

ALASKA LEGISLATURE

2677

HOUSE and SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE FILES, 2003-2004

NAME: Maxine McCoy Subject/Bill No: _____
Co./Dept./Title: _____ Phone: _____
Address: 128 TROY AVE Zip: 97801
Do you wish to testify? ___ Yes No ___ Respond To Questions

NAME: Elizabeth Lucas Subject/Bill No: 117
Co./Dept./Title: AARP Phone: 789-9655
Address: 2880 Fritz Cove Rd Zip: 99801
Do you wish to testify? ___ Yes No ___ Respond To Questions

✓ NAME: Carol Fleek Subject/Bill No: _____
Co./Dept./Title: _____ Phone: 780-4795
Address: Po Box 33292 Tnn Zip: 99803
Do you wish to testify? Yes ___ No ___ Respond To Questions

NAME: _____ Subject/Bill No: _____
Co./Dept./Title: _____ Phone: _____
Address: _____ Zip: _____
Do you wish to testify? ___ Yes ___ No ___ Respond To Questions

NAME: _____ Subject/Bill No: _____
Co./Dept./Title: _____ Phone: _____
Address: _____ Zip: _____
Do you wish to testify? ___ Yes ___ No ___ Respond To Questions

NAME: Alfreda DORE Subject/Bill No: 117 CSSB

Co./Dept./Title: _____ Phone: _____

Address: P.O. Box 240636, Douglas, AK Zip: 99824-0636

Do you wish to testify? Yes No Respond To Questions

NAME: _____ Subject/Bill No: _____

Co./Dept./Title: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ Zip: _____

Do you wish to testify? Yes No Respond To Questions

NAME: _____ Subject/Bill No: _____

Co./Dept./Title: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ Zip: _____

Do you wish to testify? Yes No Respond To Questions

NAME: _____ Subject/Bill No: _____

Co./Dept./Title: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ Zip: _____

Do you wish to testify? Yes No Respond To Questions

NAME: _____ Subject/Bill No: _____

Co./Dept./Title: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ Zip: _____

Do you wish to testify? Yes No Respond To Questions

SITE: ANCHORAGE LIO

COMMITTEE: SFIN

DATE: 4-30-03

SUBJECT OF MEETING:

SB117

UPDATE #: 1

PLEASE SIGN IN

P R I N T YOUR NAME

ADDRESS (MAILING & ZIP)

REPRESENTING

**DO YOU WANT
TO TESTIFY?
Y OR N**

✓ Jim Garrigues		Abbott Loop Comm. Council	Y
Email address:			
✓ Ron Cowan		Long Term Care Ombudsman	Y
Email address:			
✓ J.R. Hawk Langman		Pioneers of AK Igloo #15	Y
Email address:			
✓ Delisa Culpepper		Self	Y
Email address:			
✓ Gordon J. Severson		Pioneers of AK & OPAG	Y
Email address:			
✓ Elizabeth Dennis		Self	Y
Email address:			
✓ Ethel K. Brown		Self	Y
Email address:			

ANCHORAGE PARTS LIST PAGE 2

SUBJECT:

P R I N T YOUR NAME

ADDRESS (MAILING & ZIP)

REPRESENTING

DO YOU WANT
TO TESTIFY?
Y OR N

✓ Peg Stout		AARP	Y
Email address:			
✓ Lois Arnold		Self	Y
Email address:			
Willie Brumfield - passed		Self	Y
Email address:			
✓ Winfred Eastfield		Self	Y
Email address:			
✓ Norman Eastfield		Self	Y
Email address:			
Susan Miller		Self	Y
Email address:			
Steve Conn		Self	Y
Email address:			

ANCHORAGE PARTS LIST PAGE 3

SUBJECT:

P R I N T YOUR NAME

ADDRESS (MAILING & ZIP)

REPRESENTING

DO YOU WANT
TO TESTIFY?
Y or N

Jay Dulany		Self	Y
Email address:			
Caleb Aldeman		Self	Y
Email address:			
Mike Gildert		Self	Y
Email address:			
Jarell Smith		Self	Y
Email address:			
Narina Alderfer		Self	Y
Email address:			
✓ Ed Barber		Self	Y
Email address:			
Email address:			

THE
FOLLOWING
DOCUMENT(S)
ARE
POOR
ORIGINAL
COPIES

SITE:

ANC

COMMITTEE:

DATE:

SUBJECT OF MEETING:

UPDATE #:



All left in Anc are PLEASE SIGN IN

PRINT YOUR NAME

ADDRESS (MAILING & ZIP)

REPRESENTING

DO YOU WANT TO TESTIFY? Y OR N

Ed Barbo			
Email address:			
Future Malvo			
Email address:			
Ann Secret			
Email address:			
Email address:			
Email address:			
Email address:			
Email address:			

SITE: FAIRBANKS LIO
Senate Finance
COMMITTEE:

DATE: 4/30/2003

SUBJECT OF MEETING:
SB 117 - Longevity Bonus

UPDATE #1

PLEASE SIGN IN

DO YOU WANT

P R I N T YOUR NAME

ADDRESS (MAILING & ZIP)

REPRESENTING

**TO TESTIFY?
Y OR N**

✓ Glenn Hackney			Y
Email address:			
✓ Nancy Mendenhall			Y
Email address:			
✓ Cliff Brennen			Y
Email address:			
✓ Glen Franklin			Y
Email address:			
✓ Charlotte M. Davis			Y
Email address:			
✓ Ed Shellinger			Y
Email address:			
✓ Bob Huffman			Y
Email address:			

SITE: FAIRBANKS LIO
Senate Finance
COMMITTEE:

DATE: 4/30/2003

SUBJECT OF MEETING:
SB 117 - Longevity Bonus

UPDATE #2

PLEASE SIGN IN

DO YOU WANT

PRINT YOUR NAME

ADDRESS (MAILING & ZIP)

REPRESENTING

TO TESTIFY?
Y OR N

✓ Marge Zielinski			Y
Email address:			
✓ Hal Levey			Y
Email address:			
Art Robson - left			Y
Email address:			
Janette Hanneman			Y
Email address:			
Glen Hanneman			Y
Email address:			
✓ Betty Hufman			Y
Email address:			
Phillip Jackson			Y
Email address:			

SITE: HOMER LIO

COMMITTEE: SFIN

DATE: 4-30-03

SUBJECT OF MEETING:

SB 117 Longevity

HOMER PARTS LIST PAGE 1

P R I N T YOUR NAME **ADDRESS (MAILING & ZIP)** **REPRESENTING** **DO YOU WANT TO TESTIFY? Y or N**

Edna Kahn - passed			Y SB117
Email address:			
✓ Charles Michon			Y SB117
Email address:			
✓ Carl Glanville			Y SB117
Email address:			
✓ Iris Douglas			Y SB117
Email address:			
✓ Vi Jerrel, Ph.D.			Y SB117
Email address:			
Evan Cundiff - kft			Y SB117
Email address:			
Email address:			

SITE: Kenai LIO

COMMITTEE: SFIN

DATE: 043003

SUBJECT OF MEETING:

SB117: Eliminate Longevity Bonus Program

UPDATE #: 1

PLEASE SIGN IN

P R I N T YOUR NAME

ADDRESS (MAILING & ZIP)

REPRESENTING

**TESTIFYING?
Y OR N**

✓ Petria Falkenberg	PO Box 3293 Kenai, AK 99611		Y
Email address:	Pet_rainbow@yahoo.com		
✓ Lenore Jones	5125 Silver Salmon Dr #1 Kenai AK 99611		Y
Email address:			
Email address:			
✓ Dale Johnson	230 N. Fern Kenai, AK 99611		Y
Email address:			
Email address:			
Email address:			
Email address:			
Email address:			

SITE: KETCHIKAN

COMMITTEE: (S)FIN

DATE: 04.30.03

SUBJECT OF MEETING: SB117 Longevity

Meeting-ID#:7346

UPDATE #:First

PLEASE SIGN IN

P R I N T YOUR NAME

ADDRESS (MAILING & ZIP)

REPRESENTING

**DO YOU WANT
TO TESTIFY?
Y or N**

✓ Thelma Ludwigsen			Y
Email address:			
✓ Margaret Antonson			Y
Email address:			
✓ Cleo Weston			Y
Email address:			
✓ Dee Dalhaug			Y
Email address:			
✓ Mary Hastings			Y
Email address:			
✓ Bertha Hansen			Y
Email address:			
Mabel Smeltzer - left			Y
Email address:			

SITE: KETCHIKAN

COMMITTEE: (S)FIN

DATE: 04.30.03

SUBJECT OF MEETING: SB117 Longevity

Meeting-ID#:7346

UPDATE #:Page 2

PLEASE SIGN IN

P R I N T YOUR NAME ADDRESS (MAILING & ZIP) REPRESENTING DO YOU WANT TO TESTIFY? Y or N

Carmen Holum left			Y
Email address:			
✓ Ed Zastrow			Y
Email address:			
Charles James left			Y
Email address:			
Email address:			
Email address:			
Email address:			
Email address:			

SITE: MAT-LIO

SUBJECT OF MEETING:

COMMITTEE: SFIN

SB117

UPDATE#: 4

DATE: 04/30/03

PLEASE SIGN IN

P R I N T YOUR NAME	ADDRESS (MAILING & ZIP)	REPRESENTING	DO YOU WANT TO TESTIFY?
✓ Dee Loesche		Wasilla Sr Ctr	Y
Email address:			
✓ Betty Mercer			Y
Email address:			
✓ Chester Webb			Y
Email address:			
✓ Russell Sanders			Y
Email address:			
✓ Louise Harris		Palmer Sr. Center	Y
Email address:			
A. Robinson Jr. left		AARP	Y
Email address:			
Lafton Wells —			Y
Email address:			
Lucille Frey —			?

SITE: MAT-LIO

SUBJECT OF MEETING:

COMMITTEE: SFIN

HB117

UPDATE#:

DATE:04/30/03

PLEASE SIGN IN

P R I N T YOUR NAME

ADDRESS (MAILING & ZIP)

REPRESENTING

**DO YOU WANT
TO TESTIFY?
Y or N**

✓ Pat Flemming			Y
Email address:			
✓ Frank Girard			Y
Email address:			
✓ Jim Watenpaugh			Y
Email address:			
Email address:			
Email address:			
Email address:			

SITE: TOK LIC
COMMITTEE: SFIN
DATE: 4/30/03

SUBJECT OF MEETING:
Longevity bonus
UPDATE #:

Already
Testified

PLEASE SIGN IN

Correct List
Just for
Records

DO YOU WANT

P R I N T YOUR NAME

ADDRESS (MAILING & ZIP)

REPRESENTING

**TO TESTIFY?
Y or N**

LuV Smith	PO Box 559 Tok, AK 99780	self	n
Email address:			
Charles Broker	PO Box 84, Tok, Ak 99780	self	Y
Email address:			
Email address:			
Email address:			
Email address:			
Email address:			

SITE: *off nets*

COMMITTEE:

DATE:

SUBJECT OF MEETING:

Longevity

UPDATE #:



PLEASE SIGN IN

PRINT YOUR NAME

ADDRESS (MAILING & ZIP)

REPRESENTING

DO YOU WANT
TO TESTIFY?
Y or N

<i>Jimmy Stevens</i>			
Email address:			
✓ <i>EMMA Andrew</i>			
Email address:			
✓ <i>Robert Nick</i>			
Email address:			
BARB <i>BARB Lewis</i>			
Email address:			
✓ <i>June HAAS</i>			
Email address:			
✓ <i>CRAIG - Volunteer Site James Dennis</i>			
Email address:			
Email address:			

**PUBLIC
TESTIMONY
SB 117**



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the SENATE FINANCE Committee
committee name

Committee on SB 117, dated Apr. 28, 2002
bill # / subject

Mr. Chairman Honorable Senators - I am not a senior yet but I am an Alaska Voter + seniors are my mentors. I am not in favor of this amendment or touching the longevity bonus period. I feel you need to honor the past commitment of our state government to these seniors. They have already adjusted their budgets for many years to include it. Many I've talked to need it for medical reasons. This money in turn then comes back into our economy & I believe little earned stay in the seniors pocket. I was always taught to respect & keep my promises if I made one. Is it fair to take it because this government has failed to be fiscally responsible & operate within a balanced budget? I strongly suggest that you do the right thing & leave our seniors alone after all most of them made the ultimate sacrifice to make this state what it is today. Wouldn't it be better to give them the option to make a decision to relinquish it if they have sufficient wealth or income instead of asking them to

Signed: Petrea Falberberg
Testifier These requirements will also increase the cost of governing of government. You need to respect your Elders!
Representing (optional)

Box 3293 Kenai
Address

(907) 283-7858
Phone number

(Suggest a State lottery) It does work other places & the money is volunteered not raved from senior citizens!



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Finance Committee
committee name

Committee on HB-11 and SB173, HB59
Senate Bill 117, dated 4-30-03
bill # / subject

I am opposed to taking the longevity bonus away from those receiving it and also opposed to a phase out of the program demanding seniors prove their need. There has been lots of testimony from seniors and I am sure you have lots of e-mails on the subject. In today's paper the house & senate rejected ending the program, however, it informs everyone that Senate Republicans plan to draft legislation to preserve the program for needy seniors. Hello, hello, welfare and goodbye independence.

Alaska voters elected you to represent them and any change to the program does not, its only an end run around the longevity program by the governor and some senators and representatives when they see dollar signs on any pocket of money. I urge everyone to keep the present longevity program intact.

For fiscal responsibility why not have an Alaska State Income Tax or Lottery, this would bring money to the state. Please do not support CS for senate bill 117.

Signed: Lynne Jones
Testifier

Self
Representing (optional)

5135 Silver Salmon Dr. #1 - Kenai, AK 99611
Address

283-2220
Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the SENATE FINANCE Committee
committee name

Committee on HB 117., dated Apr 28, 2003.
bill / subject

I am against any change
to the longevity bonus program
+ the passing of the above bill
or amendments.

Signed: James J. Caldwell
Testifier

Representing (optional)

Pc 1406 SOLDOTNA AK 99669
Address

362-5107
Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Finance
committee name

Committee on CS SB 117 Longevity dated 5-13-03
bill # / subject public hearing date

I am opposed to any bill which takes the longevity bonus away from those who are receiving it. There are no 65 year old seniors who receive the longevity bonus. If you will stop and consider what your intentions are, you are proposing to take from Seniors who are middle to late sixties and eighty plus years of age, who I consider part of the frail senior population. I believe your trying to justify what you are doing to please the governor. I mean spend without accountability and the arrogance & greed is truly a sight to behold during this legislative session.

Signed: Sharon E. Jones
Testifier

Representing (optional)
5125 Silver Salmon Ave #1 Kodiak, AK 99611
 Address
283-2220
 Phone number

FAX TO: Senator Gary *
Wilken, Co-chair
Senate Finance Committee
465 4714



PAGE 1 of 4 to 9

UEGENT MESSAGES TO LEGISLATORS

PLEASE FIND A WAY TO FAST TRACK SOME BILLS TO ASSURE US
THAT WE WILL HAVE THE CHECKS WE RELY UPON COME JULY 1st.

THE ATTACHED PAPERS OFFER SOME OF THE ARGUMENTS TO COUNTER
SB AND HB BILLS AGAIBST THE VITAL LONGEVITY PROGRAM. PLEASE
READ AND CONSIDER THESE COUNTER ARGUMENTS AND THE IDEA FOR
A POSSIBLE BILL

THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO HAVE RESPONDED TO EARLIER PAPERS
ALSO MEANT FOR PUBLIC TESTIMONY. YOU HELPED KEEP HOPE
ALIVE.

E. M. Casey

C O V E R S H E E T

Title: Second Open Letter to Governor Murkowski
with Addenda, 3 pages

Purpose: Submitted as Public Testimony for
hearings on SB 117 and HB 158 and
to recommend introduction of a bill
to freeze eligibility for the future
of those who elect to opt out of
the Longevity program and fund it
for fiscal 2004

From: E. M. Casey, an old voter

Date: March 28, 2003

By FAX to: Governor Frank Murkowski
Senate and House Majority and Minority
leaders, President and Speaker
Chairs House and Senate State Affairs
and Finance Committees
and Correspondents

- Notes:
- (1) To Governor Murkowski, Committee Chairs
and those who did not receive Faxes of
the First Open Letter to the Governor
dated March 24, 2003, a copy of the
corrected letter (4 pages) is attached.
 - (2) To other recipients of the previous open
letter, the last line of the second
paragraph on page 4 should read:

"income earned in Alaska whether
by residents or non-residents."
 - (3) Query? What would the cost of the
Longevity Bonus payment program,
always stated in 1970's dollars, have
been and be if it had been COLA
protected all these years? Better to
continue the program at the bargain and
declining expense before we ask for more.

FAX TO: 907 465 3532

E. M. C asey
8480 Jewel Lake Rd.
Anchorage, AK 99502

2nd OPEN LETTER TO:

The Honorable Frank Murkowski
Governor of the State of Alaska
Juneau, AK

March 28, 2003

Re: Equality & Fairness
Anti SB 117 & HB 158

Dear Governor Murkowski:

People are created equal but this certainly is not true as they reach retirement ages nor as they become frail or loose strength, vigor and health.

The generations you seek to penalize by removing their Longevity Bonus payments are the survivors of the Great Depression of the 1930's and of World War II. Our lives and circumstances differ wildly from those later born, including those such as your generation and those now in the process of planning their retirement lives, the so-called "Baby Boomers" who were children of my generation.

Alaskans born in 1928 and earlier are the only recipients who receive \$250 per month. The phase-out law cut off support for anyone born later than 1932 and those born in that year receive only \$100 per month.

Do you understand the difference in ability to cope with drastic changes induced by loss of even small changes in income and way of life, not to mention being able to be among familiar surroundings, friends, family if you are so fortunate as to have them, that effect the older frailer seniors. Do you understand how damaging the stress is to us compared to the effect on the those of younger seniors that had seven years to take the end of the program into consideration in making their retirement and residence plans for the time they would become 65?

If you have listened to any of the public testimony of seniors of all ages, their care-givers, and their organizations during hearings on ~~SB 117~~, your eyes have been opened to the extent of need and reliance upon these payments among the older seniors

The so-called "safety nets" do not address the problems for those of us who are not welfare cases, even if our income exceeds the amounts in your three-page handouts describing welfare by even a dollar or two. For instance we must go on paying Part B of Medicare insurance for ourselves; the State of Alaska does not pay it for us. Many of us take responsibility for buying our own Medicare Supplemental Insurance, any of the five statutory programs with monthly premiums which we pay. Alaska does not pay them for us

Page 2
Letter to Governor Murkowski
March 28, 2003

E. M. CASEY

Far from creating equality of hardship by ending the Longevity :
payment program, the proposed bills create very unequal and
unfair discrimination against the oldest of seniors.

Please refer to the explanation of the difference in the
opportunity to accumulate retirement resources explained in
my first open letter to the Governor dated March 24th.

A useful bill would be one that made it possible for those
now eligible beneficiaries to freeze eligibility at their own
existing level, but who do not at present need this form of
support, to opt out while their circumstances are good, but
return to being active beneficiaries if and when their
financial burdens increase or their incomes significantly
deteriorate.

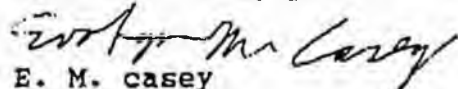
To now, this program has been an outstanding one in terms of
the administrative expenses. These expenses are mainly
clerical. Beneficiaries qualify themselves each month by
returning a small form that is part of the stub with each
month's check. Any consideration of making the program
"needs" based should give careful consideration to avoiding
creating a new burgeoning bureaucracy.

The youthful administrators whose knowledge of the program
appears to be limited to bottom line dollar view have
made no analysis of the dollar value to the economy of the
state and to their communities of the receipt and spending
locally of Longevity Bonus Program dollars.

This has never been a welfare program and it should not be
lumped with those necessary but unrelated programs and put
in position of having to compete with their meritorious but
very different missions and goals and growth, not decline.

We are being phased out by Mother Nature. We don't need
help from the Governor to speed up the process. Just refer
to the statistics produced by those very young administra-
tors who spoke for the Department of Administration on the
falling annual expense since the phase out law took effect.

Very sincerely yours,


E. M. casey

Addenda, Page 3 follows

FAX TO 907 465 3532

E. M. Casey

Page 3

Addenda to 2nd Open Letter to Governor Murkowski
March 28, 2003

Re: Invalidity of the "Original Purpose" argument advanced in seeking to eliminate the existing phase-out form of the Longevity Bonus Program.

The first time the Legislature amended the law now in it's self-sunsetting phase, the Legislature also amended the intended and stated purpose of the law to the extent that it superceded the original language.

Attempting to use unamended language of the 1970's act is a spurious and mendacious derogation of the work every subsequent Legislature has put into consideration and development of the law as it now exists. I do not want to believe that the Governor of whom so many have or had great hopes originated such a viewpoint and policy.

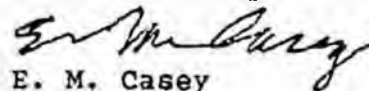
Senior and older Alaskans are not interchangeable boxes on the shelves of a toy shop. We should not be tossed into a clearance bin just because some more recently received toys might possibly bring in greater profit to the store.

Young whippersnappers equipped with MBA's and/or degrees as accountants or statisticians are not equipped to make abrupt life and well-being changes of drastic impact in the lives of their elders and seniors as if for fungible goods.

The value to the community, statewide or local, of our contributions, past, present, and future is all too obviously outside the understanding of those who conceived of the policy embodied in the two bad bills, SB 117 and HB 158, and sold to a Governor in search of a means of easing the notorious fiscal gap.

This addenda to the second open letter I have addressed to the Governor is written in the respectful hope that he will take action to delete these too-hastily drafted bills and substitute more reasonable and humane solutions for consideration by the Legislature before even more anguish and stress is inflicted on his elder citizens their caregivers and families.

Very sincerely



E. M. Casey

cc: See cover sheet

FAX TO: 907 465 3532

OPEN LETTER TO:

E. M. Casey
8480 Jewel Lake Rd.
Anchorage, AK 99502
907 243 8530

March 24, 2003

The Honorable Frank Murkowski
Governor of the State of Alaska
Juneau, AlaskaHB 158
SB 117

Dear Governor Murkowski:

You puzzle me. Are you so astute that you have maneuvered the Legislative Branch as a whole into a position where they need to find ways to redress the inequities inherent in your budgetary proposals? One, or I hope more, of the bravest among the Legislators is asked most urgently and sincerely to introduce a measure to restore funding to the Longevity payment program for 2004 to continue in existence this law that is of vital importance, in addition to defeating the above bad bills.

Or, are you merely very ill-advised by your newly appointed and close associates who display little understanding of the realities of life in Alaska? I would like to think that you just are not fully aware of the stress, distress and fear you are causing many elderly to endure. We certainly do not "step up to the plate" to wordlessly give up our one and only "safety net." You are harming us even before June 30th D day.

The only "class clash" among us is the divide between the well-paid or pensioned employees of big corporations and government and the rest of us. We may have far less to live on but our votes count just as heavily, old or not.

You may not realize, surely your younger number crunchers do not, that those now in their 70's, 80's, 90's and more spent most of our working lives in years when the dollar amount taxed into the Social Security system was much lower than that accumulated by later generations, including those now 65 to 70; Not only were those that followed us earning higher salaries their FICA taxes were much higher. They can or do look forward to higher monthly benefits than we will ever receive. I worked for 50 years but most of that was under the years of low wages and low FICA contributions. My monthly income could never match that of someone even just 10 years younger.

However, in Alaska there are many seniors and elders who worked hard all their lives with little or no opportunity to accumulate quarters of Social Security coverage nor the opportunity to accumulate a million or two, much less nest eggs sufficient to support them in a world of constantly

Page 2

Open Letter to Governor Murkowski

E. M. Casey
March 24, 2003

rising prices in a state where the substantial difference in the cost of necessities like food and fuel exist. Check your own statistic gathering assistants on the differences for a gallon of milk and a gallon of fuel, or a cartload of groceries between Railbelt cities with Juneau and towns and villages in other parts of Alaska. (Part of the reason that a state-wide sales tax does not fit in a state where there are many communities with no property tax base and which rely on a local sales tax to fund essential local services.)

There may be a few seniors who fill out the form and mail it back to Juneau each month attesting to eligibility for the next month's check who do not need it to maintain themselves. I suspect that those able to travel freely, those for whom money is not a constant problem, already have opted out of the program even though out-of-state regulations were eased a year or two ago.

I hope you do realize that is a program that is far more efficient and inexpensive in administration costs than most government funded programs. Its expenses are largely clerical. The money goes into the hands of those that need it and it is spent locally. Local merchants and grocers would miss our checks when we are left without the money to spend for food to keep up the nutrition important to health.

Of course, there are still many who spend most of the monthly check defraying such frills as paying for Part B of Medicare and Medicare Supplemental Insurance. If we can no longer manage to pay our way and have to seek charitable help from the Medicaid program, in addition to enduring personal investigation and trying to secure the support of physicians for the change if we can still obtain the services of physicians who no longer welcome Medicare-Medigap patients because their reimbursement schedules from Medicare were cut drastically during the former administration (the same administration who dumped military veterans into Medicare at the same time as part of creating a surplus!) then we can wait months to find out if Medicaid will accept us--is that your idea of a "safety net?"

I am forcibly reminded of the words of the unregenerate Ebenezer Scrooge who said when asked to help at Christmas and refusing, "then let them die and decrease the surplus population." Are we not dying off fast enough?

I believe all of the reasons stated to this point in this letter were factors in the deal struck between the Legislature and the senior Alaskans when the phase-out law and promises were made. That law gave time for those who would be

Page 3

Open Letter to Governor Murkowski

E. M. Casey

March 24, 2003

effected protection if they were relying on the program and time to anticipate the phase-out if they were near retirement.. This proposed abrupt, harsh and unreasonable ending of the promised support does none of those things. Most of us can no longer just go out and get another job to offset the loss of the funds that enable us to maintain ourselves.

To many voters, talk of reducing the size, expense and waste of government meant cutting the number, size, duplication, and complexity of offices, bureaus, and departments which make this one of the most regulated states and complicate our lives. Now we are told that instead every expenditure on the people, the actual "state," will be funded if it is of dollar value bottom line to the state--meaning the bureaucracy of government! How many positions and expenditures have been eliminated in the Executive Branch and it's tentacles?

In private business the owner can govern by edict solely concerned with protecting his monetary interest if he so chooses. In a representative government focusing solely on a dollar value bottom line is at the least inappropriate. Government, including Republican government, exists to serve the people of the state. Contending otherwise is a false premise.

Suddenly producing proposed budgetary decisions and changes of policy as surprises, especially one like this which can only have a major detrimental effect on the lives of the oldest and most infirm citizens is akin to the game of uproar played by children in classrooms to distract attention from something they have done, or more likely something they intend to do.

Have you considered folding the duties of Management and Budget into a department with some connection and duty to your constituents. It might help you put a human face on future proposals. Or fold both bureaus into one more humane than the present merchandise minded Department of Administration. The present budget proposals are pregnant with many unintended consequences--to give you a generous benefit of the doubt.

There are other means of preventing passing along to later generations a fiscal problem 20 years or more in the making.

Any flat tax (user's fee) would be inherently inequitable in Alaska whatever it is called. Of course we should all pay a user's fee for benefitting from state provided services but that user's fee must be in proportion to individual ability to pay. After all we report income such as

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Open Letter to Governor Murkowski

E. M. Casey

March 24, 2003

the dividends we receive from the Permanent Fund as well as the Longevity payments on form 1040 as part of the process of determining the amount of federal users liability we may owe the federal government. There is no rational reason not to begin gathering data and considering during fiscal 2004 what a state services users fee based on a small percentage of the federal fee should be.

No one means of raising new revenue can instantly cure 20 years or more of fiscal gap creation. Before Prudhoe Bay began to provide it's largesse, state citizens supported state services by paying a progressive tax which took account of ability to pay. Such a user's fee would provide all the traditional exemptions and deductions that apply to the federal tax on personal income, a tax or user's fee on all income earned in Alaska whether by residents or non-residents.

For 2004, after adjusting various fees attached to businesses to make them relevant to the size and economy of the businesses, a better reasoned decision about the amount of the CBR draw for 2004 is needed in order to buy time for you and the Legislature to work together in a cooperative and bipartisan way to begin giving some stability to the finances of the state beginning in fiscal 2005.

While we wait to see if there is any new source of revenue in oil and gas, government does have less draconian means of alleviating problems of the Operating Budget than discarding it's oldest and most infirm, and generally most in need of promises kept, as if their contributions to society are worthless. Their knowledge, wisdom, and skills supply many of the volunteer services which help to keep the fabric of our economy and social services functioning.

Will you work with the committees and members of the Legislative Branch, the source of approval for both appropriations and expenditures, to craft a workable operating budget, including funding 2004 for the Longevity payments while you and the Legislators survey to find out why this most efficiently run form of assistance is important?

Please excuse me for this form of submitting public testimony to hearings on the aforesaid two bills. I am too infirm and immobile to travel to a Legislative Office for teleconferences much less go to Juneau. I cannot afford the means to use E-mail nor toner cartridges for hard copies. My arthritic hands and archaic typewriter and a bottle of White-Out are my means of communication by an old FAX machine--as long as I can pay the phone bill.

Very sincerely yours,

E. M. Casey
Eva Lyn M. Casey
An Old Voter

CC: See cover sheet



OLDER PERSONS ACTION GROUP, Inc.

325 E. 3rd. Ave., #300
Anchorage, AK 99501-2606
(907) 278-1058 (Toll free 800-478-1058)
FAX (907) 278-8724



April 7, 2003

Older Persons Action Group
325 E. Third Avenue
Anchorage, AK 99501

Dear Alaska Legislators:

As you can see in the front page of the April edition, the Senior Voice highlighted the Longevity Bonus topic.

Seniors around the state hope the Bonus will remain in the state budget!

Sincerely Yours,

Ray Clements
Ray Clements, Executive Director

*Would you have an article
or letter for the Senior Voice?*



1401 West 13th Ave., Anchorage, AK 99501
Web: www.anchoragedowntown.com

MARTY MARGESON
Margeson Real Estate
Anchorage Downtown Bed & Breakfast
At "Raspberry Meadows"
907-278-9275; Fax: 907-278-9282
Email: margerhome@acl.net

April 8, 2003

Governor Frank Murkowski
P.O. Box 110001
Juneau, AK 99811-0001

Re: Without the Longevity Bonus, Pioneer Home Vet Needs "Safety Net Program"

Dear Governor Murkowski:

My 89-year-old father, a decorated World War II naval officer, is destitute and needs funds so he can receive continued medical care and services which are necessary for his health, and pain alleviation. He chose not to apply for the longevity bonus because he did not believe in government handouts. He frugally saved and believed his \$300,000 savings would fund his retirement. Now my dad has paid the Anchorage Pioneer Home (APH) his savings, and has no money left to pay for care and services that the home no longer provides - promised services which are necessary for his health, services which are needed to alleviate pain. I received your mailing entitled "Safety Net Programs Supporting Senior Citizens", but I do not find any programs to assist his needs.

Since my dad's admissions to APH in 9/97 rates have tripled at the Pioneer Homes, making APH twice as expensive as most Anchorage assisted living homes. However, with fee increases the Homes continue to redefine and cut services, and pass more expense on to the residents. For example, under new regulation all handicapped ADRD/Comprehensive residents must provide a traveling companion in order to ride APH's handicapped bus to their medical appointments. Under the stipend program my dad is only allowed \$100 per month to cover his needs; I must supplement this since this is not enough. He cannot pay the \$25+ charge for a companion. I do not see how I can, with a documented back injury, be his companion and push his chair and carry my baby at the same time. As a single mom, I cannot pay this additional cost. If APH has enough staff to transport residents for shopping events or the State Fair, why are they lacking staff for important medical transportation? Why are only the handicapped Pioneer Home residents forced to pay this additional expense/get family assistance to supplement short staffing? Where are the funds in your safety net programs to pay for this?

My father is physically handicapped and mentally challenged with dementia. Prior to admission, we were told APH was the premier assisted living dementia facility, which would provide individualized physical therapy and medical care to meet my dad's needs, and that he could age in place without having to move to a nursing home. Now, in an email dated 2/25/02 Bill O'Connor, Administrator states that because APH is an assisted living home it does "not provide intensive medical services, such as skilled PT or rehabilitative PT to residents. Such skilled health care can be provided off premises, as is the case for Mr. Margeson with Providence Outpatient Physical Therapy". However, without transportation, my dad cannot attend physical therapy off premises. Furthermore, if my dad were receiving adequate exercise/ daily range of motion he would not need rehabilitative physical therapy (HCFA says becoming immobile is an indication of neglect). Because the Home does not provide the promised services, my twice daily visits are spent massaging my dad's painful hand contractures, providing range of motion exercises, providing standing therapy, providing hydration, providing activity/exercise such as ball tossing, and feeding him; there is little time to simply relax and be his daughter. The Home continues to hire administrators, and cut the direct care CNA staff. With diminished services, free access to medical transportation is crucial.

My dad needs funding to pay for the administration of his nutritional supplements - a service promised in writing prior to admission, but no longer provided. This service is provided by other assisted living homes, nursing homes, and the hospital, when doctor ordered, which is the case with my father. I have hired a health care provider at a nominal amount to provide this service. A small portion of my dad's \$2000 social

security benefit would cover the cost, but the Pioneer Homes will allow him to use these funds for medical expenses. There is a grant program available to residents on the stipend, but my dad has been repeatedly denied funding. The Permanent Fund, which is his "safety net", has been spent to pay for this service; his 2003 Permanent Fund is also spent, and he is destitute with no funds to pay for the service. By statute, a resident is allowed to choose his medical care and provider. My dad, son of Welsh-English immigrants, has taken nutritional supplements all of his life. At my dad's Care Conference 9/14/01, APH administration took away the administration of these supplements, which they had administered since 1997, claiming that Nursing Board Minutes dated Dec. 1998 precluded them from providing that service. Long-term Care Ombudsman J.R. Richards, Esq. termed this taking away of services (administering nutritional supplements, and transportation to Outpatient PT) retaliation for the Violation the Pioneer Home received on 8/21/01. I believe this was the Home's first Violation: my handicapped father, who cannot talk/push a call button/summon help, was left painfully restrained on a portable commode for one hour, as documented by video.

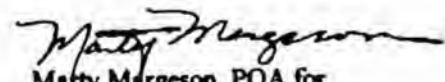
APH has pressured my dad's physician to cancel the order for his nutritional supplements, which she has refused to do because of the health benefits to my dad. Where, in your Safety Net Programs are there funds to pay his health care provider for continued service?

My father, an All-American soccer player, suffers pain from past injuries – for years the orthoped successfully prescribed use of APH's whirlpool/Jacuzzi for pain management. Without this service, my dad's brow is furrowed in pain, and he sleeps fitfully. APH's recent remodel replaced the whirlpool with expensive hi-tech sonic skin scaler tubs, which do not provide whirlpool pain management benefits. Without medical transportation, I have been unable to determine if my dad should find an off-premise Jacuzzi, seek massage therapy, or take pain medication, which the doctor is reluctant to prescribe because of possible interactions with other medications. Cost of additional medications/services will increase stipend debt for the Pioneer Homes. Replacing the sonic skin scaler tub with the whirlpool is a cost-effective kinder Eden-like way of treating our Seniors. Are there funds available in your Safety Net for my dad's pain management Jacuzzi?

Budget cutting is necessary, but not at the expense of care for our Seniors. Hiring more administrators and cutting direct care/providing insufficient direct care staff is not the way we should treat Alaskans. Trimming the budget should mean prioritizing services – certainly, a resident should not be denied medical care. How we treat our elders defines the type of care we will receive in our old age. My dad is a proud Veteran – I hope your Safety Net Programs can provide immediate assistance and save him from the embarrassment of seeking funds through church or VFW fundraisers to pay for his medical needs: medical transportation, administration of nutritional supplements, and pain management whirlpool/Jacuzzi therapy. I appreciate your time and look forward to a response from you regarding these issues.

CC: Loren Leman, Lt. Governor
Senator Hollis French
Senator Eric Croft
Senator Lyda Green
Senator Gary Wilkens
Senator Fred Dyson
Senator Gretchen Guess
Representative Ethan Berkowitz
Representative Les Gara
Representative Con Bunde
Representative Max Gruenberg
Commissioner Craig Campbell, Dept Military & Veteran Affairs
Ron Cowan, Office of the Long-term Care Ombudsman
CARING

Sincerely,



Marty Margeson, POA for
Ret. Lt Commander William Margeson

#115103

Hi my name is William Trader
from Erimak with bag of 80 gts.

According to Governor Frank
H Murkowski Letter 18,000 Alaskan

gliders are bearing about their
income from longevity bonus.

which is the intent to be cut off
if Murkowski cut the income

of elders from longevity bonus,
The question will be, with what

money will pay their FVAC bills?
with what money are going to buy

fuel? with what money are they
going to buy groceries?

If our governor Frank H
Murkowski give OK's to the

legislators to go ahead to cut the
program off, I William Trader

will call him # 100 27 566000
Thank you for your cooperation

William Trader

Respectfully
William Trader

P.O. Box 70773
Fairbanks, AK 99707
April 10, 2003

Senator Gary Wilken
State Capitol Building
Juneau, Alaska

Dear Gary Wilkin:

I appreciate your letter of March 24, presenting your questions about elimination of the Longevity Bonus Program.

1] How did we get here?

Alaska is a strange state. Someone wanted to reward older residents who had been residents for 35[?] years, presumably because they had stuck by the territory and state and helped to make it what it was. Then someone else yelled that was unfair, the courts upheld the opinion, and anyone 65 or older became eligible. I was one of the latter. I had a twinge of conscience, having done nothing to merit the check, but \$250. was a great boost to independence, difficult to refuse.

2] What is the profile of the recipients?

I have no idea. Some are doubtless saved from destitution. Some probably would not miss the \$250. or lesser amounts now issued. Some, like me, are able to indulge in extras like a ticket to an Arts Association performance, a contribution to a local charity, a Fax to my legislator. As to how to determine who would be negatively affected by elimination of the Longevity Bonus, I leave that to those who know how.

3] Should the program be "needs-based"?

Sure. There are standard poverty levels. The applicant would submit a copy of his/her tax return or affidavit verifying his income.

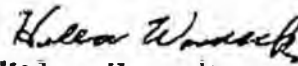
4] Should we do a rapid wind-down of the program vs. just cutting it off?

Maybe. I don't like the idea.

5] If we are going to continue the program, where should we get the revenue to fund it?

State income tax. I don't agree with Governor Murkowski's reason for rejection, which is that states that have an income tax have not done well fiscally. Alaska could have an income tax based on a percentage of the federal tax. New residents would, in effect, be paying something to offset the increasing costs of services and the PFD. Non-resident workers would contribute a sizeable share.

Thank you for the opportunity to have a say.


Helen Womack

8 APRIL 03

(A)

Senator Stevens

I would like to express my views on the Governor's request to end the Longevity Bonus program.

I have written to the Governor and received his statements on the Program.

He is using the much overused, abused, and inane excuse that this is unfair. This reason can be advanced for every possible program or action that can be taken. It all depends on your personal circumstance. Everything proposed brings protests, court actions etc.

The governor says among other things very few of the original pioneers whom the legislature sought to benefit in 1972 are among the present group. I am one of them since I arrived in Alaska in May 1943.

If the program had continued as it was first set up the cost would be quite low by now since many of us have passed on.

A man and wife, young smart-Alec attorneys saw their chance to make a large advance for themselves. They claimed that the program was unfair and so, in the state courts, the program was changed so that all persons over 65 who have lived in Alaska for more than one year should be entitled to the bonus payments. They succeeded in their endeavor. Were they personally rewarded for this? You better believe they were. Were we old timers responsible for this? Certainly not. Then many people seeing a way to get money sent for their senior relatives to come to Alaska to get in on the payments. Were we old timers responsible for that?

Since this raised the costs greatly the legislature worked out a plan to phase out the program. Thus there are some who get a lesser amount, and those who became 65 after December 31st 1996 were not eligible thus beginning a phaseout of the program as those who were getting bonuses left or passed away.. Again the governor points out that this is unfair.

My opinion is that this is a cheap shot. A quick and easy way to reduce state spending because it affects only a very small number of voters. Most of the rest of the population could care less. Let me show you how silly this NOT FAIR idea is.

When the big oil strike was made the state received nine hundred million in lease money. This was more than our wildest dreams. One of our legislators, from Homer, said that we should save it all and use the interest to help pay state costs. Of course he was ignored. If he had been listened to at the time our permanent fund would today be able to fund everything we could possibly need. Instead we used the subsequent income for every possible dumb idea that could be thought of. Did we old timers do this? A few examples would be the farming project, the Dairy project, the export ideas.

It was not long before the state was spending all of the huge oil income but that was not enough, Then they began spending not from what had been received from the year before but from what was currently coming in. The it was anticipated income, then it was selling bonds which meant that the interest increased the total costs.

I do not know what happened in the rest of the state but I saw some of the idiocy in Anchorage. The Performing Arts Center built at a horrendous cost with such items as the notorious and very costly roof coating which required major repair, Special carpeting that make one wish to throw up just looking at it. Then more recently they spent a large sum to put in a sky bridge from the Egan center which is very sparsely used. Also when the PAC was completed inspector found that many, costly, corrections were needed. Why were these not done as it was being built? Then there is the Egan Center. Again a very expensive building that operates at a loss. It costs so much for space in it that it is empty a lot of the time. The Sullivan Arena and the Ben Boeke Ice Arena. Do they pay their way? The Sullivan has to have extensive work done. Why? because some stupid jerks decided to build in a flood plain. Were we old timers responsible for any of this?

There is a very large building not far from where we live, For a long time no one knew what it was. We finally found out it was supposed to be a fish processing plant and a lot of state money was invested in it but it was and is a failure. I have been told that a small part of it is now being used but the state has recently poured another large sum into it. Did we old timers do this? Another ongoing project is the extension of the Anchorage Coastal Trail. I am told that this will cost another thirty seven million dollars, Some say it will be more. This, as in the foregoing examples will be used by only a small segment of the population. Is that Fair? At 85 and 79 do you think that my wife and I will be found jogging the length of that trail and meeting other seniors on it? Of course we have the equal right of access but you are not going to see more than a small portion of the younger citizens using it.

I drive a 1996 Ford Ranger. I see that some folks can drive a Cadillac or a Hummer. Is that Fair?

I hope that by now you will be able to understand how silly this "Fair" idea is. This is not a "Fair" world and never has been, and never will be. As I see it the state of Alaska made a commitment to us and as long as you all see fit to pour huge sums into ridiculous and worthless projects I think that you should continue to fulfill your promises to us pioneers for whatever amount of time we may have left.

I have been retired since 1977. My Medicare and Health benefits cost \$124 per month. In addition each prescription brings another \$35 charge. No dental coverage. Nothing for hearing aids at \$6400. No coverage for glasses.

I have been able to make donations to charitable causes and to Republican activities but that could change.

I will make copies of this letter and send them to your finance committee members. I hope that you will have time to consider it.

Norval M. Kane

3140 W 79th Ave
Anchorage, AK 99502-4406

Norval M Kane

12 MARCH 03

Governor Murkowski,

I am using a type roter because at 85 my penmanship is not very good. Your efforts to balance the state budget includes the elimination of Longevity payments to senior citizens. As a recipient of that program I respectfully disagree with that idea.

I came to Alaska in May, 1943. I was employed by the US Navy as an aircraft mechanic at Pensacola. A new Naval Air Station was being opened at Kodiak. One other man and myself offered to go there to help operate the gacility. Among other things I became an expert on the PBY Catalina amphibian planes. In 1945 I was inducted into the US Army and sent to Fort Richardson. I was then assigned to aircraft' repair at Elmendorf. At that time the 10th Air Rescue Squadron was using PBYs, In the AAF thet were called OA-10s. Because of my experience with the planes I was in charge of a crew working on them. After discharge in 1947 I went back to the Naval station at Kodiak. In 1950 I transferred to Elmendorf to work for the Air Force. This' of couse was Civil Service. I was in Flight Test until 1952 when I completed training in Aircraft Weight and Balance. I was then appointed as the Aircraft WWeight & balance Inspector for Elmendorf. I was responsible for that part of aircraft safety for an average of 90 to 100 aircraft stationed at Elmendorf. I forget to metion that while in the AAF at Elmendorf my aircraft inspector was Wally Hicckel. I maintained the Weight and Balance records and ewquipment as well as the microfilmed engineering library.

I retired in 1977 qith a total of 35 years 10 months of comnined service.

You know as well as I that the years as a territory and the early years of statehood presented a lot of difficulties. With the discovery of oil on the slope things changed a lot. That first 900 million was more than had been dreamed of. A represntative from Home, Mr Hillstrand advised against spending any of it. We should onvest it and usr the interest. They invested some and did a bad job since they quickly lost about a third of it. It has been that way ever since. Governor Hammond got soem of the mess staightened out so we are better off than we would have bee. However, one enormous boondoggle after another has wasted billions. My I point out that the senior citizens did not cause this to happen.

In Anchorage (I do not know what happened in other towns) we built' the PAC, The Eagan Center, The Sullivan and Ben Boeke arenas among other projects. All of these cost more to operate than they bring in. How close they are to being paid for we do not know.

With huge amounts of oil money coming in the powers that be in our state managed to spend it all, then started spending on what was coming in next year. That was not enough so they started selling bonds to meet their projects aims. That means that ypu have to pay interest on them. A complet loass any way you look at it.

Again, retired seniors did not cause this.

2.

The grain raising project, the Dairy Project, and several others are examples of massive errors. The latest one in Anchorage is the expensive and so far useless fish processing building which is costing a large amount of money.

The Longevity bonus system was and is a great help to seniors. Of course if that had been left alone the amounts needed would have been much reduced by now as the recipients passed away. But a couple of smart aleck lawyers decided that this was not fair and that anyone who had lived in Alaska for one year should also be entitled to it. Fair, depends upon who is talking about it.

This has never been and never will be a Fair world.

This proposal is going to save the state 47 million a year. I doubt that very much. That money, and the yearly dividend payments are regarded as income by the Federal Government and thus taxes must be paid on them.

The seniors who are getting the Longevity Bonus use and spend that money thus contributing to the business economy. In addition they also spend additional amounts of whatever funds they have available.

In my personal case I do not get Social Security, just my retirement funds. I do have Medicare and Blue Cross coverage due to the fact that my wife was qualified. I lost Dorothy to cancer in 1998.

We had been long time friends of Jim and Jean Poor. Jean lost Jim to heart problems some time back. We have since gotten together to help each other and we got married on Sept 24, 2001.

My monthly retirement is reduced by \$58.70 to Medicare and \$98.93 to Blue Cross. In addition Blue Cross (MEDCO) charges and additional \$35 for each prescription they fill. Jean and I each pay just under \$3000 each year for long care insurance. This will tend to keep us from losing everything and becoming paupers for the state to support in case we do require that sort of help.

The thought is that seniors do not pay taxes. Let me point out that all businesses pay taxes. A business must make a profit or go under. That means that every purchase, no matter what it is, must pay more so that the business can pay its taxes and survive. As for getting along without a vehicle that is not an option in Anchorage which is designed for them. Bus system is totally inadequate to accommodate the need for transportation. We could not afford to have a really useable system such as in Seattle. I must also pay my own dental work. Just had my hearing tested. The new hearing aids are priced at \$7400. No coverage for that either.

One of the big topics right now in Anchorage is the Coastal Trail Extension. I am told that this will cost \$37 million. This will be used by only a small percent of the population just as the trails are used now. Enormous sums are asked for schools. Schools in which vandalism is rampant. Schools also must spend time and money on security and now even three of the local high schools are to have two police officers stationed in them. None of this should be necessary.

I am a long time Republican and do not intend to change. To the best of my ability I have contributed often to many Republican activities. You will find my name in a lot of their records, The RNC, the NRCC, Contributions to our US Congressional team etc. I have even received formal invitations to White House dinners. These of course are impossible for us to attend. We cannot afford such costs. My contributions cannot be large ones but every bit does help. I voted for you and would gladly do so again. However I am not sure that I could spare funds for political donations to continue. If we senior citizens are not carrying our share of the burden neither are we the cause of the problems. There are some who wish that we should all go away and die somewhere else. I do not intend to leave Alaska.

I think that you made an excellent choice in appointing your daughter to become a US Senator. I certainly disagree with her thoughts on a few things but I believe she will be a most excellent and intelligent senator and thus I will support her. I do not know what power you have as governor but I do hope that you can find a way to stop some of the things that are going on. I would hope that you could find something better than the seniors bonus to close down. I do not think that that will result in the savings you have been led to believe would happen.

Sincerely,

Norval M. Kane
Norval M. Kane

3140 W 79th Ave
Anchorage, Alaska 99502-4406
Oh 907 243 4648



4/18/03

To: Senator Lyda Green
Cc: Senator Wilken and other members of the Finance Committee
From: Carter Crawford, concerned constituent and ardent supporter of our Interior delegation, especially our Senators!
RE: Human Services Matching Grant and Longevity Bonus

Please hold to the Senate position and cut the Bonus. My thoughts:

Like the PFD, it is a bonus not an entitlement

You may have heard from 500 to up to 1000 seniors who want it left in. Where are the 16,500 who get it who are not complaining? They are accepting it.

Of those in real need, they can get it from the state. Even if that cost \$17M you still save \$30M

This issue has a lot to do with the name. What if the state had called it Senior State Assistance, or Senior Welfare replacement or Senior Living Coupons? Then according to most of the protesters that would be beneath their dignity and they would not have cashed the checks.

In every other state and for all of us for whom this gift is not available, we have had to plan without it, and even to think maybe no social security. I do not think we should be rewarding those who did not plan, used the state for their support and never gave a thought to the fact that a bonus is not a state welfare requirement.

Finally I am amused these folks threaten to leave the state. Where are they going to go? If they can not afford the loss, how and where are going to move. Again, they have not planned or they would realize their tax obligation outside is going to double at the least and more likely quadruple.

Read the latest AARP Magazine and see how seniors in Colorado are coping with an unexpected and dramatic increase in property taxes. They are showing me the kind of grit and ingenuity I thought our seniors had.

Of the \$30M savings PLEASE reconsider your position on the Matching Grant. I am a fiscally conservative somewhat moderate Republican and when I say this is the state's best investment I mean it. You save money, a lot of money by giving just \$1.7M to the non-profits. They do the work for you and more important they build programs that reduce and even eliminate the need for welfare from the state. It is the best model for a state, municipality and local business partnership you have. And it should be used as the model for more state programs.

Also keep in mind that several agencies support the very seniors who are complaining to you now about the Bonus!

You want to cut state spending first. This is the best way to accomplish this.

Also I am going to commit political heresy and tell you to hold the line on education. I understand a group is meeting Wed night that has facts and figures on the waste and abuse in administration. I want education dollars to go to programs and teachers and when the administration costs are the problem then the only way to stop it is to not give them any more money and see where they really cut. They threaten by suggesting programs they know will cause a big outcry, but in the end they will cut administration. When I went to public school we had no after school activities unless the parents wanted to volunteer or send us to private lessons. We did not even have sports or exercise until 7th grade. Now we property owners must bare the entire cost of sending miss muffet to trumpet lessons. Give me a break and make the parents pay for it.

HUMAN SERVICES
Child Find of America
FIDE \$95

FNDR \$2 ADMIN \$6 RES -\$4
Child Find works to resolve the more than 20,000 missing-child cases that are reported to it each year. It performs in-house investigations and mediates between warring spouses in cases involving children abducted by a parent. Founded in 1980, it is the only group that specifically targets the prevention of parental abductions, which account for 354,000 of the nearly 1 million reported annual missing-child cases in the country.
ANNUAL REVENUE \$253,000
800-426-5678, www.childfindofamerica.org

Children's Defense Fund
FIDE \$50

FNDR \$5 ADMIN \$9 RES \$35
Under the leadership of president and founder Marian Wright Edelman, the Children's Defense Fund is a force that legislators ignore at their peril. It was the original advocate of the Act to Leave No Child Behind—pending legislation that strives to provide health insurance to all kids; expand Head Start; increase family-leave time; boost the minimum wage; increase tax benefits for families, particularly those with low incomes; and prevent youthful offenders from being locked up with adults.
ANNUAL REVENUE \$22.2 MIL
202-628-8787, www.childrensdefense.org

Child Welfare League of America
FIDE \$88

FNDR \$2 ADMIN \$3 RES \$8
The League guides 1,165 member agencies devoted to improving the lives of at-risk kids through abuse prevention, youth development, child care, adoption and foster care programs, and programs for pregnant and parenting teens. It writes national standards for the agencies and helps them deliver their services more efficiently.
ANNUAL REVENUE \$19.1 MIL
202-638-2952, www.cwla.org

Communities in Schools
FIDE \$89

FNDR \$5 ADMIN \$13 RES \$6
CIS brings critical children's

resources such as health clinics, mentoring programs, rape counseling, and vocational training to where the kids are—school. It has come to 2,300 schools nationwide, reaching 1.4 million school-children, and, in the process, freeing teachers to teach. It was co-founded by a school dropout in 1977, as Cities in Schools.
ANNUAL REVENUE \$8.9 MIL
800-247-4543, www.cisnet.org

Family Violence Prevention Fund
FIDE \$75

FNDR \$2 ADMIN \$2 RES \$22
Thirty-one percent of American women say they've been physically or sexually abused by a partner. The Family Violence Prevention Fund is trying to stop the horror and make life better for victims. It provides translators for non-English-speaking victims, advises judges, educates health care professionals, and counsels employers of abused workers.
ANNUAL REVENUE \$8.3 MIL
415-252-8900, www.endabuse.org

Girl Scouts of the USA
FIDE \$84

FNDR \$1 ADMIN \$9 RES \$5
The premier scouting group for girls teaches valuable life skills while building self-esteem. It helps 3.7 million girls, ages 5 to 17, broaden their horizons through math and science initiatives, sports, environmental projects, and contact with high-profile women such as senators. It recently introduced new badges to reflect what modern girls do.
ANNUAL REVENUE \$67.3 MIL
800-478-7248, www.girlscouts.org

Girls Inc.
FIDE \$63

FNDR \$12 ADMIN \$13 RES \$13
It's here to make girls "strong, smart, and bold." Girls Inc. programs promote academic goals

in economic literacy, math, and science, along with social ones such as avoiding pregnancy, drugs, and violence. Originally the Girls Clubs of America, started in 1864, Girls Inc. redefined itself in 1990 when the Boys Clubs of America expanded to include both sexes.
ANNUAL REVENUE \$8.9 MIL
800-374-4475, www.girlshc.org

Goodwill Industries International
FIDE \$84

FNDR \$0.01 ADMIN \$15 RES \$1
Goodwill helps the unemployed—chiefly the disabled and disadvantaged unemployed—train for and find jobs, either inside the organization (running the thrift shops whose profits make up half its operating revenue) or outside. To remove barriers to employment, it provides child care, transportation, counseling, and life-skills training.
ANNUAL REVENUE \$22.3 MIL
800-664-6577, www.goodwill.org

Habitat for Humanity
FIDE \$65

FNDR \$19 ADMIN \$4 RES \$13
Donors and recipients both make an investment in this feel-good program. Donors supply materials and some labor; recipients put in sweat equity for a down payment on a home, with an average price of \$49,000. In its fiscal year 2000, Habitat for Humanity built 18,468 homes worldwide, bringing its total to 120,000 since 1976. Having former president Jimmy Carter so closely identified with the project is a PR coup.
ANNUAL REVENUE \$165.1 MIL
800-422-4828, www.habitat.org

Mothers Against Drunk Driving
FIDE \$66

FNDR \$14 ADMIN \$12 RES \$8
After her 4-year-old died when a

drunk driver rear-ended her car, Millie Webb helped start MADD; she is now its national president. Since 1980, when MADD was founded, its 600-odd chapters have lobbied successfully for the passage of 2,300 drunk-driving and underage-drinking-prevention laws and created the campaign that has made "designated driver" a household phrase. In 1980, 28,000 Americans a year were killed by drunk drivers. Now that number is down to 16,000.
ANNUAL REVENUE \$46.9 MIL
800-438-6233, www.madd.org

Ms. Foundation for Women
FIDE \$47

FNDR \$7 ADMIN \$10 RES \$36
The group is dedicated to helping create economic opportunities for low-income women by funding community-based organizations that press for better wages and working conditions. It assists coalitions that push for increased services for women on welfare and backs groups that monitor domestic-abuse cases. Its flow of funds to programs appears low due to multiyear grants that are temporarily restricted for use.
ANNUAL REVENUE \$16.7 MIL
212-742-2300, www.ms.foundation.org

National Center for Missing and Exploited Children
FIDE \$83

FNDR \$4 ADMIN \$3 RES \$10
The Center is the brainchild of John Walsh, host of the television program *America's Most Wanted*, whose son Adam was abducted and murdered at age 6. Founded nearly 20 years ago, the Center created the first nationwide missing-children emergency-response system by coordinating the efforts of law enforcement agencies, legislators, educators, and the public. More than 16,000 retail stores such as Wal-Mart and Home Depot, as well as museums and

NUMBER
OF MISSING
CHILDREN
ABDUCTED
EACH
YEAR BY
A PARENT

354,000

17

P.O. Box 128 Emmonak, Alaska 99561
Phone (907) 849-1720 Fax (907) 849-1304

Emmonak Tribal Council

Fax

To: Honorable Gary Wilken From: William Trader, Elder

Fax: 907-465-4714 Pages: 1

Phone: _____ Date: 4/21/03

File: _____ CC: _____

Urgent For Review Please Comment Please Reply Please Recycle

Comments:

HONORABLE GARY WILKEN
 DEAR WILKEN

MY NAME IS WILLIAM TRADER FROM EMMONOK
 AK. WITH AGE OF EIGHTY (80) YEARS. I NEED
 YOUR HELP DESPERATELY ABOUT WHAT OUR
 GOVERNERS LETTER CONCERNING LONGEVITY BONUS.

ACCORDING TO GOVERNOR MURKOWSKI'S LETTER
 THERE ARE EIGHTEEN THOUSAND (\$18,000) SENIORS
 IN AK. ARE GOING TO CUT OFF FROM LONGEVITY
 PROGRAM.

NOW, IF GOVERNOR CUT OFF THE LONGEVITY
 PROGRAM, THERE IS A QUESTION # ONE (1) WITH
 WHAT MONEY WILL ELDER BUY FUEL TO HEAT
 UP THEIR HOUSE, #2 WITH WHAT MONEY WILL
 THEY PAY THEIR LIGHT BILLS OR COOK? # THREE (3)
 WITH WHAT MONEY WILL THEY BUY GROCERIES?
 YOU SEE, \$250.00 MAY SOUND NOT MUCH, BUT ITS
 BIG HELP, CAUSE COST OF LIVING COST HIGH,
 ESPECIALLY TO THOSE WHO ARE DISABLED AND CAN
 NOT DO ANY THING TO HELP THEMSELVES.

SO, WE SENIORS OF AK NEED OUR INCOME
 FROM LONGEVITY, JUST AS MUCH GOVERNOR NEEDS
 HIS MONEY COMING TO HIM, UNLESS IF GOVERNOR
 DONT CARE ABOUT HIS PEOPLE LIKE SADDAM,
 THEN HE SHALL BE CALLED # TWO (2) SADDAM.
 THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION.

Sincerely
 William Trader

Errollyn M. Casey
8480 Jewel Lake Rd
Anchorage AK 99501

Senate Finance Committee
Co-Chair

Re Longevity Pensions
and Budget Bill

Dear Senator Wilken:

Attached is a copy of an earlier letter
re freezing eligibility of future recipients
of the Longevity Bonus who do not need
it now but are loath to give it up forever
in case their circumstances deteriorate.

Please also consider distinguishing
between an "INCOME" test as is used in
eligibility for some programs and a "MEANS"
test that implies Welfare and pauperization.

We who truly can't make it without
our part of LBP are not seeking to
join Welfare nor to pauperize ourselves.

Please don't make us welfare cases.

That is demeaning. Many of us still
try our best to be self-sustaining.

The problem is that we were promised
and rely upon LBP and are now too old
or infirm to be able to move where it
may cost less to live.

Sincerely

Errollyn M. Casey

Attachments: 1 page.

FAX TO: Senator Gary
 Wilken, Co-chair
 Senate Finance Committee
 465 4714 *

Eva Lyn M. Casey
 8480 Jewel Lake Rd.
 Anchorage, AK 99502
 907 243 8530

March 29, 2003

Senator John Cowdrey
 Member, Senate State Affairs Committee
 Member, Senate Finance Subcommittee
 re Governor

Re: Bill to Freeze
Eligibility for & Fund
Longevity Program 2004

Dear Senator Cowdrey:

Please consider the suggestions in my letter and it's attachments even though I am not from your district.

Your remarks during the first committee hearing on SB 117 cause me to believe you would be among those Legislators most likely to understand that a bill such as that suggested below would be a humane and rational way to treat the crisis that looms over all of us truly dependent on the payments we receive--and get the Governor and the Republican majority off the hot seat the issue has created.

Of first importance to the program's present beneficiaries is, of course, putting funding for the fiscal year that begins July 1st, 2003, in place. You have heard a great deal already on the urgency of seeing that is done.

Next, if the bill makes it possible for those recipients who, at present, are in circumstances such that they could opt out of the program without losing eligibility to return so it later if their circumstances change and finances deteriorate, you might well create a self-administering and non-bureaucratic form of practical "means testing."
 * INCOME

Such a bill might even be a vehicle to recreate some of the bipartisanship so noticeably lacking so far in this session where leaders of the Minority have not even been inside the Governor's office according to statements in press briefings

As for "trade-offs" HB 11 from Representative Rokeberg does appear to be a viable incremental step forward in easing fiscal gap dilemmas.

cc: Senate and House Majority
 and Minority leaders, Rep. Norman
 Rokeberg, Chairs House and Senate
 State Affairs and Finance, and
 Governor Murkowski

Very sincerely,

Eva Lyn M. Casey
 E. M. Casey

PS: Please delete or defeat SB 117 and HB 158

3/31/03
Joe
ML



KENNETH D. BREWER
1701 TAMARACK STREET
FAIRBANKS ALASKA 99709
(907) 452-2919

March 21, 2003

March 25, 2003

Senator Gary Wilken
Senate Bill 117

It sometimes amazes me as to how fast people forget about our pioneers. Just to let you know, I do not receive the Longevity Bonus, I am only sixty-four years old and have lived in Fairbanks since nineteen sixty nine and therefore do not qualify.

My only concern is the pioneers that are on a fixed budget. The bonus acts as a supplement to their Social Security Benefits and to help pay for their Medicare prescriptions. Depriving them of a supplement as small as \$250.00 means a lot to them and please do not kid yourself, there are a lot of them out there.

I checked my social security benefits, factored in my living cost, placed myself on a fixed budget and decided to see if I could live in Alaska after I retired. My budget didn't last one month when my vehicles broke down costing me seven hundred dollars to repair. There went that budget.

The point is simple; not everyone has a nice retirement. The best retirements have been given to the people in the school systems, government workers and union workers.

I feel that our pioneers should be rewarded and encouraged to stay in Alaska for the sake of Alaska. I myself will probably have to move to a warmer climate. In the mean time I will tell you like I told Joe Hayes, don't mess with the permanent fund dividend unless you're looking for another job. I will say the same thing to you when you start taking things away from the pioneers. The thing that you want to remember is.... can you afford to give up votes. My family votes every time and my front yard becomes a billboard on how we feel.

I have one suggestion: If you wish to save dollars, reduce government, I understand that the State of Alaska is some thirty thousand strong and still growing.

ORIGINAL COPY

Yours truly

Kenneth D Brewer
KENNETH D BREWER

(FAXED TO YOU 3/25/03)

ML

3/31/03
used
mt

(C)

MAR 27 2003

March 13, 2003

Senator Gary Wilken
Room 518, 3rd Floor, State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Senator Wilken:

I am writing this letter in protest of Governor Murkowski's proposed elimination of the Longevity Bonus and the Human Services Community Matching Grant (HSCMG) programs. Both programs provide support to Fairbanks seniors, many of who are low-income and suffer with health problems. In Fairbanks, the HSCMG funds the Meals on Wheels service for seniors that is administered by the North Star Council on Aging. The HSCMG program also funds other community agencies that provide help to low-income seniors such as free food, care for the dying, and legal assistance.

Cutting these programs will adversely affect a person's ability to "age in place," stay healthy, and remain independent. Having to make a choice between buying food vs. buying needed prescription medicine is not fair to Alaska's oldest citizens. Seniors depend on their longevity bonus as part of their monthly income. They also depend on receiving their home-delivered meal, which for many is their "one and only" meal of the day.

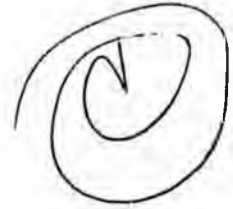
I urge you to reinstate the Alaska Longevity Bonus and the HSCMG programs. We need to be respectful of our elders, not abuse them.

Sincerely,

Charles R. Clark
3157 Davis Rd
Fairbanks, AK 99709

3/31/03
and sent

1572



March 13, 2003

Senator Gary Wilken
Room 518, 3rd Floor, State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Senator Wilken:

I am writing this letter in protest of Governor Murkowski's proposed elimination of the Longevity Bonus and the Human Services Community Matching Grant (HSCMG) programs. Both programs provide support to Fairbanks seniors, many of who are low-income and suffer with health problems. In Fairbanks, the HSCMG funds the Meals on Wheels service for seniors that is administered by the North Star Council on Aging. The HSCMG program also funds other community agencies that provide help to low-income seniors such as free food, care for the dying, and legal assistance.

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I urge you to reinstate the Alaska Longevity Bonus and the HSCMG programs. We need to be respectful of our elders, not abuse them.

Sincerely,

Ruth B. Bohms

Ruth Bohms P.O. Box 80155 Fairbanks, Alaska 99708 Ruth B. Bohms

March 13, 2003

Senator Gary Wilken
Room 518, 3rd Floor, State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99811

3/31/03
Jed
mt



Dear Senator Wilken:

I am writing this letter in protest of Governor Murkowski's proposed elimination of the Longevity Bonus and the Human Services Community Matching Grant (HSCMG) programs. Both programs provide support to Fairbanks seniors, many of who are low-income and suffer with health problems. In Fairbanks, the HSCMG funds the Meals on Wheels service for seniors that is administered by the North Star Council on Aging. The HSCMG program also funds other community agencies that provide help to low-income seniors such as free food, care for the dying, and legal assistance.

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I urge you to reinstate the Alaska Longevity Bonus and the HSCMG programs. We need to be respectful of our elders, not abuse them.

Sincerely,

Maria E. Thomas
1606 Marika Rd #19
Fairbanks, AK 99709

March 12, 2003

Senator Gary Wilken
Room 518, 3rd Floor, State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Senator Wilken:

I am writing this letter in protest of Governor Murkowski's proposed elimination of the Longevity Bonus and the Human Services Community Matching Grant (HSCMG) programs. Both programs provide support to Fairbanks seniors, many of who are low-income and suffer with health problems. In Fairbanks, the HSCMG funds the Meals on Wheels service for seniors that is administered by the North Star Council on Aging. The HSCMG program also funds other community agencies that provide help to low-income seniors such as free food, care for the dying, and legal assistance.

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I urge you to reinstate the Alaska Longevity Bonus and the HSCMG programs. We need to be respectful of our elders, not abuse them.

Sincerely,

Marie Yanzick
1420 Moore St #14

FBKs 99701

Marie Yanzick

©

3/31/03
card sent

card sent 3/31/03



March 12, 2003

Senator Gary Wilken
Room 518, 3rd Floor, State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Senator Wilken:

I am writing this letter in protest of Governor Murkowski's proposed elimination of the Longevity Bonus and the Human Services Community Matching Grant (HSCMG) programs. Both programs provide support to Fairbanks seniors, many of who are low-income and suffer with health problems. In Fairbanks, the HSCMG funds the Meals on Wheels service for seniors that is administered by the North Star Council on Aging. The HSCMG program also funds other community agencies that provide help to low-income seniors such as free food, care for the dying, and legal assistance.

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Sincerely,

Marian Hoffman
708 Perry St 99701

3/31/03
card sent

(7)

MAR 27 2003

March 12, 2003

Senator Gary Wilken
Room 518, 3rd Floor, State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99811

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I urge you to reinstate the Alaska Longevity Bonus and the HSCMG programs. We need to be respectful of our elders, not abuse them.

Sincerely, *Rachel S. Johnson*

3/31/03
card
rent

(C)

March 12, 2003

Senator Gary Wilken
Room 518, 3rd Floor, State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Senator Wilken:

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I urge you to reinstate the Alaska Longevity Bonus and the HSCMG programs. We need to be respectful of our elders, not abuse them.

Sincerely,

Weizel J. Raith
Weizel J. Raith
330 3rd Ave Apt 518
Fbks, AK 99701

1 card
letter sent 3/31/03
4/21
(C)

March 12, 2003

Senator Gary Wilken
Room 518, 3rd Floor, State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Senator Wilken:

I am writing this letter in protest of Governor Murkowski's proposed elimination of the Longevity Bonus and the Human Services Community Matching Grant (HSCMG) programs. Both programs provide support to Fairbanks seniors, many of who are low-income and suffer with health problems. In Fairbanks, the HSCMG funds the Meals on Wheels service for seniors that is administered by the North Star Council on Aging. The HSCMG program also funds other community agencies that provide help to low-income seniors such as free food, care for the dying, and legal assistance.


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I urge you to reinstate the Alaska Longevity Bonus and the HSCMG programs. We need to be respectful of our elders, not abuse them.

Sincerely,

Letty V. Hummel

*P.S. I remember your parents.
They would be in favor of
keeping our longevity!*

3/31/03
letter sent


March 12, 2003

Senator Gary Wilken
Room 518, 3rd Floor, State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Senator Wilken:

I am writing this letter in protest of Governor Murkowski's proposed elimination of the Longevity Bonus and the Human Services Community Matching Grant (HSCMG) programs. Both programs provide support to Fairbanks seniors, many of who are low-income and suffer with health problems. In Fairbanks, the HSCMG funds the Meals on Wheels service for seniors that is administered by the North Star Council on Aging. The HSCMG program also funds other community agencies that provide help to low-income seniors such as free food, care for the dying, and legal assistance.

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I urge you to reinstate the Alaska Longevity Bonus and the HSCMG programs. We need to be respectful of our elders, not abuse them.

Sincerely,



3/31/03
urgent

Ⓢ

March 12, 2003

Senator Gary Wilken
Room 518, 3rd Floor, State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Senator Wilken:

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I urge you to reinstate the Alaska Longevity Bonus and the HSCMG programs. We need to be respectful of our elders, not abuse them.

Sincerely, *Harold Starbuck*

666 11th Ave., Apt. 106
Fairbanks, AK 99701-4648

3/31/03
card sent



March 12, 2003

Senator Gary Wilken
Room 518, 3rd Floor, State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Senator Wilken:

I am writing this letter in protest of Governor Murkowski's proposed elimination of the Longevity Bonus and the Human Services Community Matching Grant (HSCMG) programs. Both programs provide support to Fairbanks seniors, many of who are low-income and suffer with health problems. In Fairbanks, the HSCMG funds the Meals on Wheels service for seniors that is administered by the North Star Council on Aging. The HSCMG program also funds other community agencies that provide help to low-income seniors such as free food, care for the dying, and legal assistance.

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Sincerely,

Rose Shockey

3291 Jefferson Dr.
FBX 99709

March 12, 2003

Senator Gary Wilken
Room 518, 3rd Floor, State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Senator Wilken:

I am writing this letter in protest of Governor Murkowski's proposed elimination of the Longevity Bonus and the Human Services Community Matching Grant (HSCMG) programs. Both programs provide support to Fairbanks seniors, many of who are low-income and suffer with health problems. In Fairbanks, the HSCMG funds the Meals on Wheels service for seniors that is administered by the North Star Council on Aging. The HSCMG program also funds other community agencies that provide help to low-income seniors such as free food, care for the dying, and legal assistance.

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I urge you to reinstate the Alaska Longevity Bonus and the HSCMG programs. We need to be respectful of our elders, not abuse them.

Sincerely, *Frances Huber*

©

card
sent 3/31/03

Chad
3/31/03
②

March 12, 2003

Senator Gary Wilken
Room 518, 3rd Floor, State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Senator Wilken:

I am writing this letter in protest of Governor Murkowski's proposed elimination of the Longevity Bonus and the Human Services Community Matching Grant (HSCMG) programs. Both programs provide support to Fairbanks seniors, many of who are low-income and suffer with health problems. In Fairbanks, the HSCMG funds the Meals on Wheels service for seniors that is administered by the North Star Council on Aging. The HSCMG program also funds other community agencies that provide help to low-income seniors such as free food, care for the dying, and legal assistance.

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I urge you to reinstate the Alaska Longevity Bonus and the HSCMG programs. We need to be respectful of our elders, not abuse them.

Sincerely,

Geoffrey C. Bankhauser



3034 Riverview Drive
Fairbanks, AK 99709
March 31, 2003

Senator Gary Wilken
State Capitol Building
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Senator Wilken,

Thank you for your letter of March 24, 2003 concerning your ideas on the Longevity Bonus. I will try to answer at least some of your questions.

First let me tell you a little about myself. I have lived in Fairbanks since 1947, and am a retired widow. For the past 48 years I have lived at 3034 Riverview Drive, and had hoped to live out the rest of my years here where all my children were raised. But, in order to do that I need the Longevity Bonus to help pay the bills.

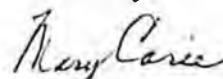
Originally the Longevity Bonus was established to reward seniors over 65, who had lived in Alaska for 25 years or more. Then as the result of a law suit that claimed discrimination, eligibility was enlarged to include all residents over 65, if they had lived here for at least one year. Then in 1996 the legislature passed a bill to phase out these benefits, but allowed those receiving it to continue getting it until their death. The Seniors planned accordingly and thought this was going to be the end of it. When my husband died 16 years ago that was a blow to my finances, but I have managed to stay in my home with the help of the Longevity Bonus.

Just in the past few months my heating oil has gone from \$1.10 to \$1.37 per gallon. My homeowners insurance has increased \$80.00 a year, plus groceries and many other necessities have also gone up in price.

I realize that the State must raise money to cover the budget but I do not think the Seniors should be hit so hard when many of them are too old or too ill to go back to work.

I would be in favor of re-establishing the School Tax and possibly increasing it. Also how about instituting a six month sales tax or a state income tax. Most states have one. Either of these would be more fair than wiping out the Longevity Bonus that the old folks need. No one is going to hire a 75 year old when so many younger workers are available.

Sincerely,


Mary Carie

North Star Council on Aging, Inc.
Senior Center
♦♦♦♦

1424 Moore St. ♦ Fairbanks, AK 99701
Phone (907) 452-1735 ♦ Fax (907) 451-9974



FAX COVER SHEET

NSCA
From: Seniors of the Senior Center

Date: 3/19/03

Account Number: 907-451-4714

Urgent Reply Please comment Please review FYI

Pages, including cover: 2

Comments:
This supporting the retention of the Community
and the Human Services Community Meetings

Thank You

MAR 26 2003

①

P.O. Box 73277
Fairbanks, AK 99707
March 21, '03

Dear Gary,

Thank you for all that you do to so ably serve all of us. Your accessibility and common sense is greatly appreciated.

Please allow me to share my opinion on the following issues:

① Longevity Bonus - Please support keeping it in place for our seniors. We made this promise to them to honor their contributions and to keep them at home in Alaska. I support Gov. Mark Kowalski BUT

I find it unconscionable to even consider cutting the budget in this area. I would think that our senior citizens find it stressful to even have to ponder this possibility.

Seniors have no way to make up the difference in their household budgets. They have counted on this amount - need based or not - to balance their finances.

In my opinion, it's shameful to even suggest going back on our promise to them.

② Education Funding - Please continue your leadership role for full funding and please continue to point out that added resources are needed to meet our accountability challenges. You have consistently

championed this cause and it is appreciated.

Educators - such as Bob and I - are so thankful that you are willing to make the personal and professional sacrifices necessary to represent us in Juneau. You consistently demonstrate that you "get it" about education and I know that you do. (I sometimes think that I "read" Smart Sue's influence in your on-the-mark comments, too. Bless her!)

③ Re-hiring retired educators - This makes sense to me. I am exploring SB 20 and SB 145 to see if all of the language is agreeable but I know that I support the concept. We need the experience of seasoned educators to mentor newer professionals, especially in

this era of increased accountability, and
we need the best people we can get to
fill positions, rural and urban.

Thank you for listening.

Again, your service is appreciated.

Best regards to you, Sue, and family.

Sincerely,

Colleen & Bob Johnston

Already
sent card

April 7, 2003

Dear Legislator:

Governor Murkowski's proposal to end Alaska's Longevity Bonus program July 1, 2003 is a slap in the face to seniors. He says let them go on welfare although that would gain nothing because the money would still come from the government.

Many seniors have planned their retirement with the Longevity Bonus as an income so they can stay in Alaska.

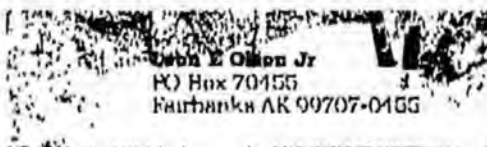
At the time the Longevity Fund was proposed, its purpose was to provide incentive to seniors to remain in Alaska following their retirement, and to not sell their property and go south with the money.

The Longevity Fund should be retained because it benefits the State of Alaska's economy in the following ways:

1. Seniors' social security money plus other retirement money they earn would stay in Alaska;
2. The \$250 per month helps seniors to pay for the higher cost of living caused by the higher prices in Alaska from freight charges;
3. The Longevity Bonus was never considered as welfare. It was a plan to benefit the economy of Alaska.
4. The people receiving the bonus are 75 years of age or older and ten years from now, many will no longer be here.

I urge you to retain the Alaska Longevity Bonus for Alaskan seniors. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely, *Leon G. Olson Jr.*



ALASKA WATCH DOG

Proposed Cuts

We have 20 Senators and 40 Representatives in our State Legislature. While they are in Juneau they are each given a \$160.00/day per diem. A few years ago they only wanted to spend 90 days or 3 months in session and not the 180 days or 6 months that they currently do. Let's grant them that request. It would mean a saving of \$864,000.00 each and every year. This would be a start in reducing the deficit. And while they are at it why not look at all the other agencies and departments instead of just one or two. They could take a 10% cut right across the board.

During the height of the pipeline we all did well. Everyone received good salaries. But now the pipeline and good times are over. Everyone except the politicians and state employees have since had to receive harsh cut backs or lost their jobs outright. In fact the politicians and state employees have never had to cut back and have actually enjoyed raises and better pay. It's time that the politicians and state employees also feel the pinch and start cinching in their own belts. The elderly, middle and low-income people should no longer be the only ones to shoulder the burden of a gluttonous government.

Don't let the politicians put a guilt trip on you either about putting your children in debt. The politicians are the ones that are guilty of that. They have never kept their political promises and now they want to ruin the economy for all Alaskans.

Start keeping a little black book with names, promises and actions. At the next election take a good look at your notes. Don't make the same mistake twice.

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