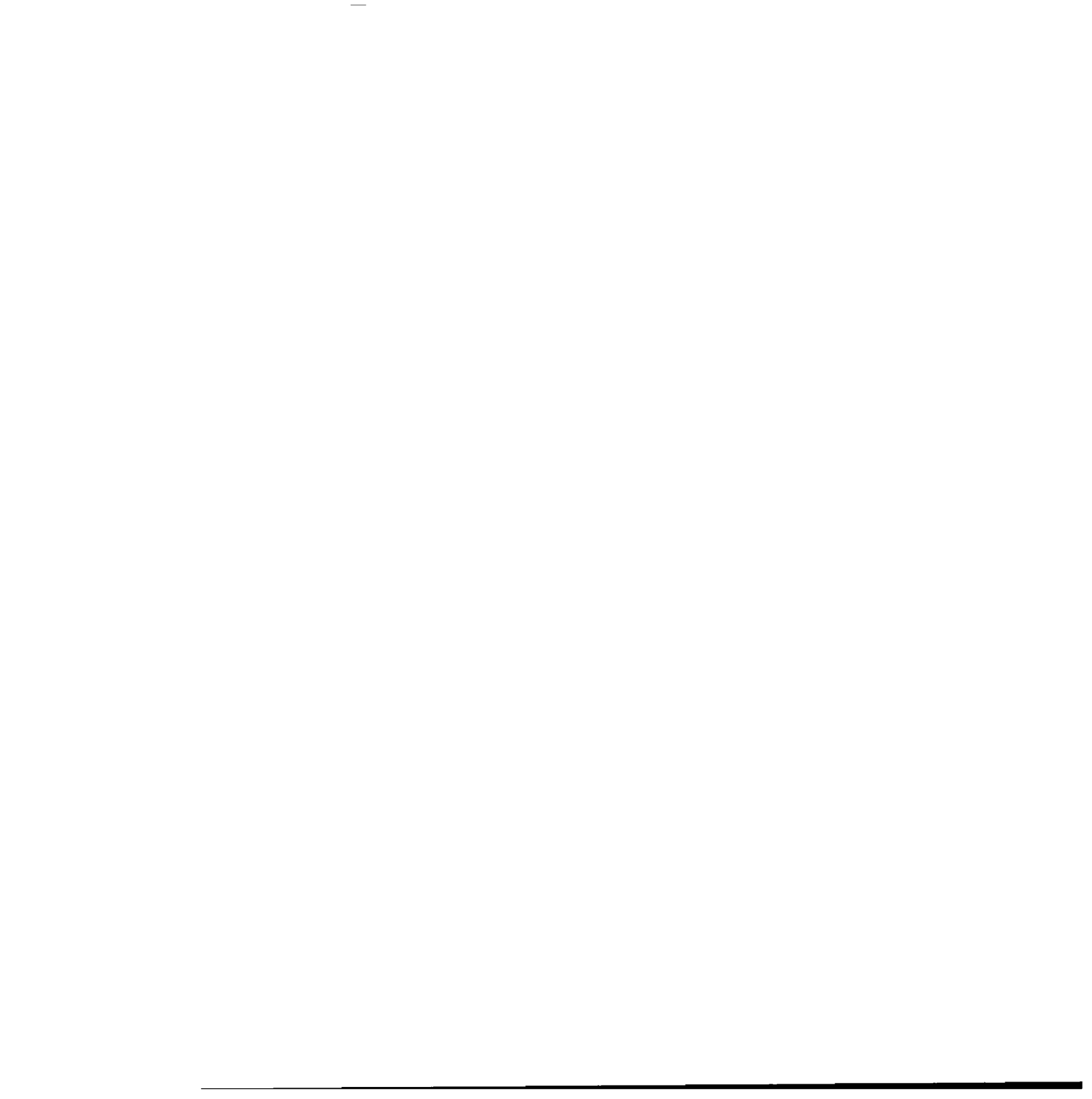


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HOUSE BILL NO. 226

**IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION**

BY REPRESENTATIVE HAWKER

Introduced: 1/8/16

Referred: Prefiled

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act extending the termination date of the Alaska Commission on Aging; and**
2 **providing for an effective date."**

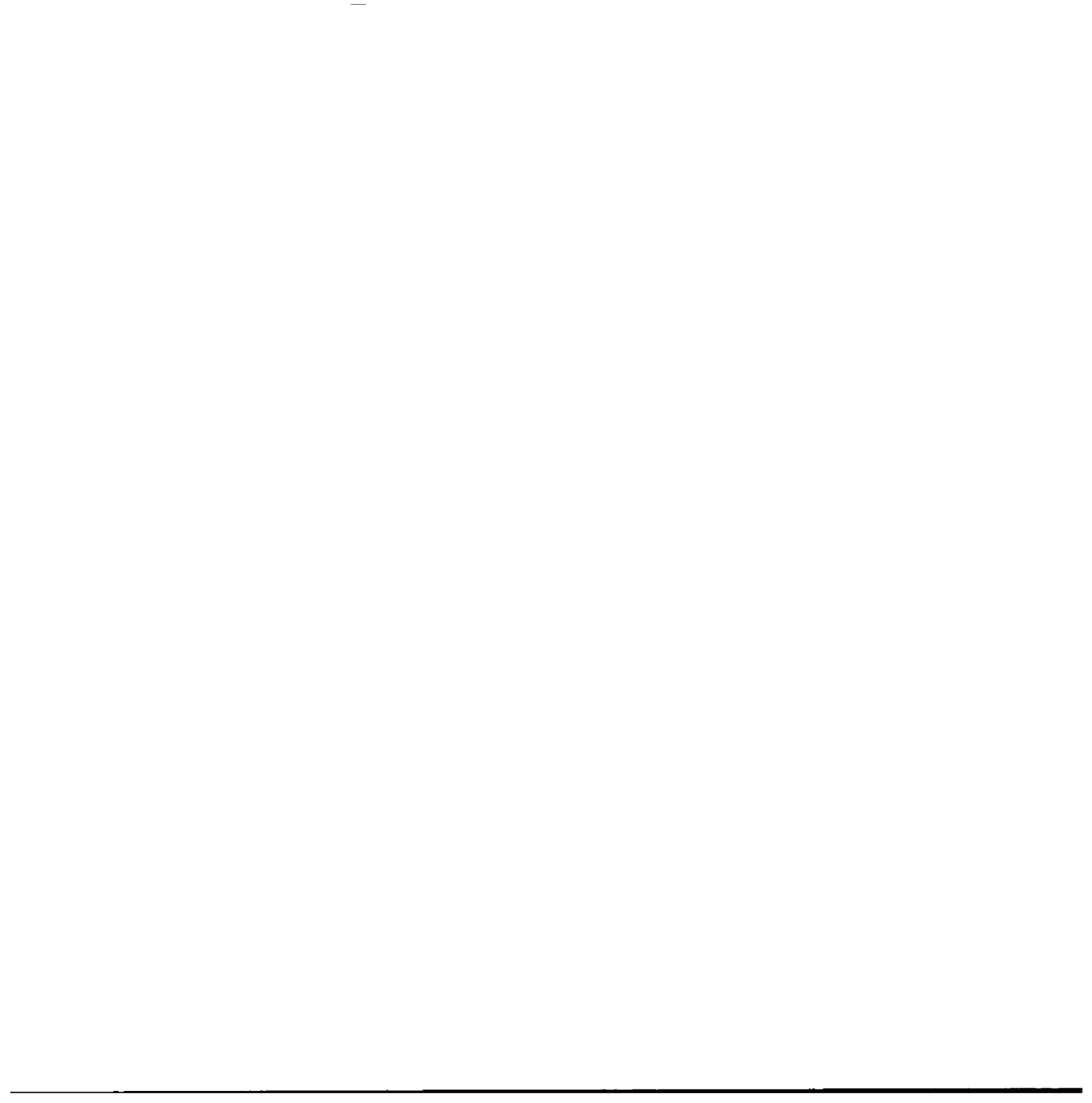
3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

4 *** Section 1. AS 44.66.010(a)(4) is amended to read:**

5 **(4) Alaska Commission on Aging (AS 47.45.200) - June 30, 2024**

6 **[2016];**

7 *** Sec. 2. This Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).**





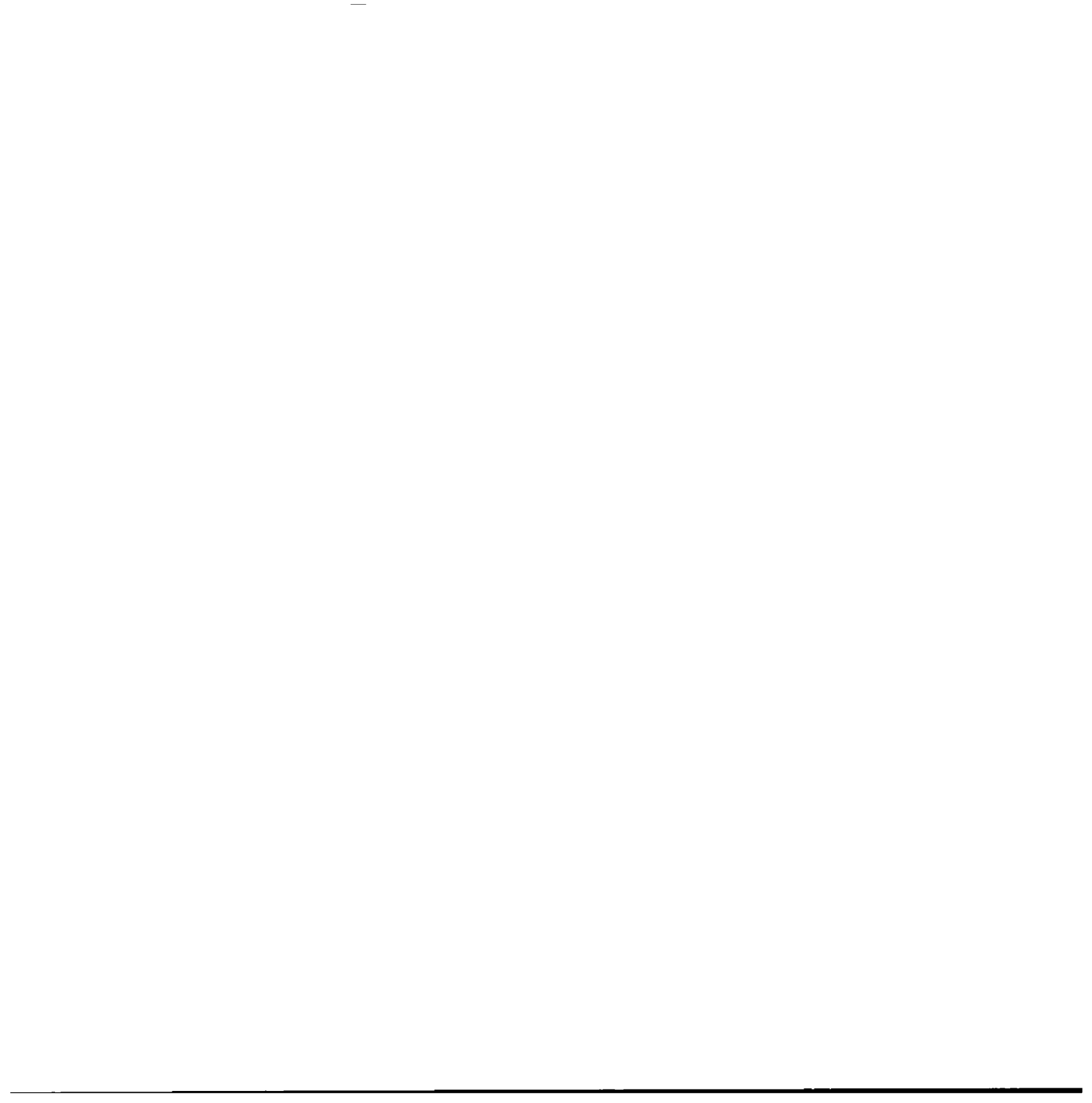
House Bill 226 Sponsor Statement

Short Title: Extend Alaska Commission on Aging

House Bill 226 would extend the Alaska Commission on Aging for eight years, until June 30, 2024, based on the recommendations of the Legislative Auditor to the Legislative Budget and Audit Committee.

The recently completed audit found that the Alaska Commission on Aging is serving the public's interest by formulating and approving the comprehensive State Plan for Senior Services; advocating for older Alaskans; providing education programs; making recommendations to the legislature and the governor on legislation, appropriations, programs and services for seniors; and serving as a federally recognized advisory council to satisfy the requirement of the Older Americans Act, allowing Alaska to receive federal funding through the Administration on Community Living.

House Bill 226 is supported by many organizations including the AARP, Access Alaska, Alzheimer's Resource of Alaska, Anchorage Senior Activity Center, Coalition of Mat-Su Senior Centers, Denakkanaaga, Inc., Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education, Office of the Long Term Care Ombudsman, Mat-Su Council on Aging, Municipality of Anchorage – Senior Citizens Advisory Commission, North Star Council on Aging, Senior Citizens of Kodiak, Inc., and Soldotna Area Seniors, Inc.



Identifier: HB226-DHSS-COA1-25-16
Title: EXTEND ALASKA COMMISSION ON AGING
Sponsor: HAWKER
Requester: House HSS

Department: Department of Health and Social Services
Appropriation: Senior and Disabilities Services
Allocation: Commission on Aging
OMB Component Number: 2674

Expenditures/Revenues

Note: Amounts do not include Inflation unless otherwise noted below. (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY2017 Appropriation Requested	Included in Governor's FY2017 Request	Out-Year Cost Estimates					
			FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022
OPERATING EXPENDITURES								
Personal Services		478.8	478.8	478.8	478.8	478.8	478.8	478.8
Travel		37.7	37.7	37.7	37.7	37.7	37.7	37.7
Services		19.2	19.2	19.2	19.2	19.2	19.2	19.2
Commodities		4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0
Capital Outlay								
Grants & Benefits								
Miscellaneous								
Total Operating	0.0	539.7	539.7	539.7	539.7	539.7	539.7	539.7

Fund Source (Operating Only)

1004 Gen Fund		42.9	42.9	42.9	42.9	42.9	42.9	42.9
1007 I/A Rcpts		348.1	348.1	348.1	348.1	348.1	348.1	348.1
1037 GF/MH		29.6	29.6	29.6	29.6	29.6	29.6	29.6
1092 MHTAAR		119.1	119.1	119.1	119.1	119.1	119.1	119.1
Total	0.0	539.7	539.7	539.7	539.7	539.7	539.7	539.7

Positions

Full-time		4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0
Part-time							
Temporary							

Change in Revenues							
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Estimated SUPPLEMENTAL (FY2016) cost: 0.0 (separate supplemental appropriation required)
(discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

Estimated CAPITAL (FY2017) cost: 0.0 (separate capital appropriation required)
(discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

ASSOCIATED REGULATIONS

Does the bill direct, or will the bill result in, regulation changes adopted by your agency? No
If yes, by what date are the regulations to be adopted, amended or repealed? n/a

Why this fiscal note differs from previous version:

Corrected fund sources.

Analysis

Legislation is needed to reauthorize the Alaska Commission on Aging for eight years.

The Alaska Commission on Aging satisfies a requirement of the federal Older Americans Act (OAA). States receiving OAA funding are required to have an advisory council that:

- Must be comprised of older individuals eligible to participate in OAA-funded programs;
- Advises the "state unit on aging" regarding matters of aging issues. In Alaska, the Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) is the state unit on aging as designated by the Governor. The Alaska Commission on Aging serves as the advisory council to DHSS and satisfies this federal requirement.

The commission consists of eleven seats and has a staff of four full-time employees.

The Older Americans Act provided approximately \$11 million in funding for Alaska's senior programs in FY2016. This funding supports a variety of services for seniors such as the Office of the Long-Term Care Ombudsman, the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation senior housing office, the Department of Labor's Mature Alaskans Seeking Skills Training program, and Nutrition, Transportation, and Support Services grants issued through the Division of Senior and Disabilities Services.

The proposed legislation would amend AS 44.66.010(a)(4) to extend the Commission's sunset date by eight years to June 30, 2024.

The Commission is funded in part (\$348.1) by a reimbursable services agreement from the Senior and Disabilities Services Administration component. A small part (\$73.5) of that Senior and Disabilities Services Administration RSA funding is drawn from a Title III Older Americans Act grant from the federal OHHS Administration for Community Living.

Identifier: HB226-DHSS-SDSA-2-4-16
 Title: EXTEND ALASKA COMMISSION ON AGING
 Sponsor: HAWKER
 Requester: House HSS

Department: Department of Health and Social Services
 Appropriation: Senior and Disabilities Services
 Allocation: Senior and Disabilities Services Administration
 OMB Component Number: 2663

Expenditures/Revenues

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

(Thousands of Dollars)

	FY2017 Appropriation Requested	Included in Governor's FY2017 Request	Out-Year Cost Estimates					
			FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022
OPERATING EXPENDITURES								
Personal Services		248.0	248.0	248.0	248.0	248.0	248.0	248.0
Travel		1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4
Services		520.2	520.2	520.2	520.2	520.2	520.2	520.2
Commodities		0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
Capital Outlay								
Grants & Benefits								
Miscellaneous								
Total Operating	0.0	769.9	769.9	769.9	769.9	769.9	769.9	769.9

Fund Source (Operating Only)

1002 Fed Rcpts		603.2	603.2	603.2	603.2	603.2	603.2	603.2
1004 Gen Fund		166.7	166.7	166.7	166.7	166.7	166.7	166.7
Total	0.0	769.9	769.9	769.9	769.9	769.9	769.9	769.9

Positions

Full-time		2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
Part-time							
Temporary							

Change in Revenues							

Estimated SUPPLEMENTAL (FY2016) cost: 0.0 (separate supplemental appropriation required)
 (discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

Estimated CAPITAL (FY2017) cost: 0.0 (separate capital appropriation required)
 (discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

ASSOCIATED REGULATIONS

Does the bill direct, or will the bill result in, regulation changes adopted by your agency? No
 If yes, by what date are the regulations to be adopted, amended or repealed? n/a

Why this fiscal note differs from previous version:

Not applicable; initial version.

Analysis

The proposed legislation would amend AS 44.66.010(a)(4) to extend the Commission's sunset date by eight years to June 30, 2024

The federal government, through its Department of Health and Human Services Administration on Aging, provides funding to support services for individuals over the age of 60 as required by the Older Americans Act (OAA). To be eligible to receive OAA funding, each state must designate a "state unit on aging" and develop a state plan. The State of Alaska has designated Health and Social Services as its state unit on aging.

The operations of Alaska's state unit on aging are carried out jointly by DHSS' Division of Senior and Disabilities Services (DSDS) and the Commission on Aging. DSDS administers state and federally funded grant programs. The commission is responsible for developing the state plan and performing advocacy, outreach, and educational activities.

In accordance with DAA Section 305, a state may be divided into a number of planning and service areas or, as in the case of Alaska, be a single planning and service area. OAA Section 306 (a)(6)(D) requires that planning and service agencies:

(D) establish an advisory council consisting of older individuals (including minority individuals and older individuals residing in rural areas) who are participants or who are eligible to participate in programs assisted under this Act, family caregivers of such individuals, representatives of older individuals, service providers, representatives of the business community, local elected officials, providers of veterans' health care (if appropriate), and the general public, to advise continuously the area agency on aging on all matters relating to the development of the area plan, the administration of the plan and operations conducted under the plan;

In Alaska, the commission serves as the "advisory council."

The Senior and Disabilities Services Administrative component receives \$603.2 in Older Americans Act funding, requiring \$166.7 in state match:

\$248.0 Personal Services to fund two Health Program Manager II Positions (PCN 02-1515, 06-2342)

\$1.4 Travel for site reviews

\$520.2 Services

\$0.3 Commodities

Identifier: HB226-DHSS-SCBG-2-4-16
 Title: EXTEND ALASKA COMMISSION ON AGING
 Sponsor: HAWKER
 Requester: House HSS

Department: Department of Health and Social Services
 Appropriation: Senior and Disabilities Services
 Allocation: Senior Community Based Grants
 OMB Component Number: 2787

Expenditures/Revenues

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

(Thousands of Dollars)

	FY2017 Appropriation Requested	Included in Governor's FY2017 Request	Out-Year Cost Estimates					
			FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022
OPERATING EXPENDITURES								
Personal Services								
Travel								
Services								
Commodities								
Capital Outlay								
Grants & Benefits		6,803.4	6,803.4	6,803.4	6,803.4	6,803.4	6,803.4	6,803.4
Miscellaneous								
Total Operating	0.0	6,803.4	6,803.4	6,803.4	6,803.4	6,803.4	6,803.4	6,803.4

Fund Source (Operating Only)

1002 Fed Rcpts		5,771.3	5,771.3	5,771.3	5,771.3	5,771.3	5,771.3
1004 Gen Fund		1,032.1	1,032.1	1,032.1	1,032.1	1,032.1	1,032.1
Total	0.0	6,803.4	6,803.4	6,803.4	6,803.4	6,803.4	6,803.4

Positions

Full-time							
Part-time							
Temporary							

Change in Revenues							

Estimated SUPPLEMENTAL (FY2016) cost: 0.0 (separate supplemental appropriation required)
 (discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

Estimated CAPITAL (FY2017) cost: 0.0 (separate capital appropriation required)
 (discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

ASSOCIATED REGULATIONS

Does the bill direct, or will the bill result in, regulation changes adopted by your agency? No
 If yes, by what date are the regulations to be adopted, amended or repealed? n/a

Why this fiscal note differs from previous version:

Not applicable; initial version.

Analysis

The proposed legislation would amend AS 44.66.010(a)(4) to extend the Commission's sunset date by eight years to June 30, 2024

The federal government, through its Department of Health and Human Services Administration on Aging, provides funding to support services for individuals over the age of 60 as required by the Older Americans Act (OAA). To be eligible to receive OAA funding, each state must designate a "state unit on aging" and develop a state plan. The State of Alaska has designated Health and Social Services as its state unit on aging.

The operations of Alaska's state unit on aging are carried out jointly by DHSS' Division of Senior and Disabilities Services (DSDS) and the Commission on Aging. DSDS administers state and federally funded grant programs. The commission is responsible for developing the state plan and performing advocacy, outreach, and educational activities.

In accordance with OAA Section 305, a state may be divided into a number of planning and service areas or, as in the case of Alaska, be a single planning and service area. OAA Section 306 (a)(6)(D) requires that planning and service agencies:

(D) establish an advisory council consisting of older individuals (including minority individuals and older individuals residing in rural areas) who are participants or who are eligible to participate in programs assisted under this Act, family caregivers of such individuals, representatives of older individuals, service providers, representatives of the business community, local elected officials, providers of veterans' health care (if appropriate), and the general public, to advise continuously the area agency on aging on all matters relating to the development of the area plan, the administration of the plan and operations conducted under the plan;

In Alaska, the commission serves as the "advisory council."

The commission consists of eleven seats and has a staff of four full-time employees.

The Senior Community Based Grants component receives \$5,771.3 in Older American's Act funding, requiring \$1,032.1 in state match dollars. These dollars target the following grant programs:

- National Family Caregiver Support
- Health Promotion and Disease Prevention
- Nutrition, Transportation and Support Services for seniors
- Nutrition Supplement Incentive Program Provider Agreements
- Nutrition Incentive Program for Senior Meals through Schools

Identifier: HB226-DHSS-COA-2-4-16
 Title: EXTEND ALASKA COMMISSION ON AGING
 Sponsor: HAWKER
 Requester: House HSS

Department: Department of Health and Social Services
 Appropriation: Senior and Disabilities Services
 Allocation: Commission on Aging
 OMB Component Number: 2674

Expenditures/Revenues

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY2017 Appropriation Requested	Included in Governor's FY2017 Request	Out-Year Cost Estimates					
			FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022
OPERATING EXPENDITURES								
Personal Services		478.8	478.8	478.8	478.8	478.8	478.8	478.8
Travel		37.7	37.7	37.7	37.7	37.7	37.7	37.7
Services		19.2	19.2	19.2	19.2	19.2	19.2	19.2
Commodities		4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0
Capital Outlay								
Grants & Benefits								
Miscellaneous								
Total Operating	0.0	539.7	539.7	539.7	539.7	539.7	539.7	539.7

Fund Source (Operating Only)

1004 Gen Fund		42.9	42.9	42.9	42.9	42.9	42.9	42.9
1007 I/A Rcpts		348.1	348.1	348.1	348.1	348.1	348.1	348.1
1037 GF/MH		29.6	29.6	29.6	29.6	29.6	29.6	29.6
1092 MHTAAR		119.1	119.1	119.1	119.1	119.1	119.1	119.1
Total	0.0	539.7	539.7	539.7	539.7	539.7	539.7	539.7

Positions

Full-time		4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0
Part-time								
Temporary								

Change in Revenues								
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Estimated SUPPLEMENTAL (FY2016) cost: 0.0 *(separate supplemental appropriation required)*
(discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

Estimated CAPITAL (FY2017) cost: 0.0 *(separate capital appropriation required)*
(discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

ASSOCIATED REGULATIONS

Does the bill direct, or will the bill result in, regulation changes adopted by your agency? No
 If yes, by what date are the regulations to be adopted, amended or repealed? n/a

Why this fiscal note differs from previous version:

The narrative description has been updated.

Analysis

The proposed legislation would amend AS 44.66.010(a)(4) to extend the Commission's sunset date by eight years to June 30, 2024

The federal government, through its Department of Health and Human Services Administration on Aging, provides funding to support services for individuals over the age of 60 as required by the Older Americans Act (OAA). To be eligible to receive OAA funding, each state must designate a "state unit on aging" and develop a state plan. The State of Alaska has designated Health and Social Services as its state unit on aging.

The operations of Alaska's state unit on aging are carried out jointly by DHSS' Division of Senior and Disabilities Services (DSDS) and the Commission on Aging. DSDS administers state and federally funded grant programs. The commission is responsible for developing the state plan and performing advocacy, outreach, and educational activities.

In accordance with OAA Section 305, a state may be divided into a number of planning and service areas or, as in the case of Alaska, be a single planning and service area. OAA Section 306 (a)(6)(D) requires that planning and service agencies:

(D) establish an advisory council consisting of older individuals (including minority individuals and older individuals residing in rural areas) who are participants or who are eligible to participate in programs assisted under this Act, family caregivers of such individuals, representatives of older individuals, service providers, representatives of the business community, local elected officials, providers of veterans' health care (if appropriate), and the general public, to advise continuously the area agency on aging on all matters relating to the development of the area plan, the administration of the plan and operations conducted under the plan;

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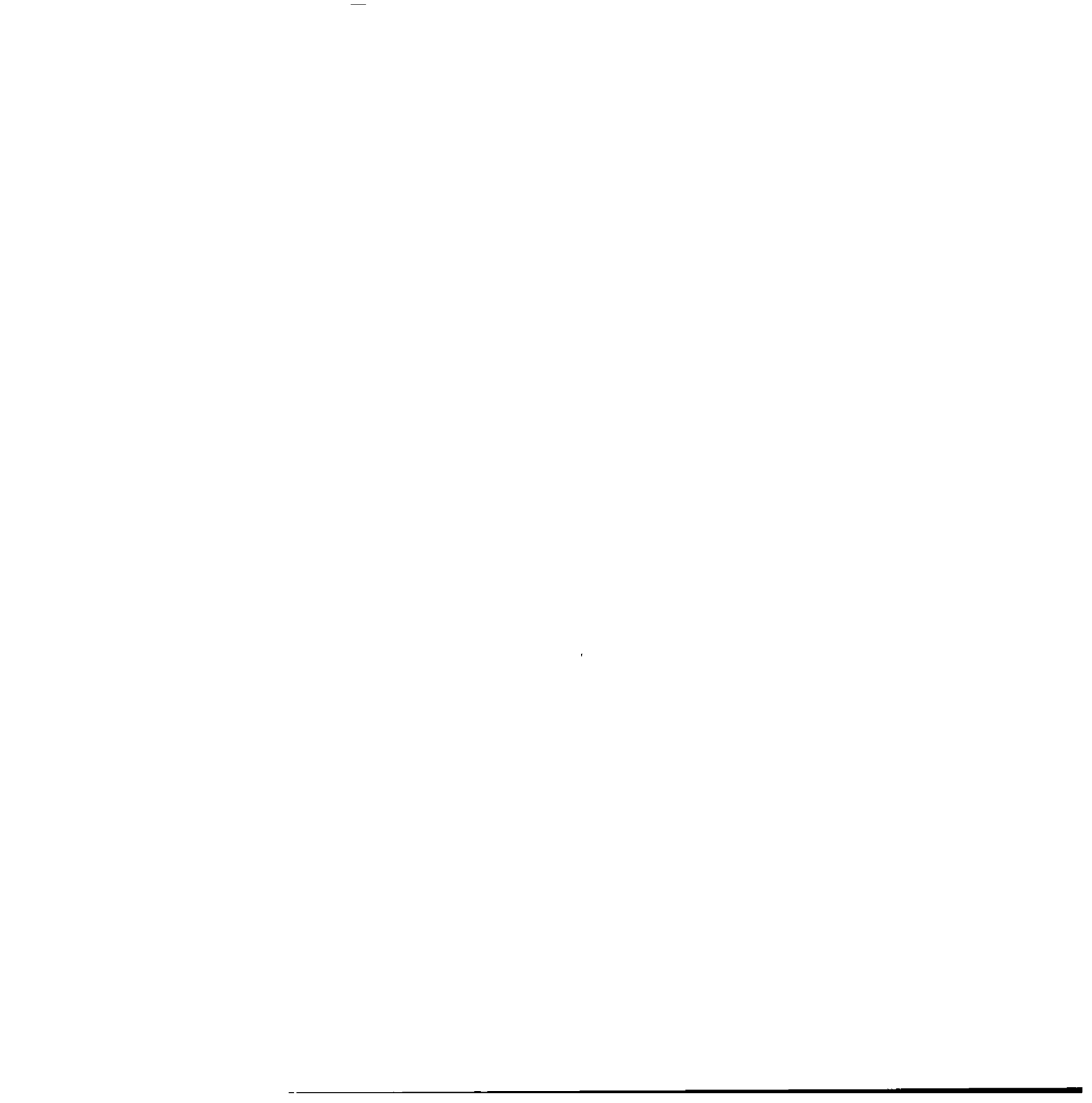
The commission consists of eleven seats and has a staff of four full-time employees.

The commission is funded in part (\$348.1) by a reimbursable services agreement from the Senior and Disabilities Services Administration component. A small part (\$73.5) of that Senior and Disabilities Services Administration RSA funding is drawn from a Title III Older Americans Act grant from the federal DHHS Administration for Community Living.



Alaska Commission on Aging Fact Sheet

- The Alaska Commission on Aging (ACoA) is an 11 member advisory council whose mission is to ensure the dignity and independence of all older Alaskans, and to assist them to lead useful and meaningful lives through planning, advocacy, education, and interagency cooperation.
- The Alaska Commission on Aging satisfies a requirement of the federal Older Americans Act (OAA), allowing Alaska to receive almost \$11 million in federal funding in FY16. The requirements are that the council must:
 - Be comprised of older individuals eligible to participate in OAA-funded programs;
 - Advise the "state agency on aging" regarding matters of aging issues. In Alaska, the Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) is the state agency on aging as designated by the Governor.
- The Alaska Commission on Aging develops the comprehensive *Alaska State Plan on Senior Services*, makes recommendations on legislation and appropriations beneficial for older Alaskans, and provides education/outreach regarding matters related to aging.
- The Alaska Commission on Aging also serves as a statutory advisory board to the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority (AMHTA) and advises the AMHTA on the needs of older Alaskans with cognitive impairments, including Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. The Commission, in partnership with the AMHTA and other agencies, published *Alaska's Roadmap to Address Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias (2015)*. The Commission also makes recommendations to the AMHTA Board of Trustees regarding mental health programs for Senior Trust Beneficiaries (older people with dementia and other cognitive impairments) and the use of funds that benefit this vulnerable population.
- The Alaska Commission on Aging serves as an advocate and educator regarding the needs of Alaska's older people to help ensure the dignity, health, safety, and independence of Alaska's seniors. In collaboration with partners, the Commission coordinated the *Power of Aging Symposium*, to provide information about senior issues, in addition to the *Alaska Senior Housing Summit*, which was the first and only summit devoted to a discussion of senior housing in Alaska. The Commission hosts regular community forums to encourage senior citizen input on issues affecting them and sponsors the bi-weekly statewide senior legislative advocacy teleconferences during session to examine and discuss legislation of interest to seniors.
- Legislative Audit conducted a sunset audit of the Commission in 2015, concluding that the Commission is serving the public's interest by helping older Alaskans lead dignified, independent, and useful lives and that the Commission meets the federal requirement for each state to establish an advisory council to advise the state on matters related to aging.
- The Commission's FY2016 budget is \$542,700 (\$45.9 GF; \$348.1 Interagency Receipts that include federal pass-through funds; \$29.6 GF/MH; and \$119.1 MHTAAR). The commission consists of eleven members and has a staff of four full-time employees.



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Term: Serves on ACoA Board in the designated seat for the
Pioneer Home Advisory Board Chair

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Term Expires: 9/1/2017

ALL 11 SEATS VOTE (6 = A QUORUM)
ACoA Staff
Denise Daniello, Executive Director
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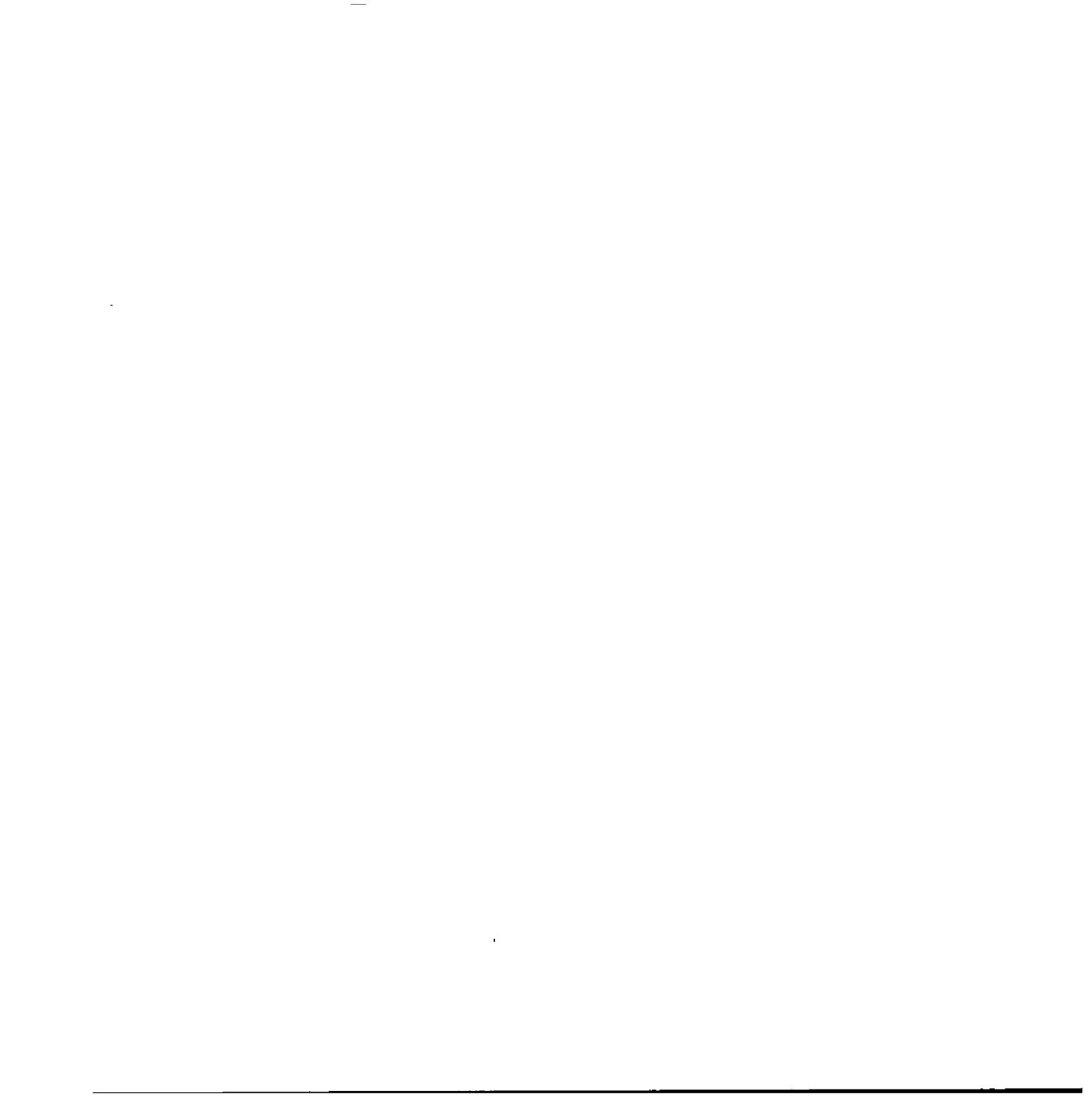
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Alaska Commission on Aging
P.O. Box 110693
Juneau, AK 99811-0693

www.alaskaging.com



06-20090-15

SUMMARY
OF:

A Sunset Review of the Department of Health and Social Services,
Alaska Commission on Aging

Why DLA Performed This Audit

The purpose of this audit was to determine if there is a demonstrated public need for the commission's continued existence and whether its termination date should be extended. Currently the commission will terminate on June 30, 2016, and will have one year from that date to conclude its administrative operations.

Report Conclusions

Overall, the audit concluded that the Alaska Commission on Aging (commission) is serving the public's interest by helping older Alaskans lead dignified, independent, and useful lives through advocacy, outreach, and education. Furthermore, the commission meets the federal requirement that each state establish an advisory council to advise the state on aging matters. We recommend that the commission's termination date be extended eight years to June 30, 2024.

Analysis of Public Need

The commission has operated in the public's interest by formulating and approving a comprehensive statewide plan — the State Plan for Senior Services. The plan identifies and addresses the concerns and needs of older Alaskans, and fulfills a federal requirement necessary to receive Administration on Aging grant funding.

The commission has also operated in the public's interest by serving as an advocate for, and educator on, the needs of older Alaskans. The commission submitted over 50 recommendations to the legislature and governor regarding legislation and appropriations for programs or services that benefit older Alaskans. Furthermore, the commission collaborated with several state and local organizations on commission projects including development of the State Plan for Senior Services and sponsoring educational and outreach events.

The audit identified two operational changes that would allow the commission to better serve the public's interests.

Findings and Recommendations

1. The commission's executive director should implement and follow procedures to public notice all commission meetings.
2. The commission's chairperson should review and approve the legislation watch list prior to distribution.



Alaska Commission on Aging

April 10, 2015

Audit Control Number 06-20090-15

Why DLA Performed This Audit

The purpose of this audit was to determine if there is a demonstrated public need for the commission's continued existence and whether its termination date should be extended. Currently the commission will terminate on June 30, 2016, and will have one year from that date to conclude its administrative operations.

What DLA Recommends

1. The commission's executive director should implement and follow procedures to public notice all commission meetings.
2. The commission's chairperson should review and approve the legislation watch list prior to distribution.

REPORT CONCLUSIONS

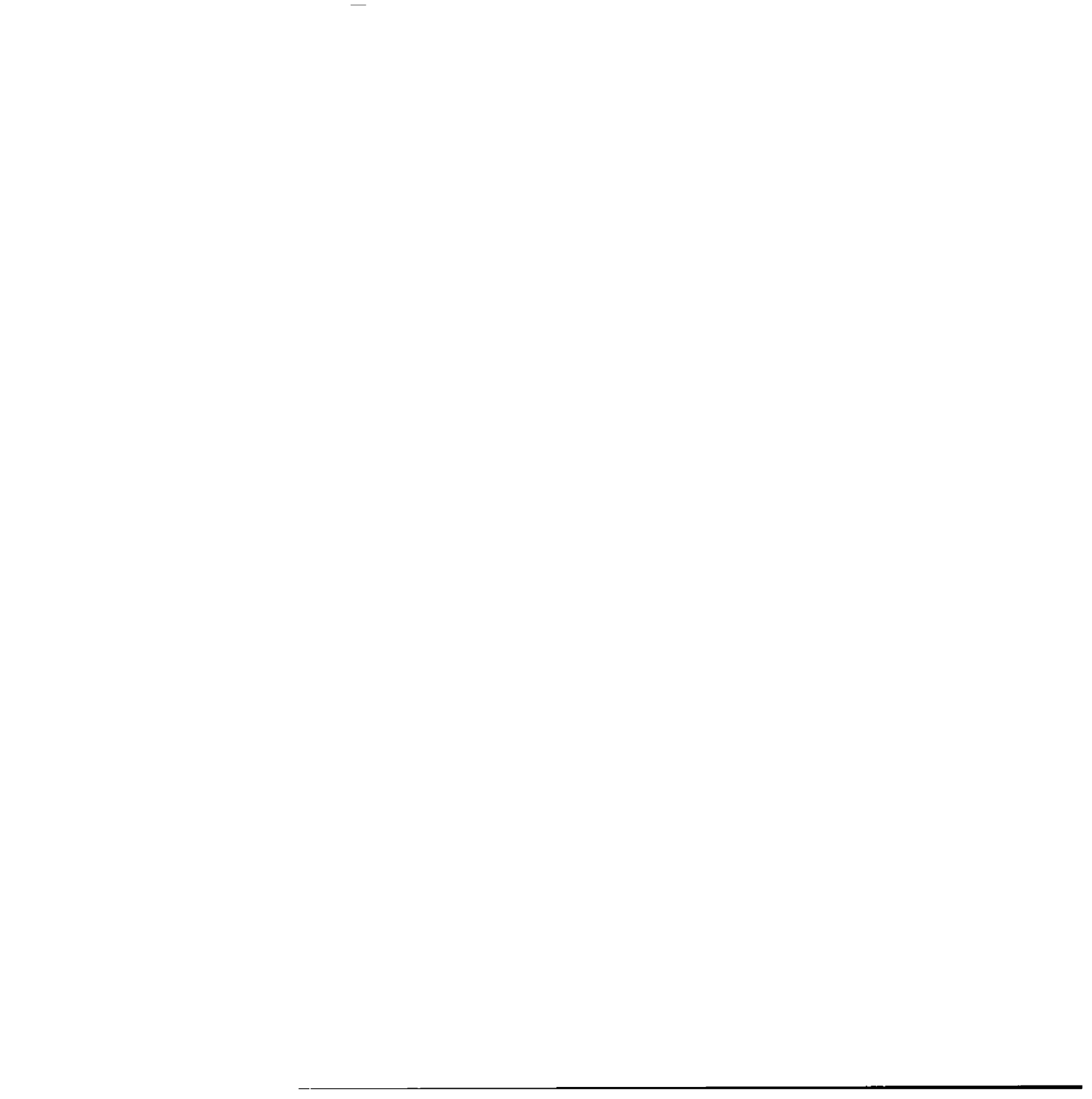
Overall, the audit concluded that the Alaska Commission on Aging (commission) is serving the public's interest by helping older Alaskans lead dignified, independent, and useful lives through advocacy, outreach, and education. Furthermore, the commission meets the federal requirement that each state establish an advisory council to advise the state on aging matters. We recommend that the commission's termination date be extended eight years to June 30, 2024.

ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC NEED

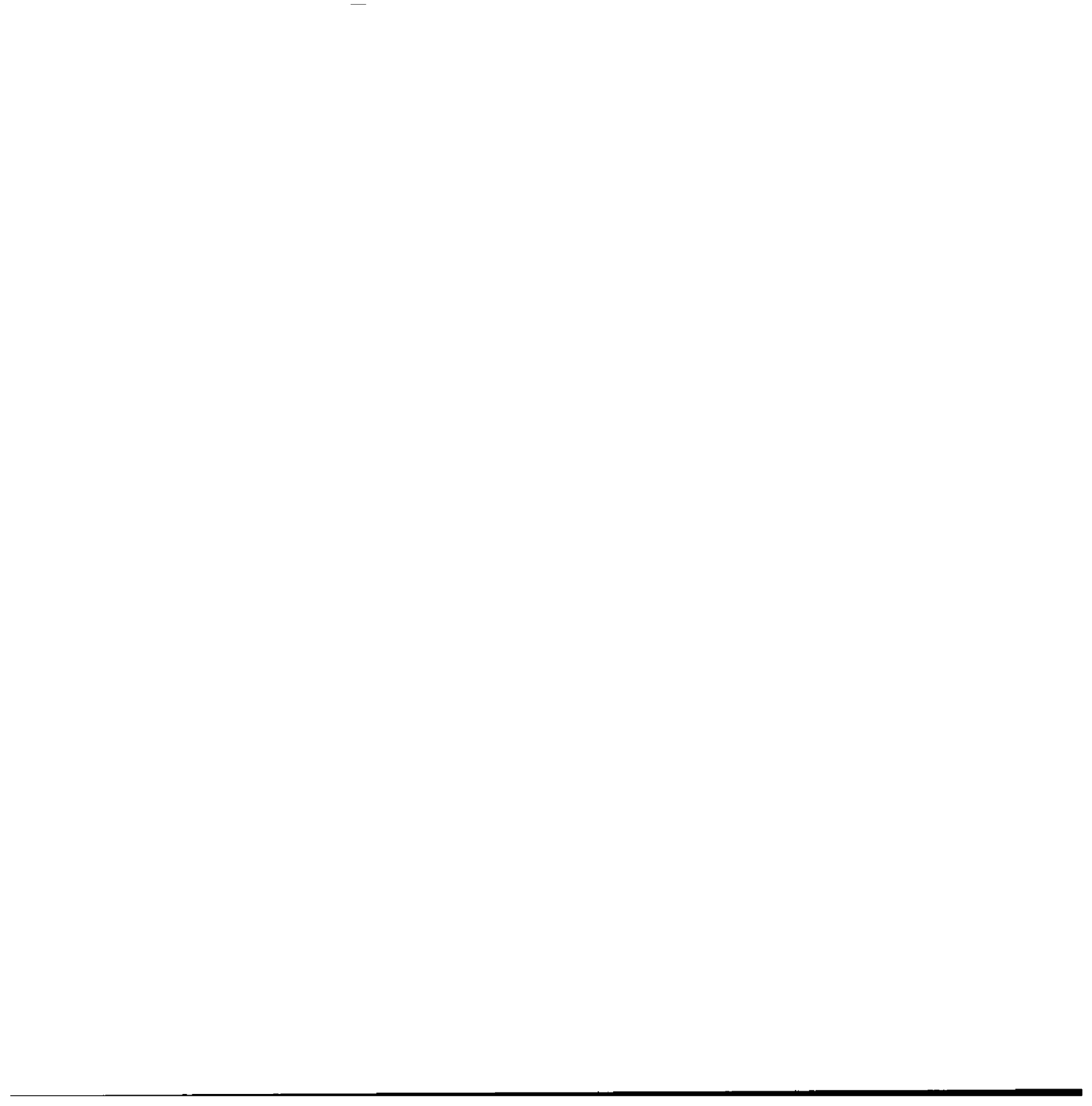
The commission has operated in the public's interest by formulating and approving a comprehensive statewide plan — the *State Plan for Senior Services*. The plan identifies and addresses the concerns and needs of older Alaskans, and fulfills a federal requirement necessary to receive Administration on Aging grant funding.

The commission has also operated in the public's interest by serving as an advocate for, and educator on, the needs of older Alaskans. The commission submitted over 50 recommendations to the legislature and governor regarding legislation and appropriations for programs or services that benefit older Alaskans. Furthermore, the commission collaborated with several state and local organizations on commission projects including development of the *State Plan for Senior Services* and sponsoring educational and outreach events.

The audit identified two operational changes that would allow the commission to better serve the public's interests.



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Be advised of the following participation in the House Health and Social Services Committee hearing on Thursday, Feb. 4th. Telephonic participants will call in to 1-844-586-9085 but I list their numbers here in case they are cut off and the committee aide needs to call them back.

HB 226 Extend Alaska Commission on Aging

- Duane Mayes, Director, Division of Senior and Disabilities Services, in the room and available for questions;
- Deb Etheridge, Deputy Director, Division of Senior and Disabilities Services, in the room and available for questions;
- Jacqueli Ziegenfuss, (pronounced "zi-gen-FOOS"), Administrative Operations Manager, Division of Senior and Disabilities Services, in the room and available for questions;
- Lisa Morley, Grants Section Chief, Division of Senior and Disabilities Services, in the room and available for questions

HB 260 Day Care Assistance and Child Care Grants

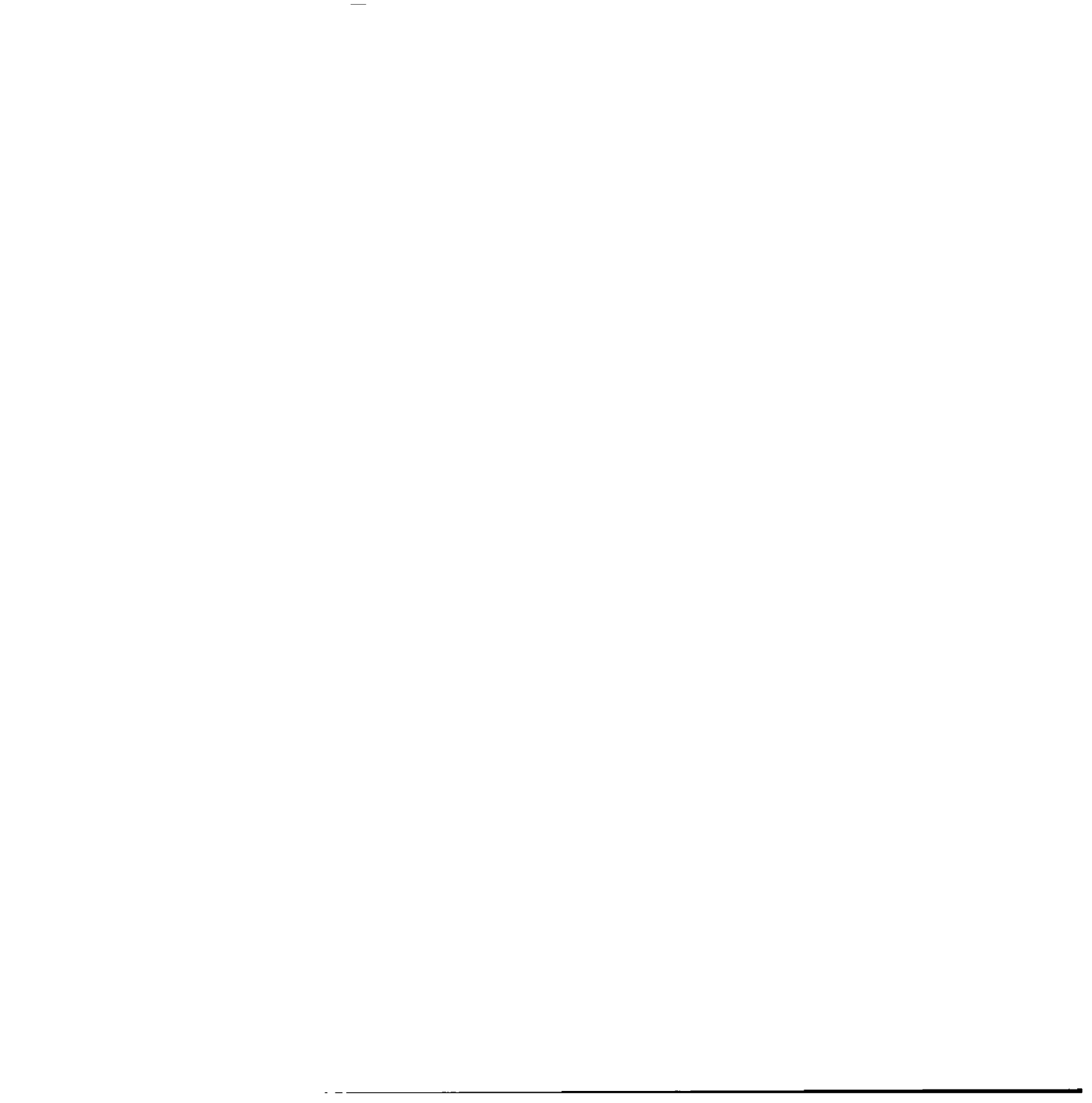
- Sean O'Brien, Director, Division of Public Assistance, in the room and available for questions;
- Janice Braden, Program Coordinator, Public Assistance, on the phone and available for questions (907-269-4508);

HB 262 Senior Benefits Program Eligibility

- Sean O'Brien, Director, Public Assistance, testifying in person;
- Monica Mitchell, Chief of Policy and Program Development, Public Assistance, in the room and available for questions.

SB 23 immunity for Providing Opioid OD Drug

- Bradly Grigg, Community Mental Health Program Administrator, Division of Behavioral Health, in the room and available for questions;
- Dr. Jay Butler, Chief Medical Officer, on the phone and available for questions (907-744-6422)



December 14, 2015

Rep. Mike Hawker
Alaska State Capitol, Room 502
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

RE: Alaska Commission on Aging - ReAuthorization

Dear Rep. Hawker,

Thank you for your leadership in sponsoring legislation to reauthorize the Alaska Commission on Aging. On behalf of AARP Alaska's nearly 90,000 members, we are pleased to offer our support for statutory reauthorization and to recognize the important function the Commission serves for older Alaskans.

AARP Alaska has been privileged to work with both staff and appointed members of the Alaska Commission on Aging for many years on many worthwhile projects. The partnership with the Commission and other relevant agencies has produced comprehensive and measurable plans for the strategic delivery of services and supports that address the independence, dignity, health, engagement, and economic value of Alaska's older adult population. As our state has one of our nation's fastest growing 65+ demographics, the contributions of the Commission are increasingly vital to our collective wellbeing.

Particularly laudable are the openness and inclusion on the part of the Commission for input by all older Alaskans. Through sponsorship of statewide convenings, regular educational teleconferences, participation in statewide work groups, and informative and regular communications, the opportunities for broad citizen involvement are diligently nurtured. The appointed commissioners well represent the varied geographical, cultural, and socio-economic makeup of our state's seniors. They are effective advocates for an Alaska in which we can all have confidence as we grow older.

AARP Alaska, without reservation, supports the reauthorization of the Alaska Commission on Aging. The needs, interests and concerns of our membership are well-served by the work of the Commission. Again, many thanks for your sponsorship of the reauthorization.

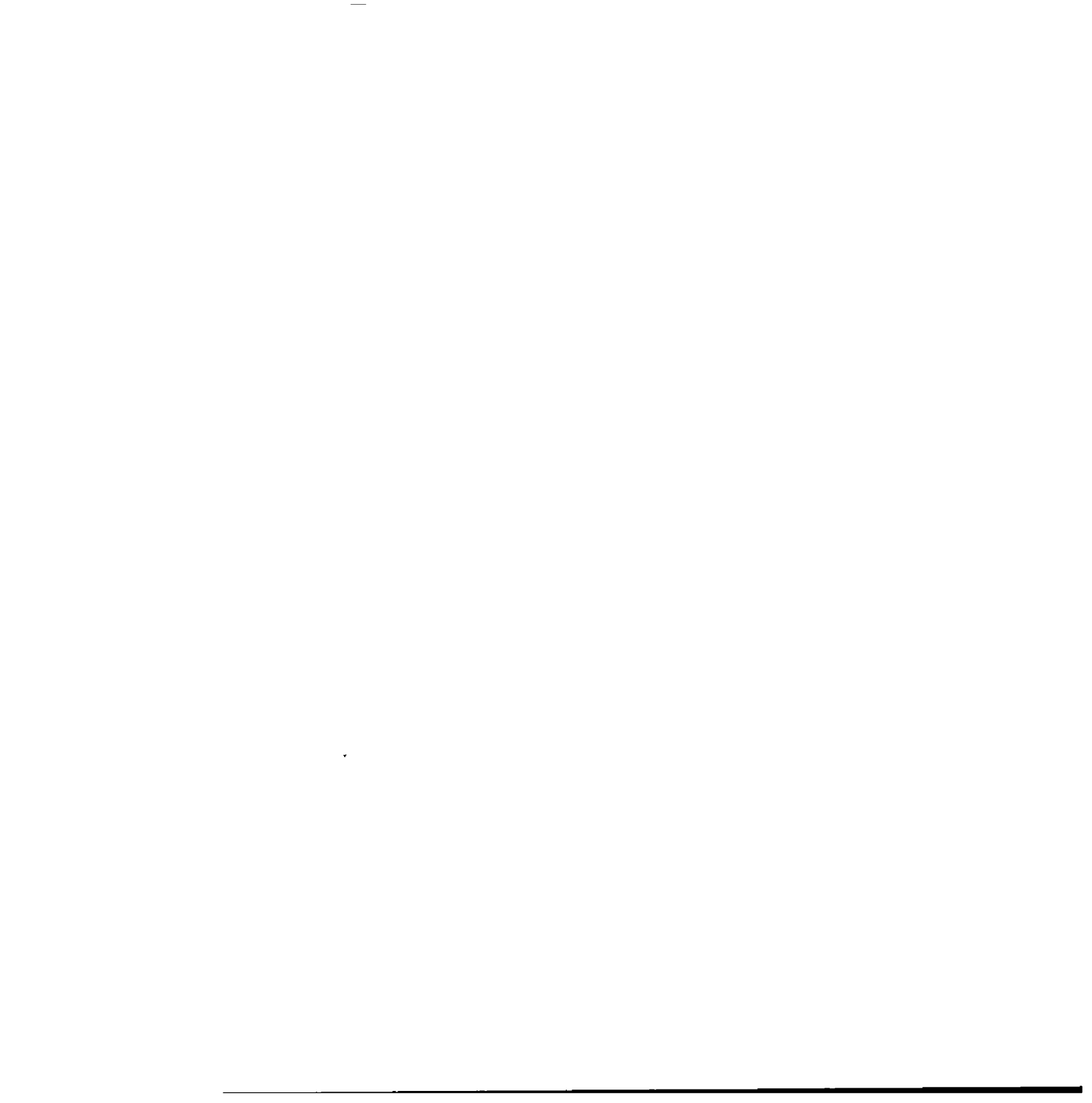
Sincerely,



Ken Helander
Advocacy Director



Terry Snyder
AARP Alaska State President



Representative Mike Hawker
Alaska Capitol, Room 502
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

December 11, 2015

Dear Representative Hawker,

As the Executive Director of Access Alaska, it is my pleasure to offer our support for the reauthorization of the Alaska Commission on Aging (ACOA). Since their early days, ACOA has partnered with Access Alaska to advocate for the needs of older Alaskans, ensuring them dignity, health, safety and independence.

ACOA serves as a statutory advisory board to the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority (AMHTA) and advises the AMHTA on the needs of older Alaskans with cognitive impairments, including Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. The Commission, in partnership with the AMHTA and other agencies, published *Alaska's Roadmap to Address Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias (2015)*. The Commission also makes recommendations to the AMHTA Board of Trustees regarding mental health programs for Senior Trust Beneficiaries (older people with dementia and other cognitive impairments) and the use of funds that benefit this vulnerable population.

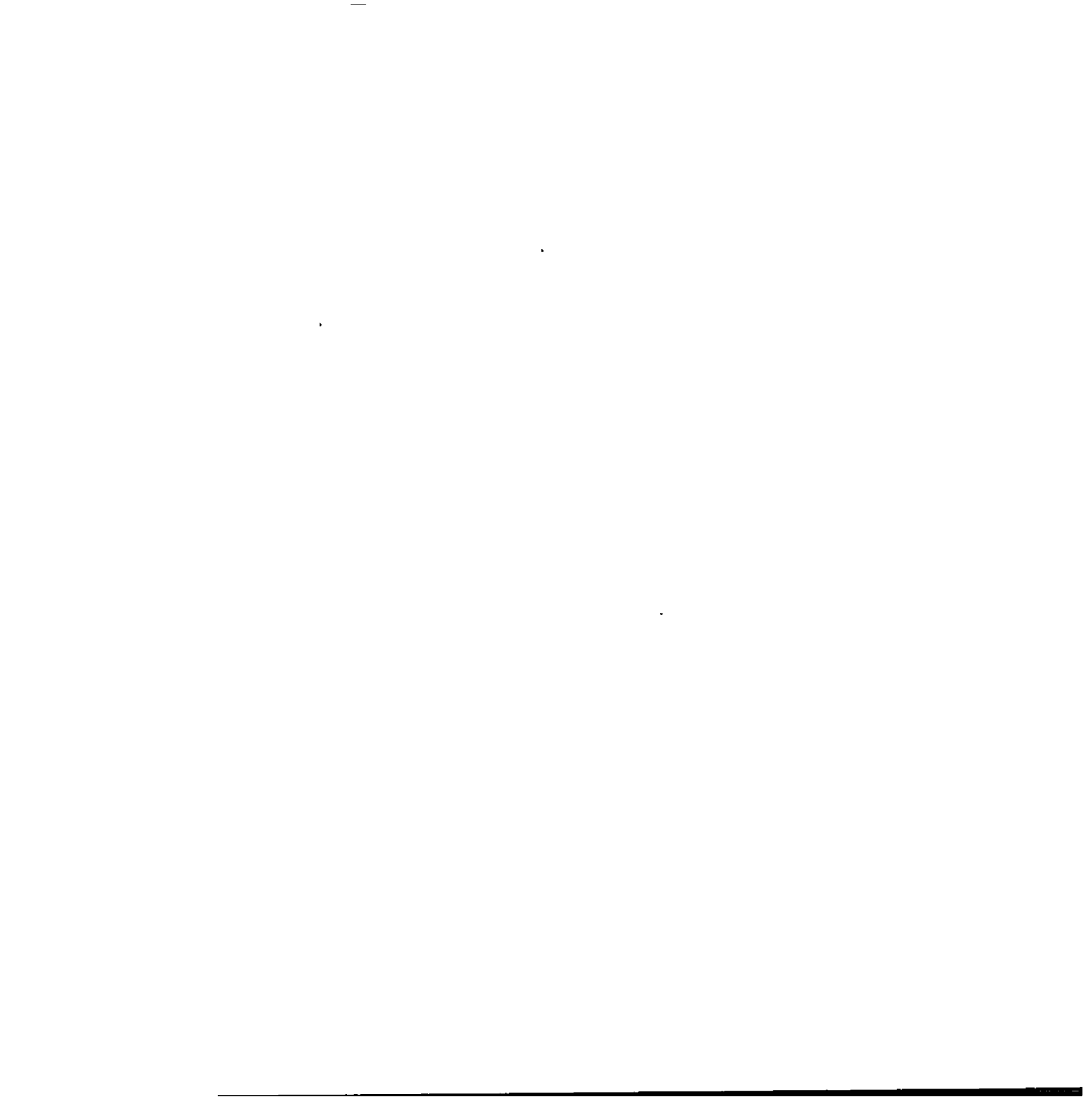
ACOA and Access Alaska have worked collaboratively on a number of projects over the years, including the Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) project, senior and accessible/affordable housing, coordinated transportation, the Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias (ADRD) Roadmap mentioned above, and many others. As we have supported each other and combined our efforts, these projects have reached fruition, allowing older Alaskans to continue living in their home communities, among loved ones that appreciate and include them in community activities.

We very much appreciate your proposal of legislation for ACOA's reauthorization. Access Alaska will be happy to offer any information or any other means of support for ACOA during this process. Please feel free to contact me if I can be of any assistance. .

Sincerely,



James C. Beck
Executive Director



Representative Mike Hawker
Alaska Capitol, Room 502
Juneau, AK 99811-1182

Resource
of Alaska

Mailed to Alaska Commission on Aging

Dear Representative Hawker,

We support the reauthorization of the Alaska Commission on Aging for an 8-year continuation by the Alaska Legislature. The Alaska Commission on Aging (ACoA) provides needed supports to advance the well-being of seniors in Alaska.

Working with the senior community, service providers, Department of Health and Social Services and other key stakeholders, the ACoA leads the development of studies to identify senior needs and policies to address those needs. These policies also seek to achieve accessible and affordable services for seniors. The value of services are recognized, such as Home and Community Based Services (HCBS). As research shows HCBS prevent or delay high cost institutional care and improve the quality of life for both the senior and their unpaid family caregiver. This is critical planning information as the Alaska senior population is growing at a faster rate than any other state in the nation.

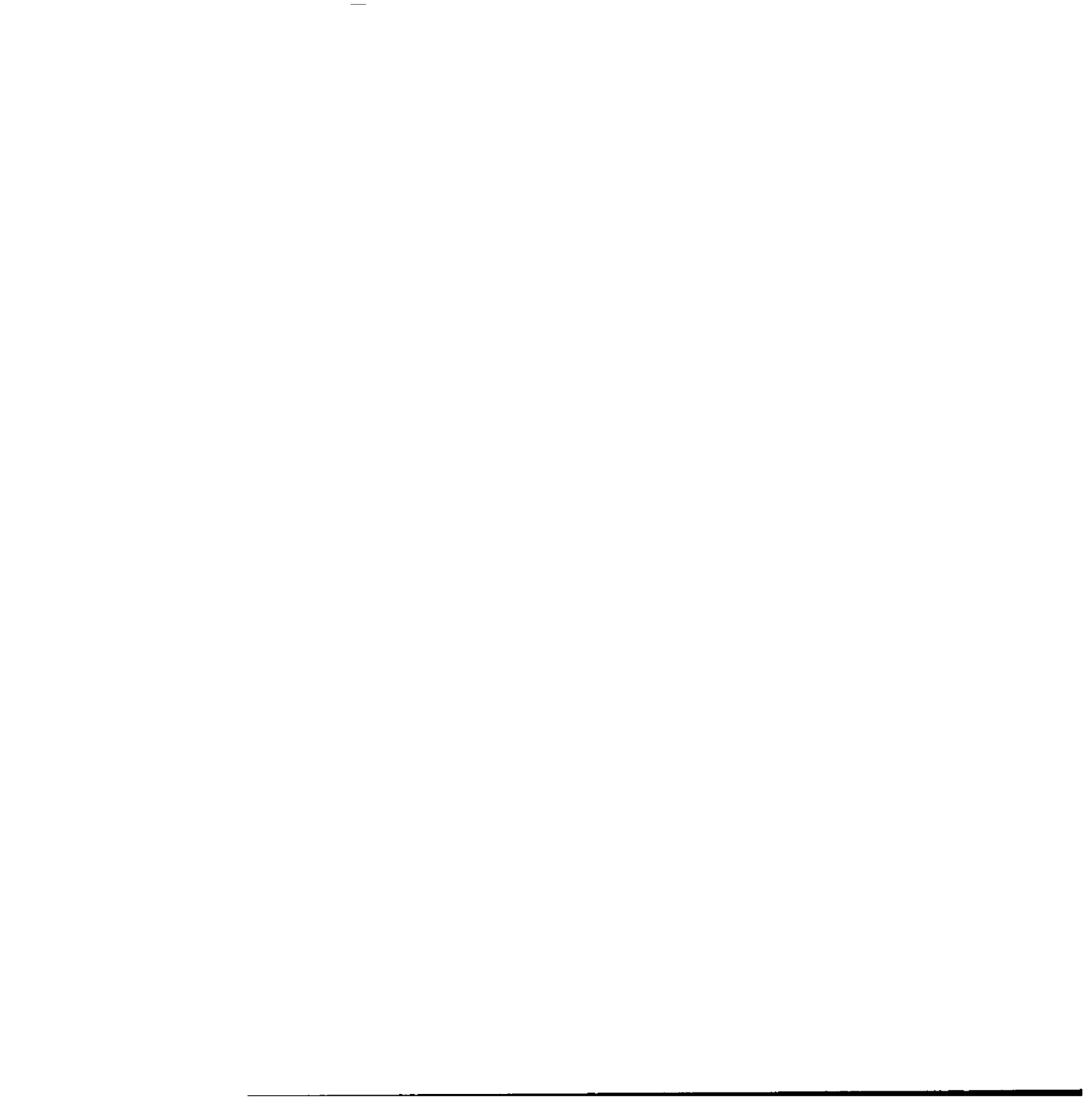
Maintaining a healthy population of seniors in Alaska is very important. Seniors provide critical social and economic value to the State. Research shows that children who are nurtured and mentored by their grandparents (in addition to their parents) grow into more responsible adults (*Dr. Bill Thomas, Vision to Reality Conference, November 12, 2014*). Seniors also contribute three billion dollars to Alaska's economy annually (*Power of Aging in Alaska Symposium, May 1, 2014*). Seniors improve the quality of life for all Alaskans.

ACoA provides effective leadership to maintain a healthy senior population in Alaska and we support the reauthorization of the Alaska Commission on Aging for an 8-year continuation by the Alaska Legislature.

Sincerely,



Karl Garber
Executive Director





December 5, 2015

The Honorable Mike Hawker
House of Representatives
State of Alaska
Alaska Capitol, Room 502
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Representative Hawker,


On behalf of the Board of Directors and members of the Anchorage Senior Activity Center (ASAC), we thank you for sponsoring the bill in support of continuing the Commission on Aging. We would like to go on record that we support the reauthorization of the Commission on Aging for another eight years. We also support the funding that is necessary to maintain the Commission and advance its valuable work.

The Commission on Aging serves as educators and advocates on various issues affecting seniors, our fastest growing population in Alaska. Further, the Commission helps ensure the dignity, health, safety, and independence of Alaska's seniors and assists them in leading useful and meaningful lives.

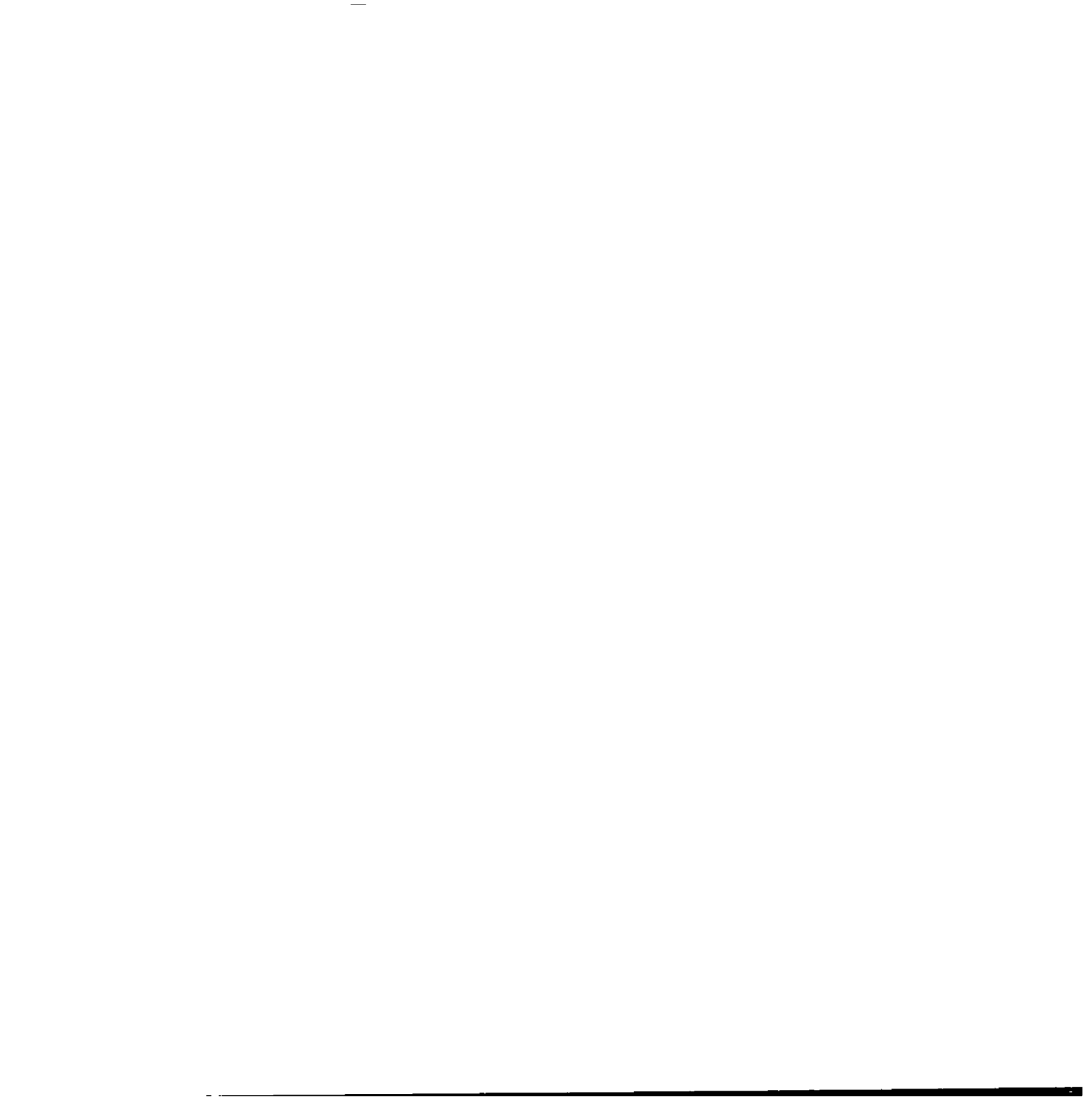
Alaska receives nearly \$11 million in federal OAA funding in FY2016 thanks to its compliance with the Older American Act. The Commission also meets the federal requirement for each state to establish an advisory council to guide the state on matters related to aging. The Commission released a comprehensive plan on Senior Services, and, in partnership with the Alaska Mental Health Trust and other agencies, recently published "Alaska's Roadmap to Address Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias (2015).

Again, thank you for taking the leadership role in sponsoring the continuation of the Commission on Aging.

Sincerely,



Rebecca Parker, General Manager
Anchorage Senior Activity Center



September 16, 2015

Alaska Commission on Aging
PO Box 110693
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Re: Support for Continuation of the Alaska Commission on Aging

The Coalition of Mat Su Senior Centers supports continuation of the Department of Health and Social Services Alaska Commission on Aging (ACoA), as recommended by the Division of Legislative Audit (Audit Control # 06-20090-15, dated April 10, 2015).

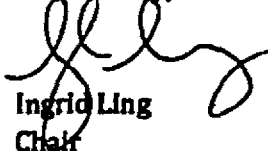
We concur with the findings of the audit, namely that the ACoA serves the public interest by helping older Alaskans lead dignified, independent, and useful lives through advocacy, outreach, and education. The ACoA was key to formulating Alaska's comprehensive State Plan for Senior Services, which identifies concerns and needs of older Alaskans, and fulfills a federal prerequisite to Alaska's receipt of grant funds through the Administration on Aging.

The ACoA is an effective advocate for older Alaskans – a role that takes on heightened importance given the state's rapidly rising population of seniors. Through efforts such as the Power of Aging Conference, Senior Housing Summit, and through their on-going efforts to monitor legislative, regulatory, and industry changes important to Seniors, the ACoA serves as a center of excellence for senior issues.

As Alaskans age and remain in the Alaskan community of their choosing, and as Americans choose to make Alaska their home in retirement, the "Senior industry" – now representing about \$3 billion to Alaska's economy – will grow. With this growth, the importance of the ACoA's work, in collaboration with agencies across the state, will also grow.

The members of the Coalition of Mat Su Senior Centers are dedicated to optimum outcomes for seniors in the Mat Su. Like the ACoA, we work to ensure seniors in the Mat Su will be able to remain in the community of their choosing, living as independently as possible for as long as possible, secure in their dignity and respected as valued elders.

Respectfully,



Ingrid Ling
Chair

Coalition of Mat-Su Senior Centers

OFFICERS & MEMBERS OF THE COALITION OF MAT-SU SENIOR CENTERS -2015

CHAIR: INGRID LING, VICE-CHAIR: LARRY DEARMAN, TREASURER: HERMAN THOMPSON, SECRETARY: CHUCK FOSTER

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Denakkanaaga, Inc.

"Our People Speak"

December 5, 2015

Representative Mike Hawker
Alaska Capitol, Room 502
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Representative Hawker:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Denakkanaaga, it is our pleasure to write this letter of support for legislation to reauthorize the Alaska Commission on Aging (ACoA) for eight years as recommended by the Division of Legislative Audit April 2015 audit report.

For over thirty years, ACoA has embarked on a mission to ensure dignity and independence for older Alaskans through planning, advocacy, education, and collaboration with other agencies. As Alaska leads the nation in per capita senior growth, and older adults are the fastest growing age demographic in our state, the value of ACoA for seniors and their family members has never been greater.

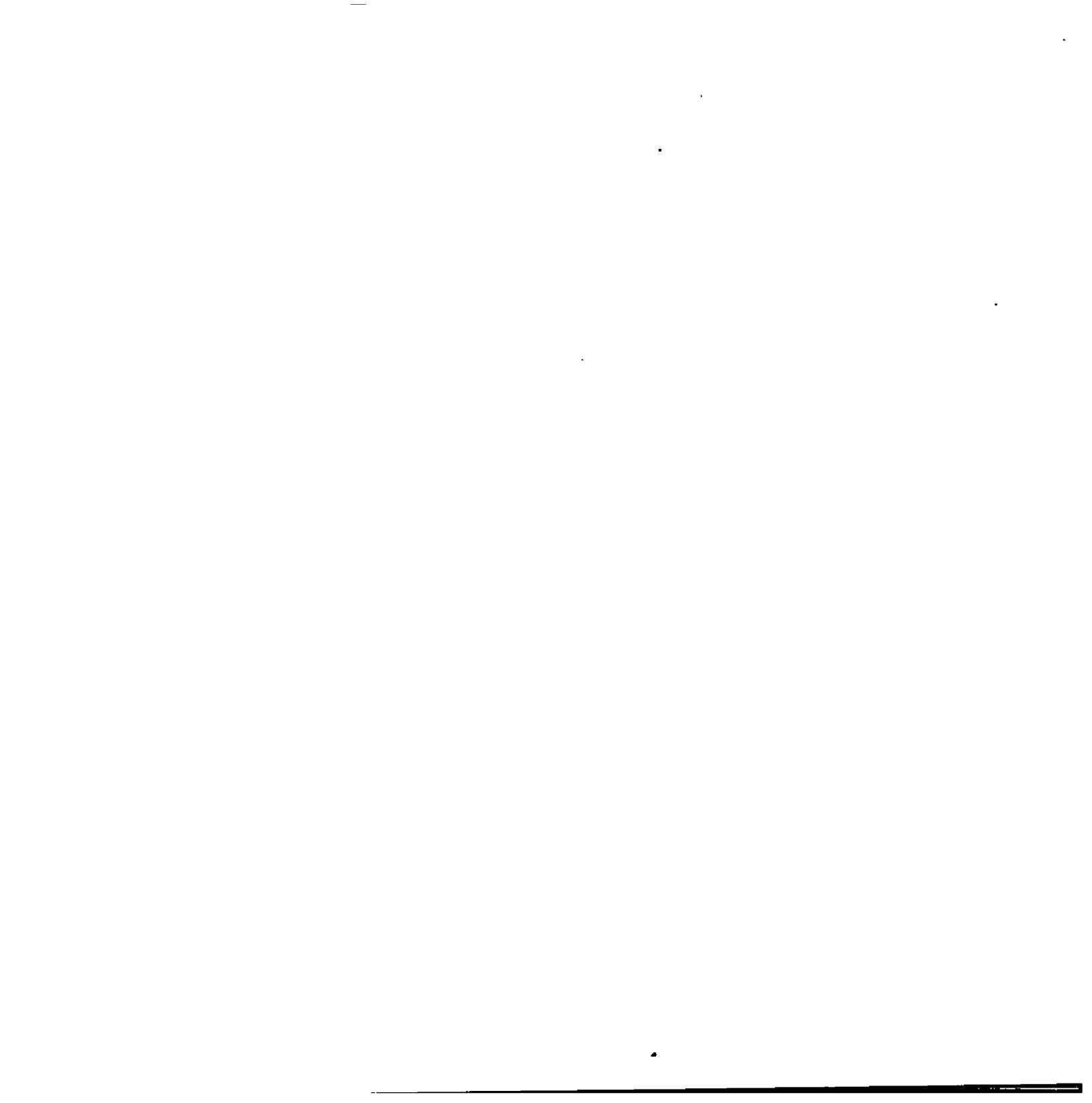
We would like to take this opportunity to share with you our reasons for supporting ACoA's extension. By statute, the ACoA is responsible for developing the Alaska State Plan for Senior Services in order to satisfy a federal requirement for all states receiving federal funds for their senior programs. This funding includes Title VI funds for services to Alaska Native Elders. To develop the State Plan, the Commission conducted listening sessions in various areas of the state, including Fairbanks. We were pleased to sponsor one of these listening sessions with the ACoA to focus on the needs of Alaska Native Elders. We were impressed to find that the comments provided by our Elders expressing the need for culturally appropriate and accessible services in rural Alaska was included in the State Plan's strategic objectives.

The ACoA is a resource and strong advocate for the senior community. We especially appreciate their advocacy efforts promoting greater awareness about senior needs including the importance of funding and legislation to help more Elders and seniors live safely in their homes and communities of choice. Further, the ACoA can also be counted on to provide information on a variety of topics related to aging issues, which is helpful to our agency's planning and grant writing efforts.

Thank you for sponsoring this legislation to reauthorize the Alaska Commission on Aging. The ACoA deserves recognition for their commitment to helping all older Alaskans and is fulfilling its mission. We at Denakkanaaga value the opportunity to work with the commission, as our mission is to be the "elder voice for the people" for Interior Alaska.

Sincerely,

Sub. F.





ALASKA
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

Senior and Disabilities Services
Governor's Council on Disabilities & Special Education
Patrick J. Reinhart, Executive Director

3601 C Street, Suite 740
Anchorage, Alaska 99503
Main: 907.269.8990
Fax: 907.269.8995

January 19, 2016

Representative Mike Hawker
Alaska Capitol
Room 502
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

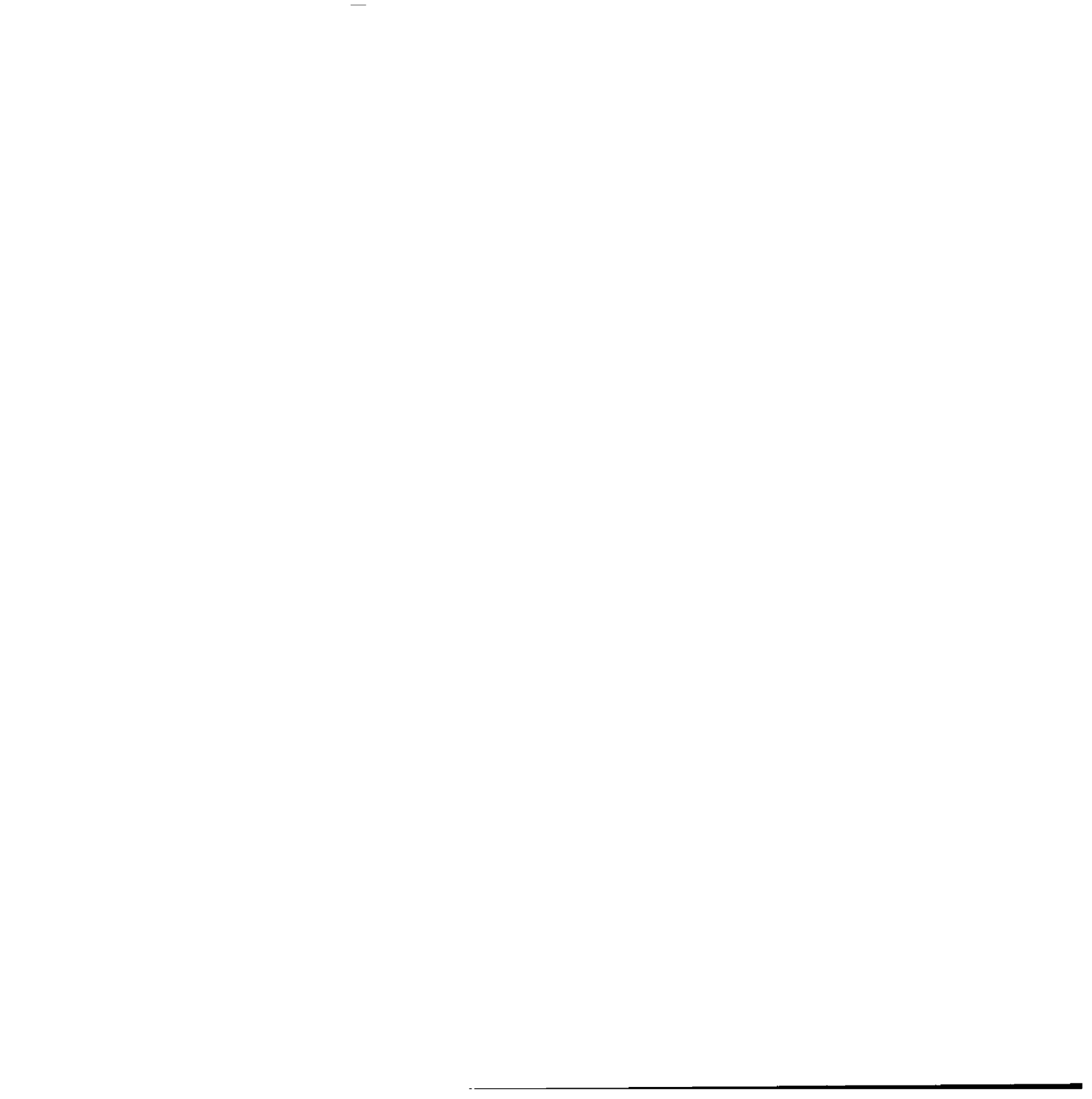
Dear Representative Hawker:

We are pleased to provide this letter of support to the Alaska Commission on Aging (ACoA) for reauthorization for another eight years.

The Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education (GCDSE) fills a variety of federal and state roles, including serving as the State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD) under the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act. As the state DD Council, GCDSE works with Senior and Disabilities Services and other state agencies to ensure that people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families receive the services and supports that they need, as well as participate in the planning and design of those services.

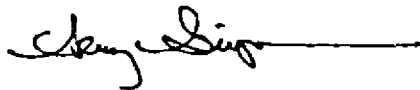
Similarly, since 1981 the Alaska Commission on Aging has played an important role in improving the lives of Alaska's senior population. They are a major advisory group on issues that impact Alaskan seniors. The Council often partners with ACoA on projects and issues that intersect our two populations, such as Aging and Disability Resource Centers, assistive technology, accessible housing, community transportation, and long-term services and supports. ACoA also satisfies a provision of the federal Older Americans Act (OAA) that requires an advisory board to in order to receive nearly \$11 million dollars in federal funds in support of state-sponsored services that impact Alaskan seniors every day, such as in-home supports, senior center programs, adult daycare, home delivered and congregate meals, and more.

The Alaska Commission on Aging develops and monitors the Alaska State Plan on Senior Services and makes recommendations to legislation and policies that benefit older Alaskans. Like the Governor's Council, the Commission on Aging serves as an advisory group to the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority on issues concerning persons with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias (ADRD). Their recent and widely touted publication of *Alaska's Roadmap to Address Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias* is a great example of the level of commitment and professionalism that we get from both the staff and members of ACoA.



A 2015 legislative audit of the Department of Health and Social Services concluded that the Commission serves the public interest by helping older Alaskans lead dignified, independent, and useful lives, satisfying the requirements of the Older Americans Act. The report recommends reauthorization of the Commission on Aging and the Council concurs wholeheartedly. Alaskan seniors depend on ACoA to be their voice in Juneau, as well as coordinate a multitude of services and programs statewide. We request that the Alaska Commission on Aging be reauthorized before the end of the 2016 legislative session.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amy Simpson", followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Amy Simpson, Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patrick Reinhart", written in a cursive style.

Patrick Reinhart, Executive Director

—

December 11, 2015

Representative Mike Hawker
Alaska State Capitol, Room 502
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Re: Reauthorization of the Alaska Commission on Aging

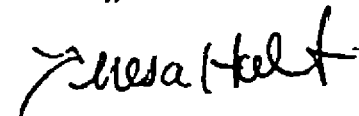
Representative Hawker,

The Office of the Long Term Care Ombudsman strongly supports the reauthorization of the Alaska Commission on Aging. Under the commission's sunset provision, legislation is needed to reauthorize the Alaska Commission on Aging for the next eight years. The Alaska Commission on Aging is required as the state's advisory council under the Older Americans Act and allows the State to receive \$11 million in federal funding.

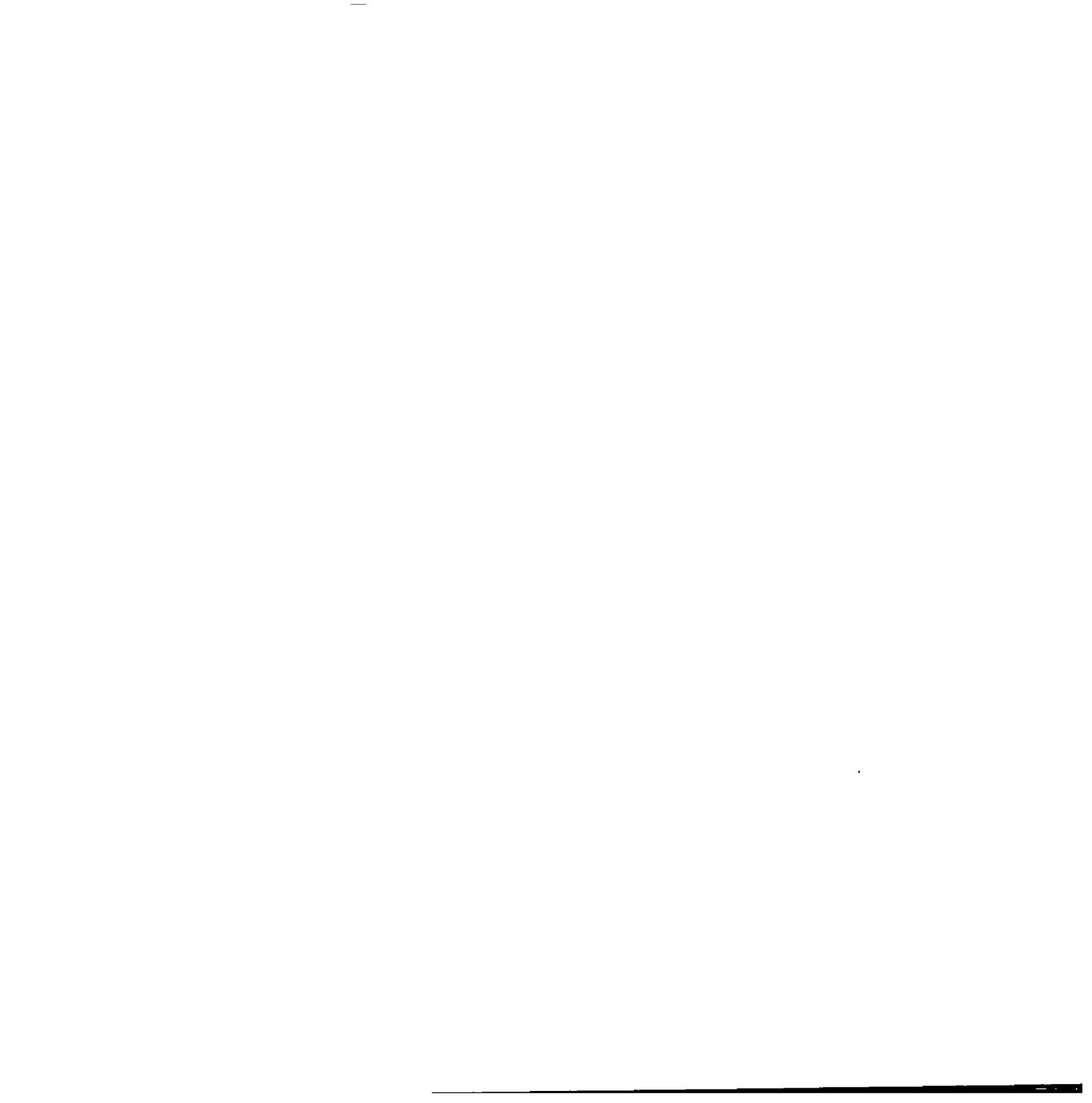
The Office of the Long Term Care Ombudsman partners with Alaska Commission on Aging on many projects related to the health and safety of Alaskan over the age of 60. The Office of the Long Term Care Ombudsman worked with the Alaska Commission on Aging and other stakeholders in the senior community in the development of the *Alaska State Plan on Senior Services*. The Office of the Long Term Care Ombudsman also collaborates with the Alaska Commission on Aging to resolve issues as they arise that affect the lives of Alaskan seniors including the development and implementation of *Alaska's Roadmap to Address Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias* as well as legislation to improve the protection of seniors who use Power of Attorney documents.

As the population of baby boomers will triple the number of seniors in Alaska in the next 20 years, it is more important than ever to have the Alaska Commission on Aging to plan for the needs of this growing population. The Office of the Long Term Care Ombudsman and the Alaska Commission on Aging will continue to work together to identify and resolve issues that directly affect the lives of Alaskans over the age of 60.

Sincerely,



Teresa Holt
State Long Term Care Ombudsman



MCOA
MAT-SU COUNCIL ON AGING

August 12, 2015

Alaska Commission on Aging
Ms. Denise Daniello, Executive Director
PO Box 110693
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0693

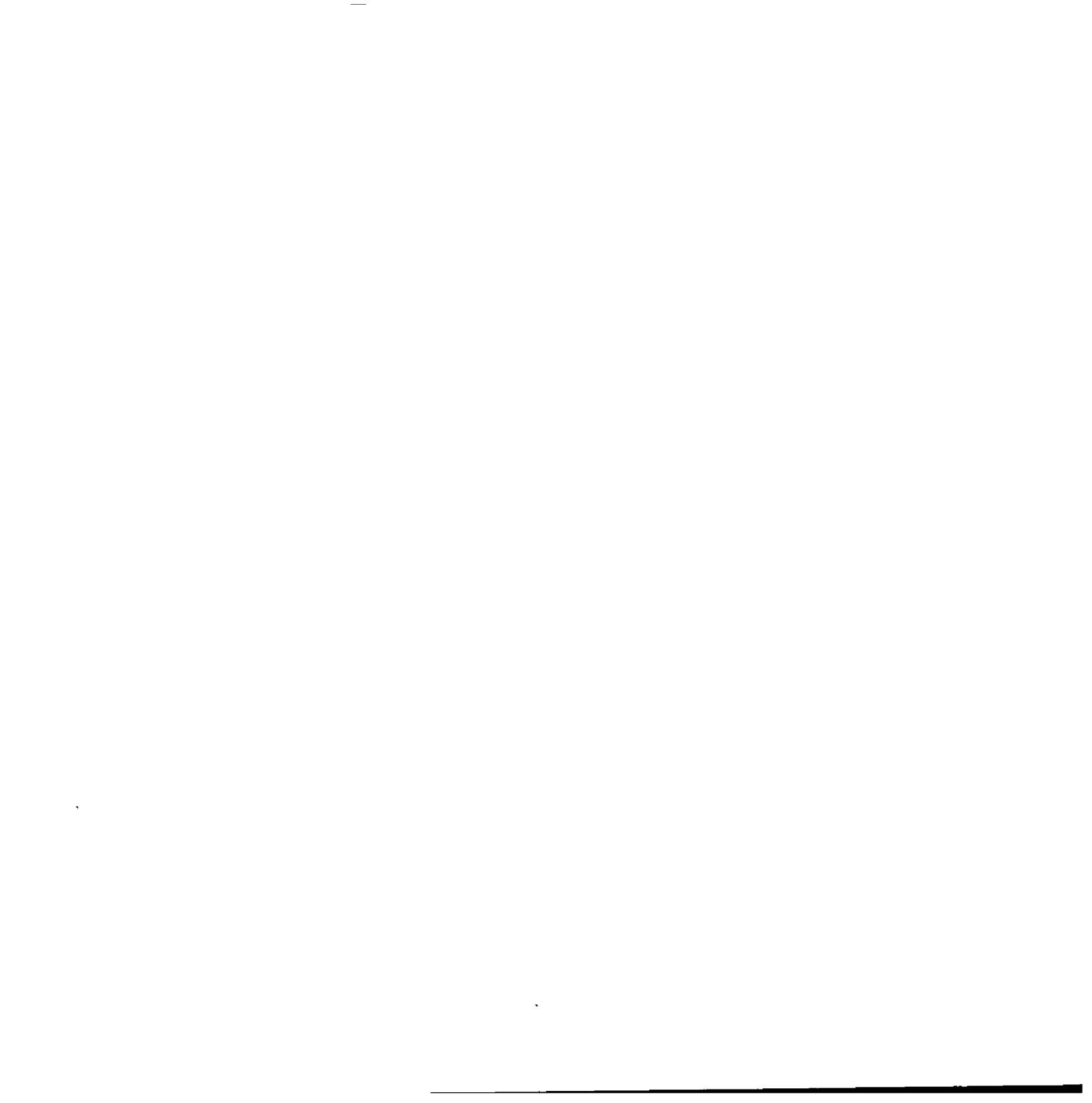
Ms. Daniello:

At the direction of the Mat-Su Council on Aging (MCoA), it is my pleasure to provide you with this letter of support specific to the findings of the recent Legislative Sunset Review Audit wherein they recommended the Alaska Commission on Aging (ACoA) be extended eight years to June 30, 2024.

While MCoA concurs with the April 10, 2015 audit findings, we also believe it is imperative we take time to address some of the reasons why we support extension of ACoA and to take a moment to say thank-you. As Alaska leads the nation in per capita Senior growth, the value of ACoA for Seniors and their family members has never been greater. You, your staff and each Commissioner deserves recognition for your polite commitment and heartfelt passion in helping Seniors and Elders wherever they may reside across the Last Frontier. For that, we are extremely pleased and we express our sincere gratitude.

Since its legal inception 33 years ago, ACoA has embarked on a mission to ensure dignity and independence for older Alaskans. Over those years, individuals have enjoyed more useful and meaningful lives through the countless hours of planning, advocacy, education, policymaking and interagency partnerships developed by the Commission. Put another way, ACoA has been the eyes and ears of many Seniors in Alaska since 1982.

In recent years, the Commission has addressed several additional areas in an effort to recognize the many issues facing Alaska's aging population. They include, among others: Senior Housing Summit; Power of Aging Conference; Healthy Body/Healthy Brain campaign; Fall Prevention Coalition; Workforce Development; Alaska's Roadmap to Address Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias; and, a report on the Economic Well-Being of Alaska Seniors. Through exploration of each of these very important topics the ACoA has opened doors; initiated dialogue; and, provided much needed education to fellow Alaskans and elected officials on the vast needs of Seniors in our state. Likewise, the Commission was instrumental in calling attention to the fact that Seniors represent an approximate \$3 billion industry within Alaska.

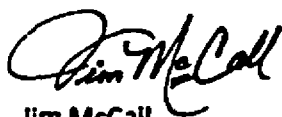


today – and for the state to retain that economic benefit – Alaska must be willing to continue to invest in programs and services that allow our elderly to remain here as they retire and enjoy their golden years.

Now, as Baby Boomers continue to retire in earnest and our Senior population expands to record highs, we ask that you continue to abide by your guiding principles of allowing Seniors to live with dignity and respect; remain independent for as long as possible; age in place in the least restrictive setting possible; and, assure Seniors remain connected as valued members of their families and communities. As one of your partners, MCoA is equally committed to these principles and we look forward to working with you in achieving success.

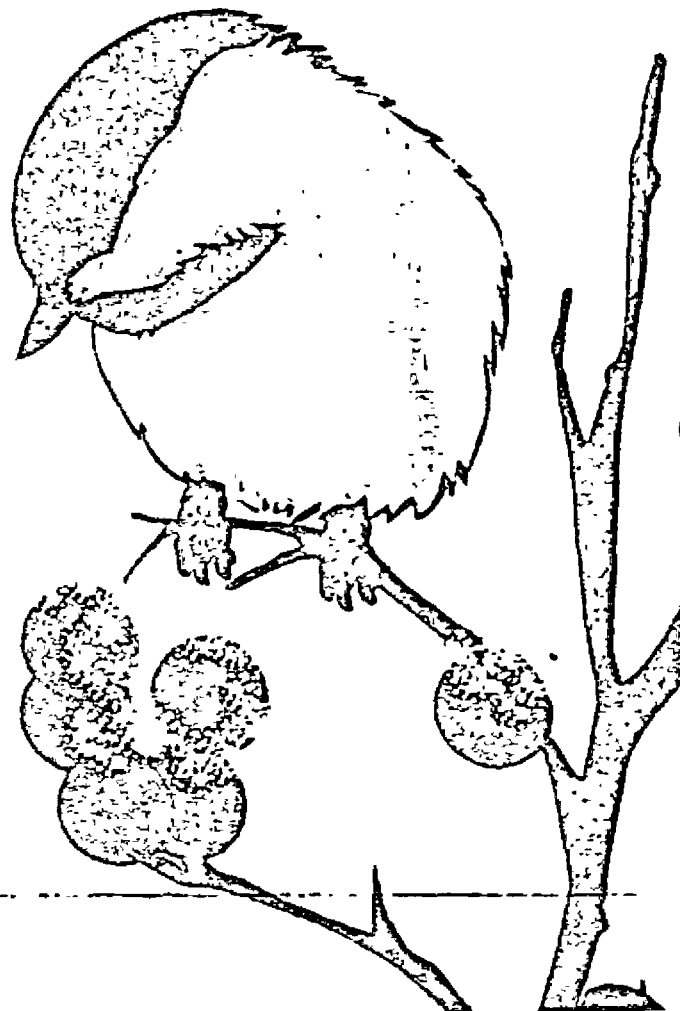
Our warmest regards to you, your staff and all of the Commissioners.

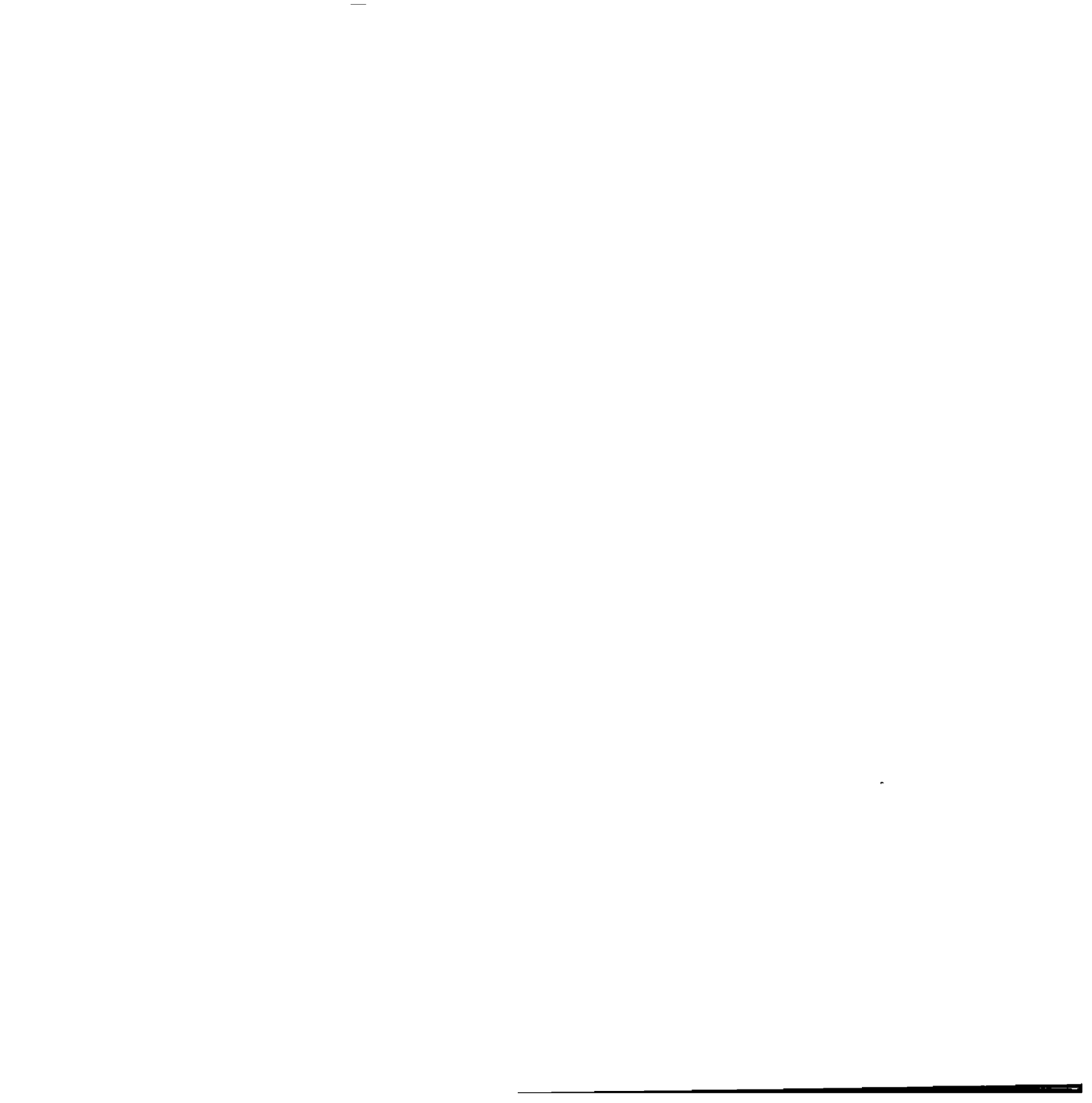
Respectfully,



Jim McCall
Chair, Mat-Su Council on Aging

PO Box 2754
Palmer, Alaska 99645





Municipality of Anchorage

Ethan Berkowitz, Mayor

Senior Citizens Advisory Commission

January 14, 2016

Senator Bill Stoltze
Alaska Capitol, Room 125
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Senator Stoltze,

As the Chair for the Senior Citizens Advisory Commission (SCAC), it is my pleasure to offer our support for the reauthorization of the Alaska Commission on Aging (ACOA). Since their early days, ACOA has partnered with the SCAC to advocate for the needs of older Alaskans, ensuring them dignity, health, safety and independence.

ACOA serves as a statutory advisory board to the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority (AMHTA) and advises the AMHTA on the needs of older Alaskans with cognitive impairments, including Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. The Commission, in partnership with the AMHTA and other agencies, published *Alaska's Roadmap to Address Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias (2015)*. The Commission also makes recommendations to the AMHTA Board of Trustees regarding mental health programs for Senior Trust Beneficiaries (older people with dementia and other cognitive impairments) and the use of funds that benefit this vulnerable population.

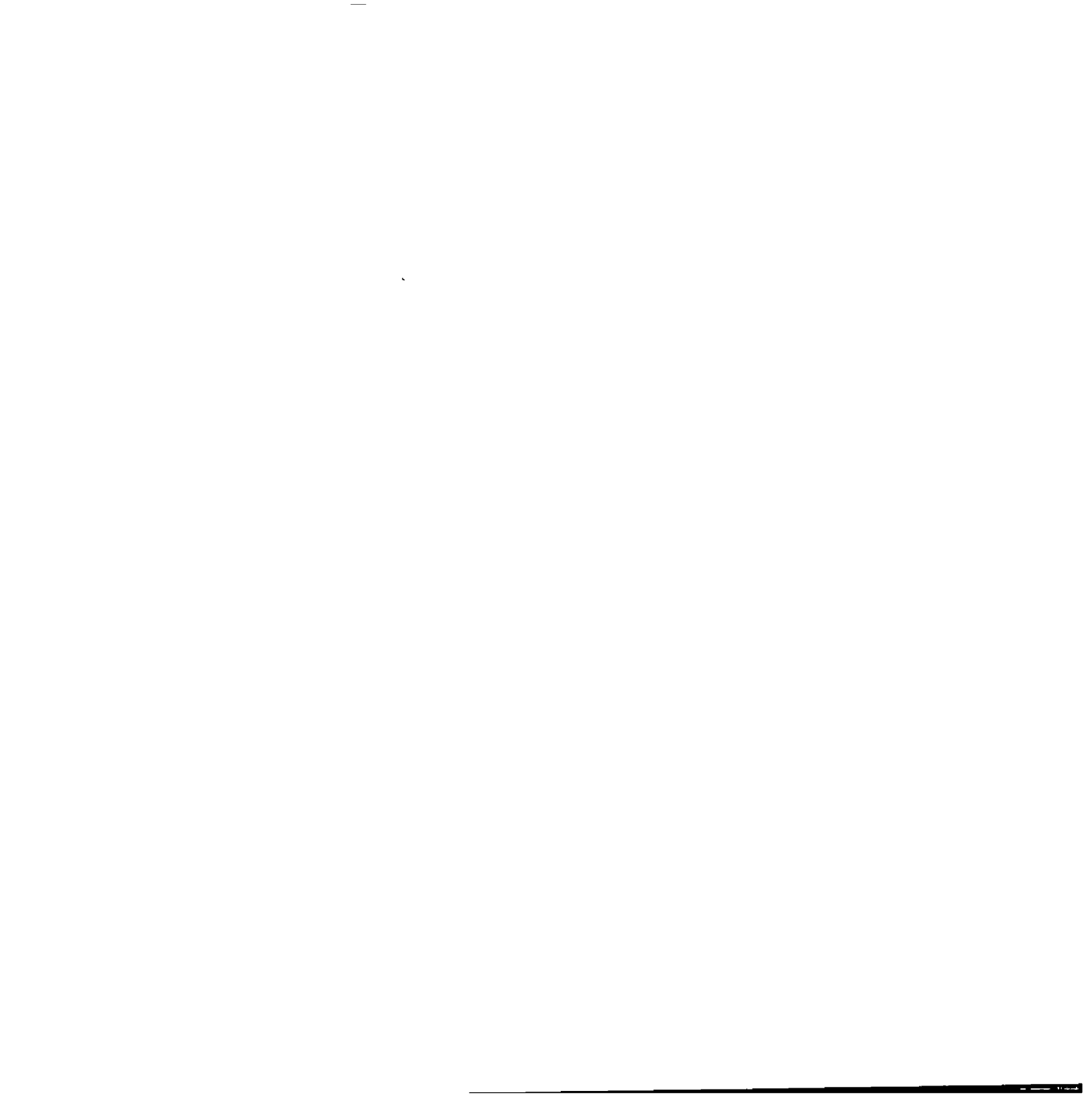
ACOA and SCAC have worked collaboratively on a number of projects over the years, including the Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) project, senior and accessible/affordable housing, coordinated transportation, the Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias (ADRD) Roadmap mentioned above, and many others. As we have supported each other and combined our efforts, these projects have reached fruition, allowing older Alaskans to continue living in their home communities, among loved ones that appreciate and include them in community activities.

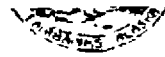
We very much appreciate your proposal of legislation for ACOA's reauthorization. The Commission will be happy to offer any information or any other means of support for ACOA during this process. Please feel free to contact me if I can be of any assistance.

Sincerely,



Carol Jackson
Chair, Senior Citizens Advisory Commission





North Star Council on Aging
Meals on Wheels
1424 Moore Street, Fairbanks, Alaska 99701
Phone: 907-452-1735 / Fax: 451-9974
nscoc.manager@alaska.net

December 15, 2015

Representative Mike Hawker
Alaska Capital, Room 502
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Mike Hawker,

North Star Council on Aging (NSCoA) completely supports the reauthorization of Alaska Commission on Aging (ACoA) and urges the legislature to approve an eight-year extension allowing ACoA to continue having a positive impact on our state. ACoA provides essential services to Alaska by satisfying the federal Older Americans Act requirement of having a council to receive federal OAA funding, which was almost \$11 million in FY16. It is their mission to ensure the dignity and independence of all older Alaskans, and to assist them in leading useful and meaningful lives through planning, advocacy, education, and interagency cooperation.

The comprehensive Alaska State Plan on Senior Services, developed by ACoA, gives beneficial educational and outreach to the senior providers in Alaska while making recommendations on legislation and appropriation benefiting the fast growing senior population of Alaska. With tremendous growth in the senior population the time to support ACoA is crucial. Every senior deserves the support of the services ACoA provides, directly or indirectly, through the senior providers throughout our state.

Thank you for your support of the ACoA bill allowing the valuable work to continue for another eight years. ACoA's support of NSCoA has enabled our daily efforts to serve the Fairbanks North Star Borough's seniors ensuring they never go hungry or without.

Respectfully,

Darlene Supplee
Executive Director
North Star Council on Aging



SENIOR CITIZENS OF KODIAK, INC.

302 Erskine Avenue, Kodiak, AK 99615

Phone: (907) 486-6181

Fax: (907) 486-4503

E-mail: scokinc@ak.net

December 15, 2015

Representative Mike Hawker
Alaska Capitol, Room 502
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Representative Hawker:

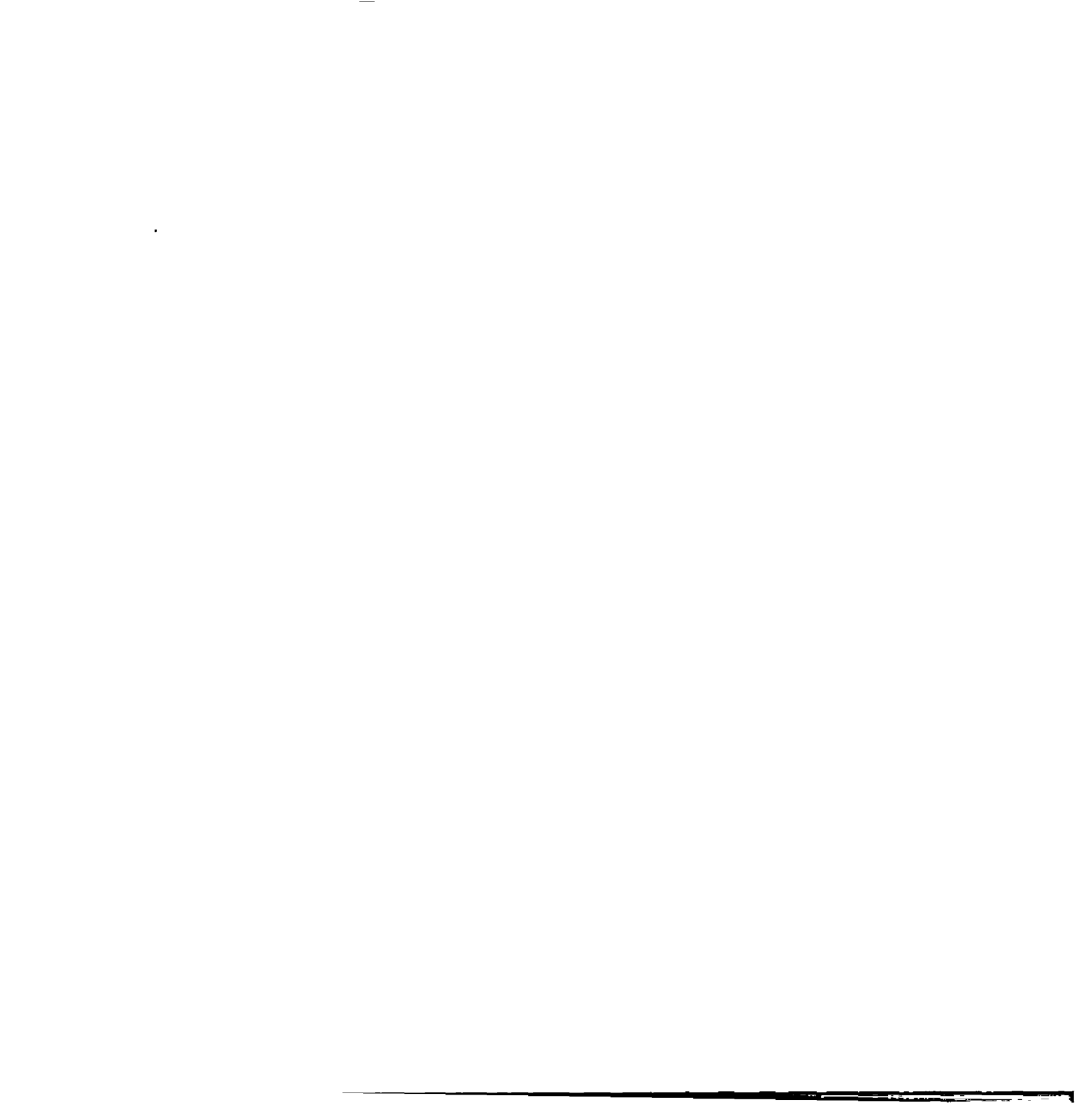
On behalf of the Senior Citizens of Kodiak, Inc., (SCOK) I would like to voice support for continuing the Alaska Commission on Aging (ACOA) .

ACOA has played an important advocacy role in all senior issues across the state. They, along with other senior advocacy groups, are watchdogs for policies, regulation, fiscal notes which effect Alaskans 60 and older. ACOA works well with other state departments as well as all providers of senior services.

Please consider extending ACOA and the work it does on behalf of all Alaska seniors.

Sincerely,

Susan Brockman, President
SCOK Board of Directors





Soldotna Area Senior Citizens, Inc.

197 West Park Avenue ★ Soldotna, Alaska 99689

Phone: (907) 262-2322 ★ Fax: (907) 262-2147 ★ sotsrctr@alaska.net



January 11, 2016

Representative Mike Hawker
Alaska Capitol Room 502
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Hawker:

I am writing this letter on behalf of recommending Legislation on reauthorization of the Alaska Commission on Aging for eight more years, and support of HB224.

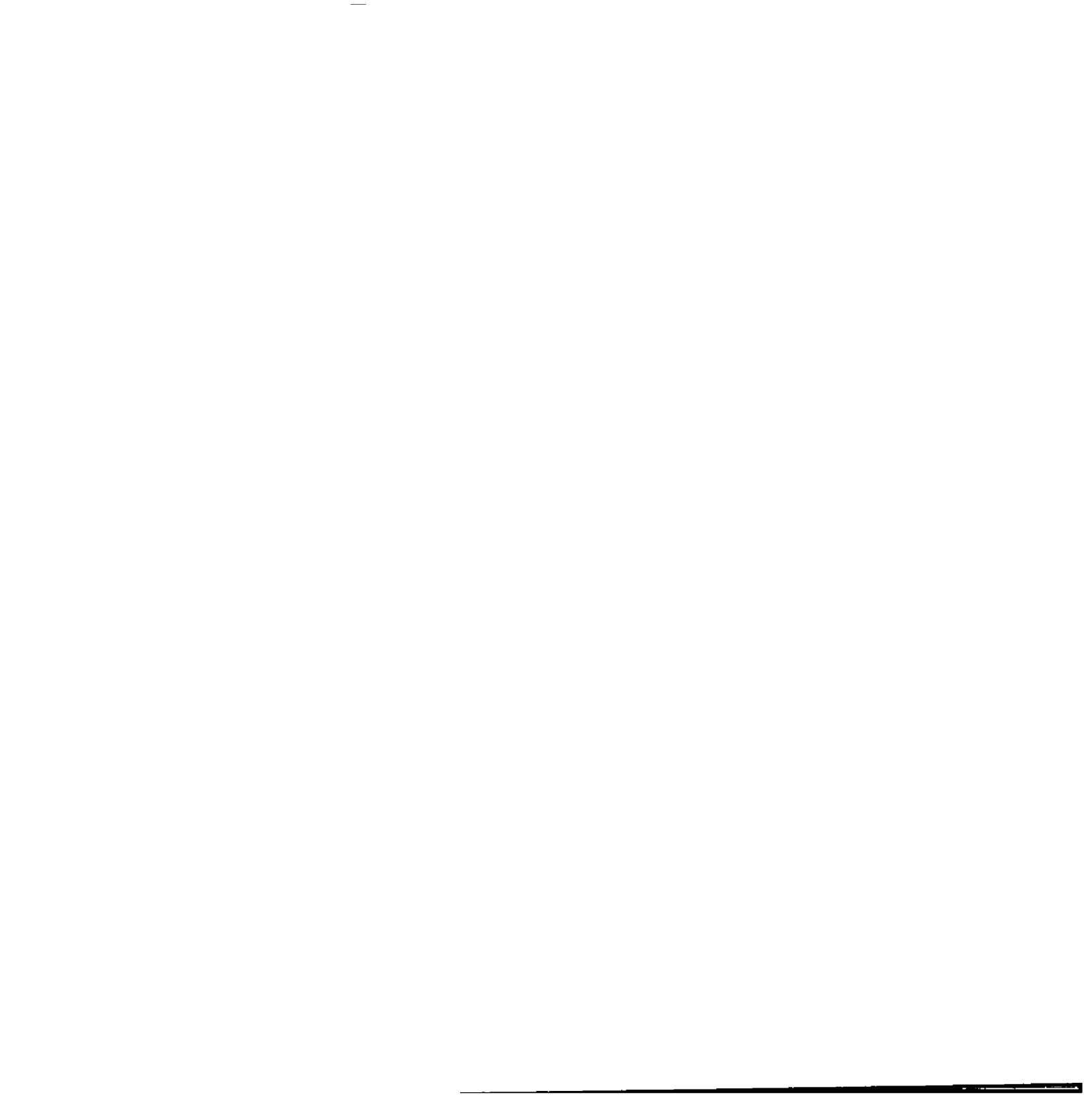
The Alaska Commission on Aging satisfied a requirement of the federal Older Americans Act (OAA). States receiving OAA funding are required to have an advisory council that

- ✓ Must be comprised of older individuals eligible to participate in OAA-funded programs;
- ✓ Advises the "state unit on aging" regarding matters of aging issues. In Alaska, The Department of Health & Social Services is the state unit on aging as designated by the Governor. The Alaska Commission on Aging serves as the advisory council to DHSS and satisfies this federal requirement.

Alaska is receiving almost \$11 million dollars in Federal OAA funding in FY2016 thanks to its compliance with the Older Americans Act.

The Alaska Commission on Aging develops the comprehensive Alaska State Plan on Senior Services, makes recommendations on legislation and appropriations beneficial for older Alaskans, and provides education/outreach regarding matters related to aging.

The Alaska Commission on Aging also serves as a statutory advisory board to the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority (AMHTA) and advises the AMHTA on needs of older Alaskans with cognitive impairments, including Alzheimer's disease and related Dementias. The Commission, in partnership with the AMHTA and other agencies published Alaska's Roadmap to Address Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias (2015). The Commission also makes recommendations to the AMHTA Board of Trustees regarding mental health programs for Senior Trust Beneficiaries (older people



vulnerable population.

The Alaska Commission on Aging services as an advocate and educator regarding the needs of Alaska's older people to help ensure the dignity, health, safety, and independence of Alaska's seniors and to assist them in leading useful and meaningful lives.

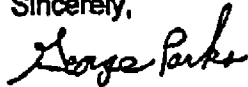
Legislative Audit conducted a sunset audit of the Commission in 2015, concluding that the Commission is serving the public's interest by helping older Alaskans lead dignified, independent and useful lives, and that the Commission meets the federal requirement or each state to establish an advisory council to advise the state on matters related to aging.

The Commission's FY2016 budget is \$542,700 (\$45.9 GF; \$348.1 Interagency Receipts that include federal pass-through funds; \$29.6 GF/MH; and \$119.1 MHTAAR). The Commission consists of eleven seats and has a staff of four full-time employees.

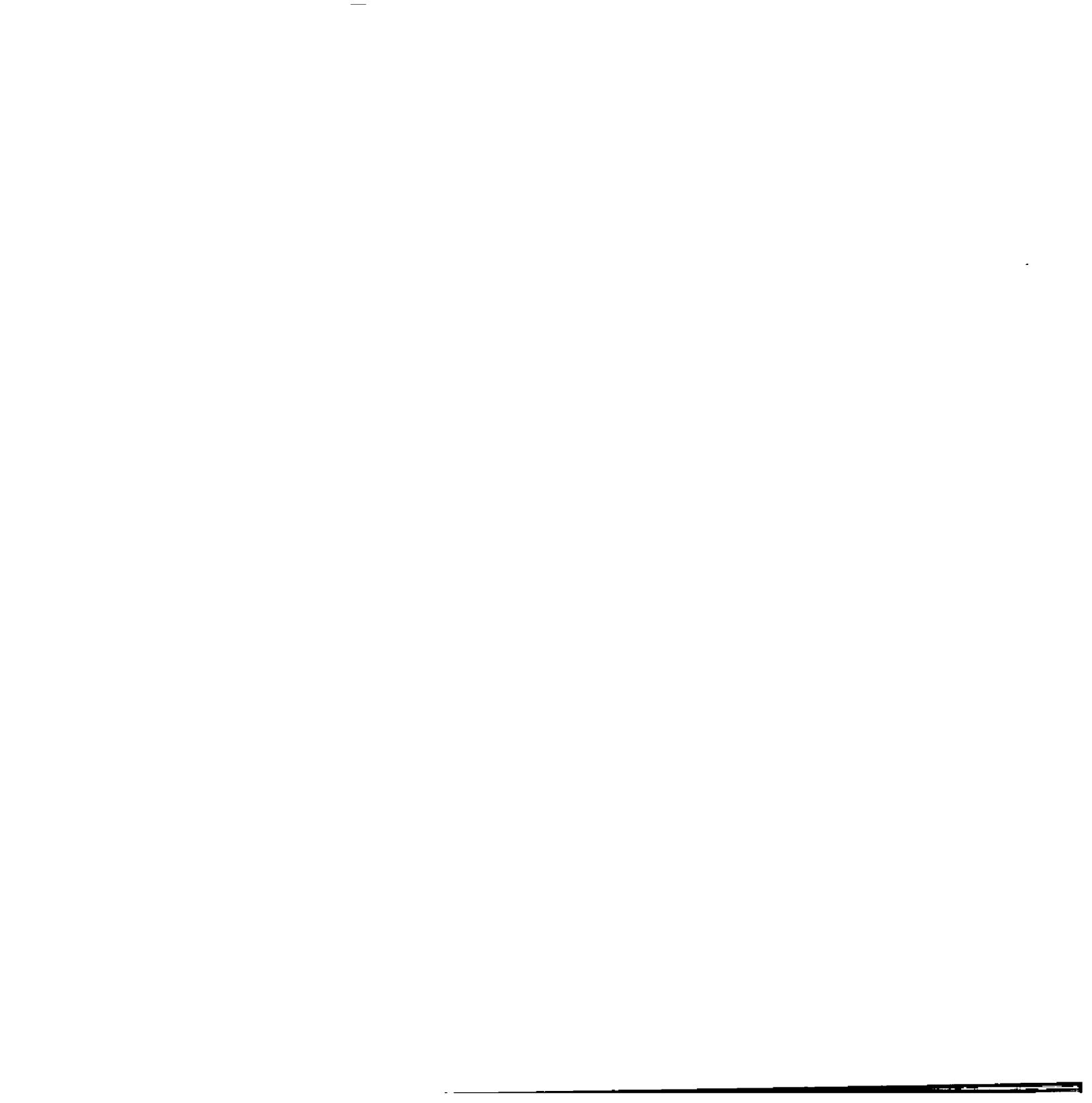
The Alaska Commission on Aging was established in 1981 under AS47.45.200-.290, and is scheduled to sunset June 30, 2018 under AS 44.68.010(a)(4). The proposed legislation would amend AS.66.010(a)(4) to extend the Commission's sunset date by eight years to June 30, 2024.

The Alaska Commission Aging is a vital partner of Soldotna Area Senior Citizens, Inc., in its mission in providing year-round, well-designed, programs and services that help support the health, well-being and independence of Alaska seniors. We would highly recommend that Legislation for the Alaska Commission on Aging be a top priority to extend its sunset date through June 20, 2024.

Sincerely,



George Parks
President



Dec. 15, 2015

Representative Mike Hawker
Alaska Capitol Room 502
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Re: Support for the Alaska Commission on Aging; Re-authorization

Dear Representative Hawker,

Often we take the time to criticize, but seldom do we take to opportunity to praise good works, especially those of governmental agencies.

The Alaska Commission on Aging (ACoA) provides information and resources to everyday Seniors as well as many agencies at the borough and local level. Only a few boroughs have their own Senior agency and even those rely heavily on the ACoA to accomplish their support for the Senior community.

Personally, the ACoA has provided support and assistance with my efforts to create a Senior Commission for the Kenai Peninsula Borough. This effort should come to fruition in the near future.

In many cases, the ACoA is the only resource for Seniors to contact. The ACoA, its employees and Commissioners contribute to the enrichment of the lives of our Seniors and that enrichment, in many cases, extends both longevity and quality of life.

Please accept this letter as my request, recommendation, encouragement that you re-authorize the Commission, so that it may continue its great work on behalf of Alaska's Senior population. The ACoA advocacy and support of the Senior community is a necessity for all of us.

Thank you in advance for your support and re-authorization of such a necessary agency to the State of Alaska Senior community.

Sincerely,

Peter T. Zuyus
Peter T. Zuyus
Senior Citizen

cc: ACoA

February 3, 2016

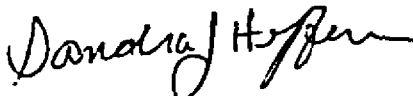
Representative Paul Seaton
Chair, House Health and Social Services
State Capitol Room 102
Juneau, AK. 99801

The Community Care Coalition (CCC) is comprised of trade associations who provide care for elderly, disabled and at-risk Alaskans. The Alaska Association on Developmental Disabilities, AgeNet, Assisted Living Association of Alaska and the Personal Care Assistant Provider's Association have banded together in a united voice to bring forward our collective message on behalf of our most vulnerable citizenry. As members of the home and community-based long term care industry, we collectively represent all of Alaska with over 50,000 consumers, family members and staff. We want to thank you for the opportunity to provide public comment on HB 226 which proposes to extend the Alaska Commission on Aging (ACOA) to June 30, 2024.

The mission of ACOA is to ensure the dignity and independence of all older Alaskans, and to assist them to lead useful and meaningful lives through planning, advocacy, education, and interagency cooperation. ACOA satisfies a requirement of the federal Older Americans Act (OAA), allowing Alaska to receive almost \$11 million in federal OAA funding in FY2016. These funds help to support older Alaskans in receiving services close to home. Alaska has one of the fastest growing senior populations per capita, many of whom are dealing with or will develop Alzheimer's disease and related dementias (ADRD). ACOA was instrumental in partnering with the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority and a wide range of stakeholders to develop *Alaska's Roadmap to Address Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias (2015)*. This document will provide guidance for services and funding as our society continues to grapple with the health issues presented by ADRD.

The staff of ACOA work diligently to advocate for older Alaskans, their families and community service providers. Their voice is strong and well respected. The association members of the Community Care Coalition fully support the extension of the Alaska Commission on Aging to June 30, 2024. We encourage the House Health and Social Services committee to pass HB226.

Regards,



Sandra J Heffern
Chair

