social Security COLA.

We applaud Senator Olson's leadership on this bill, particularly his recommendation of an increase from \$120 to \$150. We hope you and your Committee colleagues would also consider working with Senator Olson to bring the eligibility cap to include increases in

**SENATE COMMITTEE REPORT
First Committee of Referral**

DATE: 1/16/07

FURTHER: Finance

Date of 5-Day Notice: 2/15/07
(in accordance with Uniform Rule 23)

DATE TURNED
IN TO OFFICE: 2/21/07

Health, Education and Social Services Committee considered

SENATE BILL NO. 4

SB 4 SENIOR CARE PROGRAM

"An Act extending the cash assistance benefit program for seniors under the senior care program and increasing the benefit amount; and providing for an effective date."

and recommends:

- be replaced with SCS or CS _____ (_____)
- adopt previous SCS or CS _____ (_____)
- attached amendment(s)
- adopt _____ Letter of Intent
- further referral to _____ Committee

SENATE BILL:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Same Title
<input type="checkbox"/>	New Title
<hr/>	
HOUSE BILL:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Same Title
<input type="checkbox"/>	Technical Title Change
<input type="checkbox"/>	New Title w/ SCR # _____

NEW FISCAL NOTE(S):

PREVIOUS FISCAL NOTE(S):

Department	Date	Final	Index	Page	FN#
HSS	2/13/07	✓			

Department	Date	Final	Index	Page	FN#

APPROPRIATION - no fiscal note

SIGNATURES AND RECOMMENDATIONS	PRINTED LAST NAME	DO NOT PASS	DO NOT RE-PASS	RECOMMEND
<i>[Signature]</i>	Ellis	✓		
<i>[Signature]</i>	Thomas	✓		
<i>[Signature]</i>	Caudley	✓		
<i>[Signature]</i>	Dyson		✓	
CHAIR: <i>[Signature]</i>	Deixis	X		

the federal poverty level. This would move the eligibility level from \$16,133 for a single to \$17,240 and for a couple from \$21,641 to \$23,112.

AARP also recommends consideration of lifting the assets cap beyond the \$6,000 single/\$9,000 couple levels. Older persons tend to save for retirement, including burial expenses. Research tells us that even very low income older persons try to save something each month and many older Alaskans, although we would consider them low income, will try to save enough that they pass the assets cap.

AARP recommends an "AYE" vote on SB 4.

Should you have any questions about our position, please feel free to contact me (586-3637) or Patrick Luby, AARP Advocacy Director (907-762-3314).

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Marie Darlin

Marie Darlin, Coordinator
AARP Capital City Task Force
415 Willoughby Avenue, Apt. 506
Juneau, AK 99801
586-3627 (voice)
463-3580 (fax)

CC: Senator Joe Thomas
Senator John Cowdery
Senator Kim Elton
Senator Fred Dyson
Senator Donald Olson

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

SENATOR DONALD C. OLSON



ALASKA
STATE CAPITOL
ROOM 514
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801-1182

(907) 465-3707
FAX (907) 465-4821

Sponsor Statement for Senate Bill 4

Senate Bill 4 does three things to the Senior Care Program. It eliminates the program's scheduled sunset date of June 30, 2007; removes the underutilized prescription drug benefit; and increases the monthly financial assistance from \$120 to \$150.

The Senior Care Program is strictly a needs based program. To be eligible for the program, the income of applicants, who meet all other eligibility criteria, must not exceed **\$16,133** annually for a one person household and **\$21,641 annually** for a two person household. These amounts are frozen at 135 percent of the 2005 federal poverty guidelines.

Senate Bill 4 covers eligible seniors who may have been part of the Longevity Bonus Program prior to its funding being eliminated, as well as individuals who meet the eligibility criteria. The Department of Health and Social Services estimates that the Senior Care Program currently serves approximately 7,000 seniors with financial assistance. The prescription drug benefit has historically served approximately 140 seniors. The Senior Care Program would run concurrently with any Longevity Bonus Program that may be redeveloped.



Comparison of Qualifications and Benefits

Beginning January 2006 to June 2007

Qualifications

SeniorCare Cash Assistance

Annual Income below 135% of 2005 federal poverty level
\$16,133 Single
\$21,641 Couple

Liquid Assets below
\$6,000 Single
\$9,000 Couple

SeniorCare Prescription Drug Assistance

Annual Income below 175% of 2005 federal poverty level
\$20,913 Single
\$28,053 Couple

Liquid Assets below
\$50,000 Single
\$100,000 Couple

SeniorCare Benefit

\$120 a month cash assistance (up to \$1,440 annual)

Annual Medicare/Comparable Insurance Prescription Drug Premiums and Deductible; \$736, average

This income level is eligible for:

Medicare Benefit (through Social Security Administration's Extra Help Program)

Annual Medicare Premiums and Deductible Covered; \$736, average

Full Medicare Part D drug coverage

**Senior Care Recipients
Count By City/Zipcode
6-Feb-2007**

Residence City	Zipcode	Senior Care Recipients Count	Census Area
AKHIOK	99615	1	KODIAK
AKIACHAK	99551	19	BETHEL
AKIAK	99552	20	BETHEL
AKUTAN	99553	3	ALEUTIANS EAST
ALAKANUK	99534	1	WADE HAMPTON
ALAKANUK	99554	29	WADE HAMPTON
ALEKNAGIK	99555	4	DILLINGHAM
ALLAKAKET	99720	11	YUKON/KOYUKUK
AMBLER	99786	6	NW ARCTIC
ANAKTUVUK PASS	99721	6	NORTH SLOPE
ANCHOR POINT	99556	30	KENAI
ANCHORAGE	99500	1	ANCHORAGE
ANCHORAGE	99501	398	ANCHORAGE
ANCHORAGE	99502	181	ANCHORAGE
ANCHORAGE	99503	186	ANCHORAGE
ANCHORAGE	99504	397	ANCHORAGE
ANCHORAGE	99506	1	ANCHORAGE
ANCHORAGE	99507	294	ANCHORAGE
ANCHORAGE	99508	416	ANCHORAGE
ANCHORAGE	99509	19	ANCHORAGE
ANCHORAGE	99510	19	ANCHORAGE
ANCHORAGE	99511	9	ANCHORAGE
ANCHORAGE	99514	29	ANCHORAGE
ANCHORAGE	99515	159	ANCHORAGE
ANCHORAGE	99516	47	ANCHORAGE
ANCHORAGE	99517	114	ANCHORAGE
ANCHORAGE	99518	59	ANCHORAGE
ANCHORAGE	99519	3	ANCHORAGE
ANCHORAGE	99520	24	ANCHORAGE
ANCHORAGE	99521	4	ANCHORAGE

ANCHORAGE	99522	3
ANCHORAGE	99523	6
ANCHORAGE	99524	12
ANCHORAGE	99528	1
ANCHORAGE	99550	1
ANCHORAGE	99604	1
ANCHORAGE	99695	2
ANDERSON	99744	2
ANGOON	99801	1
ANGOON	99820	25
ANIAK	99557	8
ANVIK	99558	3
ARCTIC VILLAGE	99722	4
ATKA	99547	4
ATMAUTLUAK	99559	9
ATQASUK	99791	2
BARROW	99723	26
BEAVER	99724	5
BETHEL	99559	50
BETTLES	99726	2
BIG LAKE	99652	33
BREVIK MISSION	99785	11
BUCKLAND	99727	7
CANTWELL	99729	3
CENTRAL	99730	1
CHALKYITSIK	99788	6
CHEFORNAK	99561	10
CHEVAK	99563	21
CHICKALOON	99674	1
CHIGNIK	99548	1
CHIGNIK	99564	2
CHIGNIK LAKE	99548	4
CHISTOCHINA	99586	1
CHITINA	99566	1
CHUATHBALUK	99557	1
CHUGIAK	99567	44
CHUGIAK	99577	1

ANCHORAGE
ANCHORAGE
ANCHORAGE
ANCHORAGE
ANCHORAGE
ANCHORAGE
ANCHORAGE
DENALI
SKA/HOO/ANG
SKA/HOO/ANG
BETHEL
YUKON/KOYUKUK
YUKON/KOYUKUK
ALEUTIANS WEST
BETHEL
NORTH SLOPE
YUKON/KOYUKUK
BETHEL
YUKON/KOYUKUK
MAT-SU
NOME
NW ARCTIC
DENALI
YUKON/KOYUKUK
YUKON/KOYUKUK
BETHEL
WADE HAMPTON
MAT-SU
LAKE AND PENINSULA
LAKE AND PENINSULA
LAKE AND PENINSULA
VALDEZ/CORDOVA
VALDEZ/CORDOVA
BETHEL
ANCHORAGE
ANCHORAGE

FAIRBANKS	99710	2
FAIRBANKS	99711	4
FAIRBANKS	99712	36
FAIRBANKS	99724	1
FAIRBANKS	99760	1
FORT RICHARDSON	99505	1
FORT YUKON	99740	19
FORTUNA LEDGE	99585	11
FRITZ CREEK	99603	2
GAKONA	99586	11
GALENA	99741	15
GAMBELL	99742	20
GIRDWOOD	99587	1
GLENNALLEN	99588	9
GOLOVIN	99762	2
GOODNEWS BAY	99589	14
GRAYLING	99590	8
HAINES	99827	39
HEALY	99743	2
HOLLIS	99950	3
HOLY CROSS	99602	5
HOMER	99603	82
HOONAH	99729	1
HOONAH	99829	26
HOOPER BAY	99604	35
HOPE	99605	2
HOUSTON	99654	1
HOUSTON	99684	1
HOUSTON	99694	16
HUGHES	99745	6
HUSLIA	99746	15
HYDABURG	99922	15
HYDER	99523	1
HYDER	99923	2
IGIUGIG	99613	1
ILIAMNA	99606	8
INDIAN	99540	1

FAIRBANKS N STAR
FAIRBANKS N STAR
FAIRBANKS N STAR
FAIRBANKS N STAR
FAIRBANKS N STAR
ANCHORAGE
YUKON/KOYUKUK
WADE HAMPTON
KENAI
VALDEZ/CORDOVA
YUKON/KOYUKUK
NOME
ANCHORAGE
VALDEZ/CORDOVA
NOME
BETHEL
YUKON/KOYUKUK
HAINES
DENALI
PRINCE OF WALES
YUKON/KOYUKUK
KENAI
SKA/HOO/ANG
SKA/HOO/ANG
WADE HAMPTON
KENAI
MAT-SU
MAT-SU
MAT-SU
YUKON/KOYUKUK
YUKON/KOYUKUK
PRINCE OF WALES
PRINCE OF WALES
PRINCE OF WALES
LAKE AND PENINSULA
LAKE AND PENINSULA
ANCHORAGE

JUNEAU	99801	231
JUNEAU	99802	15
JUNEAU	99803	6
JUNEAU	99811	3
KAKE	99830	19
KALSKAG	99607	1
KALSKAG	99626	2
KALSKAG (LOWER)	99607	1
KALSKAG (LOWER)	99626	3
KALSKAG (UPPER)	99607	6
KALTAG	99748	6
KASIGLUK	99609	18
KASILOF	99610	16
KENAI	99611	123
KENAI	99661	1
KENAI	99672	1
KETCHIKAN	99901	153
KETCHIKAN	99950	8
KIANA	99749	11
KING COVE	99612	12
KING SALMON	99613	1
KIPNUK	99614	17
KIVALINA	99750	14
KLAWOCK	99925	26
KOBUK	99751	5
KODIAK	99615	152
KODIAK	99645	1
KOKHANOK	99606	5
KOLIGANEK	99576	9
KONGIGANAK	99559	11
KOTLIK	99620	14
KOTZEBUE	99752	59
KOYUK	99753	15
KOYUKUK	99754	3
KWETHLUK	99121	1
KWETHLUK	99621	24
KWIGILLINGOK	99622	11

JUNEAU	
JUNEAU	
JUNEAU	
JUNEAU	
WRANG/PETERS	
BETHEL	
BETHEL	
BETHEL	
BETHEL	
BETHEL	
YUKON/KOYUKUK	
BETHEL	
KENAI	
KENAI	
KENAI	
KENAI	
KETCHIKAN GATEWAY	
KETCHIKAN GATEWAY	
NW ARCTIC	
ALEUTIANS EAST	
BRISTOL BAY	
BETHEL	
NW ARCTIC	
PRINCE OF WALES	
NW ARCTIC	
KODIAK	
KODIAK	
LAKE AND PENINSULA	
DILLINGHAM	
BETHEL	
WADE HAMPTON	
NW ARCTIC	
NOME	
YUKON/KOYUKUK	
BETHEL	
BETHEL	
BETHEL	

LARSEN BAY	99624	6
LEVELOCK	99625	3
MANLEY HOT SPRINGS	99756	1
MANOKOTAK	99628	16
MCGRATH	99627	9
MCGRATH	99672	1
MEKORYUK	99630	10
MENTASTA LAKE	99780	6
METLAKATLA	99626	1
METLAKATLA	99926	37
MINTO	99758	18
MOOSE PASS	99631	3
MT VILLAGE	99632	33
NAKNEK	99633	5
NANWALEK	99603	1
NAPAKIAK	99634	17
NAPASKIAK	99559	25
NAUKATI BAY	99950	2
NELSON LAGOON	99571	1
NENANA	99760	18
NEW STUYAHOK	99636	19
NEWTOK	99559	15
NIGHTMUTE	99690	8
NIKISKI	99635	12
NIKOLAEVSK	99556	1
NIKOLAI	99691	11
NIKOLSKI	99638	1
NINILCHIK	99639	12
NOATAK	99761	23
NOME	99762	50
NONDALTON	99640	6
NOORVIK	99763	25
NORTH POLE	99701	1
NORTH POLE	99705	62
NORTH POLE	99775	1
NORTHWAY	99764	12
NUIQSUT	99789	2

KODIAK
LAKE AND PENINSULA
YUKON/KOYUKUK
DILLINGHAM
YUKON/KOYUKUK
YUKON/KOYUKUK
BETHEL
VALDEZ/CORDOVA
PRINCE OF WALES
PRINCE OF WALES
YUKON/KOYUKUK
KENAI
WADE HAMPTON
BRISTOL BAY
KENAI
BETHEL
BETHEL
PRINCE OF WALES
ALEUTIANS EAST
YUKON/KOYUKUK
DILLINGHAM
BETHEL
BETHEL
KENAI
KENAI
YUKON/KOYUKUK
ALEUTIANS WEST
KENAI
NW ARCTIC
NOME
LAKE AND PENINSULA
NW ARCTIC
FAIRBANKS N STAR
FAIRBANKS N STAR
FAIRBANKS N STAR
SE FAIRBANKS
NORTH SLOPE

NULATO	99765	22
NUNAM IQUA	99666	6
NUNAPITCHUK	99641	17
OLD HARBOR	99643	8
OUZINKIE	99644	5
PALMER	99645	184
PALMER	99654	2
PALMER	99745	1
PEDRO BAY	99647	1
PERRYVILLE	99648	3
PETERSBURG	99833	19
PILOT STATION	99650	31
PLATINUM	99651	3
POINT BAKER	99927	2
POINT HOPE	99766	17
PORT ALEXANDER	99836	1
PORT GRAHAM	99603	10
PORT HEIDEN	99549	1
PORT LIONS	99550	2
QUINHAGAK	99655	31
RAMPART	99767	4
RED DEVIL	99656	4
RUBY	99768	8
RUSSIAN MISSION	99657	5
SAINT GEORGE	99591	1
SAINT MARYS	99658	25
SALCHA	99714	7
SAND POINT	99661	2
SAVOONGA	99769	39
SCAMMON BAY	99662	17
SELAWIK	99770	18
SELDOVIA	99663	7
SEWARD	99664	37
SHAGELUK	99665	8
SHAKTOOLIK	99771	10
SHISHMAREF	99762	2
SHISHMAREF	99772	18

YUKON/KOYUKUK
WADE HAMPTON
BETHEL
KODIAK
KODIAK
MAT-SU
MAT-SU
MAT-SU
LAKE AND PENINSULA
LAKE AND PENINSULA
WRANG/PETERS
WADE HAMPTON
BETHEL
PRINCE OF WALES
NORTH SLOPE
SITKA
KENAI
LAKE AND PENINSULA
KODIAK
BETHEL
YUKON/KOYUKUK
BETHEL
YUKON/KOYUKUK
WADE HAMPTON
ALEUTIANS WEST
WADE HAMPTON
FAIRBANKS N STAR
ALEUTIANS EAST
NOME
WADE HAMPTON
NW ARCTIC
KENAI
KENAI
YUKON/KOYUKUK
NOME
NOME
NOME

SHISHMAREF	99775	1
SHUNGNAK	99773	10
SITKA	99835	58
SLANA	99586	4
SLEETMUTE	99668	8
SOLDOTNA	99669	123
ST MICHAEL	99659	7
ST PAUL ISLAND	99660	5
STEBBINS	99671	11
STERLING	99672	30
STEVENS VILLAGE	99774	3
STONY RIVER	99557	2
SUTTON	99674	12
TALKEETNA	99676	15
TALKEETNA	99688	1
TANACROSS	99776	7
TANANA	99777	9
TATITLEK	99677	2
TELLER	99762	1
TELLER	99778	11
TENAKEE	99841	1
THORNE BAY	99919	3
TOGIAK	99678	43
TOK	99780	38
TOKSOOK BAY	99637	21
TRAPPER CREEK	99683	6
TULUKSAK	99679	14
TUNTUTULIAK	99680	14
TUNUNAK	99681	13
TWIN HILLS	99576	8
TYONEK	99682	4
UNALAKLEET	99684	21
UNALASKA	99685	7
VALDEZ	99686	21
VENETIE	99781	10
WAINWRIGHT	99782	13
WALES	99783	3

NOME
NW ARCTIC
SITKA
VALDEZ/CORDOVA
BETHEL
KENAI
NOME
ALEUTIANS WEST
NOME
KENAI
YUKON/KOYUKUK
BETHEL
MAT-SU
MAT-SU
MAT-SU
SE FAIRBANKS
YUKON/KOYUKUK
VALDEZ/CORDOVA
NOME
NOME
SKA/HOO/ANG
PRINCE OF WALES
DILLINGHAM
SE FAIRBANKS
BETHEL
MAT-SU
BETHEL
BETHEL
BETHEL
DILLINGHAM
KENAI
NOME
ALEUTIANS WEST
VALDEZ/CORDOVA
YUKON/KOYUKUK
NORTH SLOPE
NOME

WARD COVE	99928	5
WASILLA	99629	15
WASILLA	99645	2
WASILLA	99654	298
WASILLA	99687	66
WHITE MOUNTAIN	99784	8
WHITTIER	99693	5
WILLOW	99509	1
WILLOW	99688	39
WRANGELL	99929	48
YAKUTAT	99689	9
		<hr/>
		7,060

KETCHIKAN GATEWAY
MAT-SU
MAT-SU
MAT-SU
MAT-SU
NOME
VALDEZ/CORDOVA
MAT-SU
MAT-SU
WRANG/PETERS
YAKUTAT

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2007 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: SB004-DH8S-DPA-02-14-07
 Bill Version: SB 4
 () Publish Date: _____
 Dept. Affected: Health & Social Services
 RDU Public Assistance
 Component SeniorCare

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction):
 Title RELATING TO SENIOR CARE

Sponsor OLSON

Requester SENATE (HES)

Component No. 2760

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

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

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims	(3,931.8)	(3,818.4)	(3,703.2)	(3,586.2)	(3,469.2)	(3,350.4)
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	(3,931.8)	(3,818.4)	(3,703.2)	(3,586.2)	(3,469.2)	(3,350.4)

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
-----------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--

CHANGE IN REVENUES (0)						
-------------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--

FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF	(1,549.0)	(1,435.6)	(1,320.4)	(1,203.4)	(1,086.4)	(967.6)
1037 GF/Mental Health						
11189 SeniorCare Fund	(2,382.8)	(2,382.8)	(2,382.8)	(2,382.8)	(2,382.8)	(2,382.8)
Other(Specify Type-do not abbreviate)						
TOTAL	(3,931.8)	(3,818.4)	(3,703.2)	(3,586.2)	(3,469.2)	(3,350.4)

Estimate of any current year (FY2007) cost:

Mark this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2008 budget proposal:

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

The Senior Care program helps low-income seniors over age 65 remain independent in the community by providing an income supplement of \$120 per month to help meet their basic needs, such as food and housing. Nearly 7,000 seniors are currently receiving financial help from the Senior Care Program, and about 140 are receiving help in paying for the premium and deductibles of prescription drug insurance through the prescription drug benefit.

This bill provides for continuation of the Senior Care Program, and increases the monthly income supplement for low income seniors from \$120 per month to \$150 per month. It eliminates the prescription drug benefit (payment of premiums and deductibles) which has had very low enrollment, and keeps the program's income qualifying standards at 135% of the 2005 federal poverty guideline for Alaska (below \$16,133 for an individual, and below \$21,641 for a couple).

Prepared by: Ellie Fitzjarrald, Acting Director
 Division: Public Assistance
 Approved by: Karleen Jackson, Commissioner
 Agency: Department of Health and Social Services

Phone 465-5847
 Date/Time 02/13/2007
 Date 02/14/2007

FISCAL NOTE
FN #

STATE OF ALASKA
2007 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

ANALYSIS CONTINUATION
Assumptions

- * The Alaska Longevity Bonus (ALB) Program will be reopened and funded in FY08.
- * This fiscal note makes the assumptions that seniors who qualify for the ALB will not qualify for SeniorCare, and that seniors who formerly received an ALB payment of at least \$150 will elect to receive the higher ALB payment instead of SeniorCare.
- * 2,208 former ALB recipients received an ALB payment of \$150 or more during the phase-out of the ALB program.
- * During FY09-FY13, the number of seniors receiving help from the Senior Care Program will grow at a rate of 1.3%/year (based on 6-year average rate of growth in the old age component of the APA program).

FY	Caseload	1.3% Growth	Revised Caseload	Less ALB	Total	Cost Total x 150 x 12
FY08	7,043		7,043	(2,208)	4,835	\$8,703.0
FY09	4,835	63	4,898		4,898	\$8,816.4
FY10	4,898	64	4,962		4,962	\$8,931.6
FY11	4,962	65	5,027		5,027	\$9,048.6
FY12	5,027	65	5,092		5,092	\$9,165.6
FY13	5,092	66	5,158		5,158	\$9,284.4

Administration

There are no additional administrative costs for operating the Senior Care Program. These costs are included in the Governor's FY08 budget.

January 31, 2007

Richard:

Attached is a Hearing Request for SB 4 the Senior Benefit Program. I wanted to get this request to you today, as I know you will be hearing from people/groups who are interested in seeing the legislation move along.

Unfortunately, I have not completed gathering all of the data for the Sponsor Statement, so it is not included here. I hope to have it to you by Friday afternoon.

Also, I am unable to furnish you with the teleconference information at this time. I would like to request, though, that Anchorage and Fairbanks be included, and that you check the box for "Other Sites May Add" on the teleconference order form.

We look forward to presenting this bill to the HESS Committee, and would appreciate your consideration of an early hearing date for this important piece of legislation.

Ginny Austerma
for Senator Donald Olson

Feb 19

Alaska State Legislature



Out of Session:
PO Box 531
Golovin, Alaska 99762
(907) 443-5599

In Session:
State Capitol, Suite 510
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182
(800) 597-3707
(907) 465-3707
(907) 465-4821 Fax

SENATOR DONALD C. OLSON

DISTRICT T

Alakanuk
Ambler
Anaktuvuk Pass
Atkasuk
Barrow
Brevig Mission
Brookerville
Buckland
Chevak
Deering
Diomedes
Elim
Emmonak
Gambell
Golovin
Hooper Bay
Kaktovik
Kiana
Kivalina
Kobuk
Kotik
Kotzebue
Koyuk
Mountain Village
Noatak
Nome
Noorvik
Nuqsut
Nunam Iqua
Pilot Station
Ptka's Point
Point Hope
Point Lay
 Savoonga
Scammon Bay
Selawik
Shaktolik
Shishmaref
Shungnak
St. Mary's
St. Michael
Stebbins
Teller
Unalakleet
Wainwright
Wales
White Mountain

January 31, 2007

TO: Senator Bettye Davis, Chair
Health, Education & Social Services Committee

FROM: Senator Donald Olson

*Senator Donald Olson
by Ga*

SUBJECT: Hearing Request SB 4

SB 4, "An act extending the cash assistance benefit program for seniors under the senior care program and increasing the benefit amount," has been referred to your committee.

I respectfully request a hearing for this important legislation.

I would appreciate the scheduling of a Health, Education & Social Services Committee hearing of SB 4 at your earliest convenience. Attached is sponsor statement and support documentation. If you require additional information, please contact myself or Ginny Austerman in my office.

Thank you for your attention to this request.