

ALASKA LEGISLATURE

2680

HOUSE and SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE FILES, 2003-2004

246

TO: Our Fairbanks Interic. Legislators and other Legislators Statewide

March, 2003

We ask you NOT to eliminate or change the provisions of the Longevity Bonus Program in any way.

Longevity Bonus monthly checks are critical to the well being and the survival of Alaska's seniors ranging in age from 100 years down to the early 70s. Many of Alaska's seniors live precariously on the edge of solvency stretching their small incomes to pay for prescription drugs, rent and food.

The retirement income of seniors and their medical payments have a significant beneficial effect on the state's economy.

(66)

In addition to the impact of their income, seniors are volunteers and they provide the equivalent of thousands of full-time jobs worth millions of dollars per year to the state. We, the undersigned, urge our legislators to leave the Longevity Bonus Program intact AS IT IS, to ensure dignity and independence for Alaska's seniors, and to enable them to continue to contribute their wisdom, to inspire Alaska's youth, and to lead meaningful and healthy lives.

NAME (PRINT)	NAME (SIGNATURE)	PHYSICAL ADDRESS	MAILING ADDRESS	CITY & ZIP	PHONE	E-MAIL
Doris J. Shepard	Doris J. Shepard		P.O. Box 73958	Fairbanks	479-6943	
Mary C. Mangus	Mary C. Mangus	206 Marloup	P.O. Box 80544	Fairbanks	479-4195	
Connie Schuman	Connie Schuman	4364 Old Nuniang	P.O. Box 71876	Fairbanks	479-6934	
Don Seeliger	Don Seeliger	3026 Niverville	SAME	"	479-2477	
Sandra Dewey	Sandra Dewey	2327 Stevens	Same	Fairbanks	455-6565	
Spencer Hines	Spencer Hines	3450 Woodruff	Box 871891	Wasilla Ak.	373-1329	
Louisa M. Bush	Louisa M. Bush	694 Happy Jack	Box 10298	Fbk's.	457-3003	
Maureen Miscom	M Miscom	1019 Haggerty St	P.O. Box 58154	Fbk's 99711	488-6922	
William E. Bush	BUSH, WILLIAM E	694 HAPPY JACK	P.O. BOX 10298	Fbk 99710	457-3003	
Dianne Christiansen	Dianne Christiansen	872 Union St.	P.O. Box 11116	Fbk's 99710	457-1450	

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NAME (PRINT)	NAME (SIGNATURE)	PHYSICAL ADDRESS	MAILING ADDRESS	CITY & ZIP	PHONE	E-MAIL
Sharon Nesbitt	Sharon Nesbitt		Box 55858	N. Pole, AK	488-2220	
J.C. BRAZIER	J.C. Brazier		Box 56930	N. Pole AK	488-9757	
HUGH H. CONNELLY	Hugh H. Connelly	-	1023-LATHROP	FAIRBANKS	456-2548	
Terry Boren	Terry Boren		3266 Bluebird	Fbks, AK	479-3132	
George Shepard	George Shepard		P.O. Box 22958	Fbks, AK	479-6943	
David Mangusso	David Mangusso		P.O. Box 80254	Fbks, AK	479-4195	
James A Eddy	James A Eddy		314 Idit 1123	FAIRBANKS	452-6060	
Pat DeMerrill	Pat DeMerrill	570 Toxford crt	P.O. Box 4470	FBKS, AK	452-5447	
David Seeliger	Dave Seeliger		P.O. Box 80253	FBKS	456-4394	
Dan Alan W. Shaw	Dan A.W. Shaw	mile 300 Parks	Box 371	99760 Nenana		

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NAME (PRINT)	NAME (SIGNATURE)	PHYSICAL ADDRESS	MAILING ADDRESS	CITY & ZIP	PHONE	E-MAIL
ROCKY DUNCAN	<i>Rocky Duncan</i>	2124 McCULLUM P.O. Box 71734	P.O. BOX 71734	FBKS 99707	452-2731	
Dolores Koogle	<i>Dolores Koogle</i>	510 YAK RD #856E	SAME	FBKS 99709	459-5275	
HAL MEYER	<i>Hal Meyer</i>	4250 ASHTONWOOD DR.	SAME	FBY 99709	451-2710	
MITCHELL DUFFERUIS	<i>Mitchell Dufferuis</i>	1110 HARLEY TRAIL	POB 58245	FBKS 99711	458-5551	<i>fdygn2@alaska.net</i>
DARLENE WALLNER	<i>Darlene Wallner</i>	2863 ARD. 11a St.	SAME	FBKS 99709	474-9184	
SHIRLEY DUFFERUIS	<i>Shirley Dufferuis</i>	1245 SPORTSMAN		99709 FAIRBANKS	457-4434	
Alexandria Connell	<i>Alexandria Connell</i>	1523 Lathrop St	same	99701 FBKS	456-2548	
JAMES RUPPONT	<i>James Ruppont</i>	3266 BLUEBIRD	SAME	FAIRBANKS	474-3132	
MARIE A.C. HARRINGTON	<i>Marie A.C. Harrington</i>	1156 Violet Dr.	"	" 99712	457-7379	
Fred Wilkins	<i>Fred Wilkins</i>	3325 Stead Ave	Box 72702	FBKS 99707	389 2104	

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NAME (PRINT)	NAME (SIGNATURE)	PHYSICAL ADDRESS	MAILING ADDRESS	CITY & ZIP	PHONE	E-MAIL
LEAH MADONNA	Leah Madonna	774 Chena Hills	504 College Rd	FAIRBANKS, 99701	452-2576	Lmadonna @ MASQUITO NET.COM
DOROTHY BESCH	Dorothy Besch	2420 DACHERDA	Box 70723	99708 COLLEGE, AK	479-3005	
Ronald J. Watts	Ronald J. Watts	1733 University Ave # F-55	17 University Ave # F-55	Fairbanks 99701	455-4737	wattsrj @ hotmail.com
Terry Kozarik	Terry Kozarik	Delta Junction 2473 Sheldon	Bx 190 Delta Junct	Delta Junction 99737	907 895-1951	
Richard Kozarik	Richard Kozarik	"	"	"	"	
Bridget Loudon	Bridget Loudon	109 Waterloo Ln	109 Waterloo Ln Fairb. AK	Fairb. AK 99712	4575437	
Robert Campbell	Robert Campbell	1843 KITHWAKE DR.	1843 KITHWAKE DR. Fairbanks AK	Fairbanks AK 99707	456-2153	Robert.Campbell @ netlink.net
Danny L. Bernhardt	Danny L. Bernhardt	3284 Riverview Dr Fairbanks	Same Fairbanks Alaska 99709	Fairbanks, AK	474-9295	
Nancy W Bernhardt	Nancy W Bernhardt	3284 Riverview Dr	Fairbanks AK 99709	Fairbanks AK	474-9295	
Marcella Hill	Marcella Hill	1548 Westwood Ln	Fb AKS 99799	Fairbanks AK	479-0201	

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NAME (PRINT)	NAME (SIGNATURE)	PHYSICAL ADDRESS	MAILING ADDRESS	CITY & ZIP	PHONE	E-MAIL
Judi DAVIS	Judi Davis	1097 Vicki Lane	Same	North Pole 99705	490-2379	
Jane Walsh	Jane Walsh	1097 Vicki Lane	Same	North Pole 99705	490-2379	
Niki Clemmons	Niki Clemmons	385 Winters	PO Box 81698 Fairbanks	FAIRBANKS	452-2302	
Randy Bauman	Randy Bauman	NORTH POLE	PO Box 57713	99705	488-9278	
Barbara Miller	Barbara Miller	598 Eton	same	Fairbanks AK 99709	479-3391	
Charles L. Miller	Charles L. Miller	598 Eton	same	Fairbanks AK 99709	479-3391	
THELMA WATTS	Thelma Watts	1733 University Ave F-55	SAME	99709	455-4737	
Michael R. DeVaughn	Michael R. DeVaughn	North Pole 4475 Lauesen Ave	same	99705	44-0666	
MYRON KESTERKE	Myron E Kesterke	PO Box 3016 VFW ST.	PO Box 5498	North Pole 99705	488-2917	
LINDA Slocum	Linda Slocum	560 YAK RD	same	99709	459-2018	

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NAME (PRINT)	NAME (SIGNATURE)	PHYSICAL ADDRESS	MAILING ADDRESS	CITY & ZIP	PHONE	E-MAIL
MARIE TUTTASKEY	Marie Tuttaskey	1710 POOL ST	(same)	N. Pole 99705	488-9185	
PATRICIA DENISON	Patricia Denison	File 147.5 Richardson Hwy 3526 KALTAG	AK 99707	GRANVILLE AK 99586 N. Pole 99705	488-8279	
Todd Denton	Todd Denton	Mile 147.5 Richardson Hwy	P.O. Box 358 Grakona AK 99586	99586	822-7122	
Robert L Fairchild	Robert L Fairchild	152 Peppercorn	Same 99707	99709	478-178	
Monte WICKERT	Monte Wickert	221 Gold Chain Ave	PO Box 1000	99717	457-5744	
SALLY J ROWLETT	Sally J Rowlett	168 Crest Drive	1701 CART AVE	Fbks 4. AK	457-1406	
MILDRED HODSON	Mildred E. Hodson	37040 STEELHEAD CR.	P.O. Box 1467	STERLING AK	2-8815	
MAILYN WENZLICK	Marilyn Wenzlick	1008 Pioneer Rd		Fairbanks, AK	452-3627	
Cliff Wenzlick	Cliff Wenzlick	1008 Pioneer Road		Fairbanks, AK	452-3627	
MIKE DOWNING	Mike Downing	2329 Castle Ct. Rd.	P.O. Box 320	Estes	479-3635	

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NAME (PRINT)	NAME (SIGNATURE)	PHYSICAL ADDRESS	MAILING ADDRESS	CITY & ZIP	PHONE	E-MAIL
MARILYN WAQUIN	M. G. Waquin	1241 Northstar Dr		North Pole 99705	4880778	
Julio E. Merced	Julio E. Merced	1241 Northstar Dr		North Pole 99705	4880778	
Trudy Skewis	Trudy Skewis	1628 H. Hon		Fairbanks	452-3913	
JOAN FAIBCHILD	Joan M. Faibchild	152 Pepperdine Wy		FAIRBANKS 99709	479-8179	
Shirley Mitchell	Shirley Mitchell	455 3rd AVE 533		FAIRBANKS 99702	374-9384	
Jean Sworts	Jean Sworts	690 Aspen Hgts		Fairbank 99712	457-3097	
Keith M Sworts	Keith M Sworts	690 Aspen Hgts		Fairbank 99707	4573097	
JANE GREGORY	Jane Gregory	1151 ALBERT GREGORY DR		" 99702	457-7707	
Muriel Toole	Muriel L. Toole	114 Pepperdine Way		FAIRBANKS 99707	450-2884	
ART HANKS	Art Hanks	PO. 93		99760 Tennana	8325270	

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NAME (PRINT)	NAME (SIGNATURE)	PHYSICAL ADDRESS	MAILING ADDRESS	CITY & ZIP	PHONE	E-MAIL
MARY HOSSL	Mary Hossel	3686 Silverleaf		North Pole 99705	488-6114	
CARRIE GIVENS	Carrie Given	365 Fox Hollow	P.O. Box 80947	FAIRBANKS 99708	479-3676	
Wilnette Monnier	Wilnette E. Monnier	1840 Bridgewater	same	Fairbank 99701	457-6258	
Barbara VanHorsen	Barbara VanHorsen	31731 SWENSON	same	Fairbanks 99709	457-2272	
PEGGY BOOKEY	Peggy Bookey	2534 Dorsey Bl	55194	N.P	488-9890	
Kris Laughlin	Kris Laughlin	297 LeAnn Dr	same	FOBKS	456-7936	
Barbara McCarthy	Barbara McCarthy	1498 Moriarity Ave. N.P.	P.O. Box 58142	Fairbank 99711	488-2197	
Ann Rasmussen	Ann Rasmussen	1635 Salcha	P.O. Box 97	Delta Tct 99707		
JOHN B. DORIC	John B. Doric	2473 HARDING DR	2473 HARDING DR	SALCHA 99714	488-6795	
PAT SHELLEY	Patricia Shelley	1101 O'CONNOR RD	SAME	FBX 99701	456-7220	

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NAME (PRINT)	NAME (SIGNATURE)	PHYSICAL ADDRESS	MAILING ADDRESS	CITY & ZIP	PHONE	E-MAIL
Vic Salbu	Vic Salbu	2727 PARKWAY ^{N.P.}	Box 73485	Fairbanks AK 99701	488-0430	
Carol Dejean	Carol Dejean	551 Funk Rd	551 Funk Rd	Fairbanks Alaska	488-6296	
Walter L. Saari	Walter L. Saari	551 Funk Rd.	551 Funk Rd.	Fairbanks Alaska 99712	488-6296	
LINDA E. CONLEY	Linda E Conley	2120 CITENA HOT SP. RD	Box 10523	FAIRBANKS 99710	488-6296	
Roy E. Traxler	Roy E. Traxler	950 Tok St.	same	Fairbanks 99709	474-0513	
Jeanne Wright	Jeanne Wright	758 7th Ave	same	Fairbanks	458-7649	
JEANNE WRIGHT	Jeanne Wright	1297 HEIDIVER	P.O. Box 60531	FAIRBANKS	479-6939	
John Peirce	John C Peirce	820 R.F.G Rd	same	Fairbanks	488-8692	
VIKI HEAD	Victoria Head	1514 Third Ave	same	Fairbanks	464-4323	
Ken Head	Ken Head	1514 3rd Ave	same	same	same	

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NAME (PRINT)	NAME (SIGNATURE)	PHYSICAL ADDRESS	MAILING ADDRESS	CITY & ZIP	PHONE	E-MAIL
Lynn Maylone	Lynn Maylone	3453 Grenvith	PO Box 55541	N.P. 99705		
Roger Geman	Roger Geman	"	"	"		
LORETTA BEMIS	Loretta Bemis	1005 Redwood	Fairbanks AK 99701		455-6202	
Ronda Miles	Ronda Miles	2174 Newby Ln	NP 99705			
Linda Gardner	Linda Gardner	3387 Dundee Ln	NP 99705	PO Box 55317		
Lorraine Kesterko	Lorraine Kesterko	7116 VFW St. PO Box 56198	PO Box 56198 NP 99705	99705	488-917	
Bonnie Johnson	Bonnie Johnson	2016 Capitol	2016 Capitol	Fairbanks, 99709		
Dave Woodson	Dave Woodson	950 Northwood Lane	Same	Fairbanks, 99712		
Marilyn McKeen	Marilyn McKeen	7110 Blessing Ave	Same	N. Pole 99705	485-5769	
JUDITH SNOW-ROSA	Judith Snow-Rosa	718 18th	718 18th	Fairbanks 99701	452-7926	

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NAME (PRINT)	NAME (SIGNATURE)	PHYSICAL ADDRESS	MAILING ADDRESS	CITY & ZIP	PHONE	E-MAIL
JAMES WARNER	James Warner	5447 CHSTC	Same	FBKS 99712	488-8830	
TOM EARLY	Tom Early	768 HUNTERS CT.	Same	FbKS 99712	457-3577	
Louie SAKKINEN	Louie Sakkinen	1835 Alder	NO PAID, AK. Same	FbKS 99705	488-6483	lansak@qci.net
Donald SAKKINEN	Donald Sakkinen	1835 Alder S	Same	NP AK	488-6483	LI
Joe COTY	Joe Coty	948 Bennett Rd	Box 7/999	FbKS AK 99701	457-5833	
Buz POWERS	Buz Powers	1034 Summer Rose Dr	same	FbKS AK 99709	452-5196	rbp@qci.net

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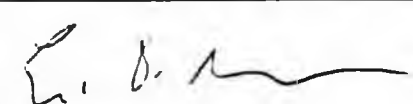

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NAME (PRINT)	NAME (SIGNATURE)	PHYSICAL ADDRESS	MAILING ADDRESS	CITY & ZIP	PHONE	E-MAIL
Eric Grabber		6881 Alta- Ln. FBKs 17K 99712	Same	FAI 99712	907 488-3850	
Barbara Koff		721 86884 -99708				
Tim Koff	"	"	"	"	"	"

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NAME (PRINT)	NAME (SIGNATURE)	PHYSICAL ADDRESS	MAILING ADDRESS	CITY & ZIP	PHONE	E-MAIL
BARBARA O'Dell Alene Porche	Barbara P. O'Dell Alene Porche	628 Gingko Rd FBKS 99709	Same	FBKS - 99709	479-6979	
Alene Porche	Alene Porche	P.O. Box 70925		F.W.A. 99701	451-1053	

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NAME (PRINT)	NAME (SIGNATURE)	PHYSICAL ADDRESS	MAILING ADDRESS	CITY & ZIP	PHONE	E-MAIL
Sarah I yates	<i>Sarah I yates</i>	5825 ^{Hwy} Richardson Salcha, Ak 99714	<i>same</i>	Salcha, ak 99714	488-3655	
VIRGINIA Melvin + TRESSOR	<i>[Signature]</i>	5714 Hoopell Rd Satchu, AK		Salcha 99714	488-7722	
Phyllis STERN Phyllis Stern	<i>Phyllis Stern</i>	6861 Canaday Rd Salcha 99714	<i>same</i>		488-1664	

PUBLIC
TESTIMONY
SB 117



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the

Senate Finance
committee name

Committee on SB 117 Longevity
bill # / subject

dated 5-13-03
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 seventies and eighty plus years of age, who I consider part of the frail senior population. I believe your trying to justify what your doing to please the governor. Inman spends without accountability and the arrogance & greed is truly a sight to behold during this legislative session.

Signed: Sharon E. Jones
Testifier

Representing (optional)
5185 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 SB 117, dated _____
Bill/Subject

This letter is in regard to Senate Bill 117 as an act relating to eligibility for longevity bonus program. Leave it alone. It is doing what it was intended to do & will terminate soon anyway. The intent of this bill were not trying to help those that were destitute but were doing what the name implies.

Webster's Dictionary: (Bonus - anything given over and above the regular amount, extra payment given as an incentive or reward for) In this case those who were true to Alaska instead of taking our pay back to the 48 and spending it there. They did not want us to be in poverty or destitute to receive it. I have been in Alaska over 30 years.

I am a disabled WW2 veteran with nearly 4 years as a POW in Japan. I have been retired for many years and very little of my income is from Alaska but all of it is spent here. This is my home, dont spoil it now.

Signed: William G. Plat
Testifier

Representing (Optional)

2001 Hygrade Circle Wasilla Ak 99654
Address

357-4831
Phone number

Dear Senator Wilken:

We are forced to defend
the Longevity Bonus Program
against means testing or
other cuts

Please read and circulate
the attached compelling
arguments - some new.

Thank you

Sincerely,

J. L. Girard

May 5, 2003

Frank L. Girard
1245 Scotwood Drive
Wasilla, AK 99654

MEANS TESTING FOR THE LONGEVITY BONUS?

Governor Murkowski is apparently scheming to deprive the oldest and sickest Alaskans of their Longevity Bonus (LB) by punishing thrift. The proposed asset/income cutoffs are far too low. Those LB seniors who would qualify to continue to receive the LB would qualify, or nearly so, for other charities. Those LB seniors who were thrifty enough to save for one or more common emergencies such as unexpected medical/dental outlays, broken heating units, failed septic systems, major car repairs, etc. would not be eligible to stay on the LB program.

LB seniors foolishly expected the state to keep its promise and long ago built the LB into their income-expense structures. (e.g., mortgage payments were predicated on a continuing LB.) If the LB is withdrawn, exLB seniors will have to spend down their savings at the LB rate until their resources fall below the poverty levels currently planned. At that time, they will have little left to face hardships, especially those peculiar to old age. How cruel it would be to deny the oldest and sickest segment of the population a slight bit of security!

To legally try to beat financial asset testing, many seniors will transfer savings into more expensive homes, cars or other less liquid forms. This accomplishes nothing for the state and leaves old people more vulnerable to catastrophe. With the exception of great wealth, the state should encourage oldsters to have as much liquidity as possible.

What is the real cost of administering and policing a means-based LB program? This cost could take a large bite out of what is supposed to be saved. What about privacy rights, loss of dignity?

Nearly all LB money is spent in Alaska with accompanying economic stimulus. The vast majority of LB seniors have social security; many have other income as well. A senior's total income can be several times the LB. Usually all is spent in the state with much greater economic benefit than from the LB alone. Loss of the LB will cause thousands of seniors to leave for places with lower living costs, taking their SS and any other income with them. This potential loss could dictate maintaining the LB as is.

Though most seniors don't know it, they are facing financial disaster. Steeply rising drug costs and ongoing federal cuts in medicare and veteran's benefits will eventually crush the majority of seniors. Please leave the LB as is for the oldest and sickest Alaskans. They desperately need it! By death, the LB is already self-eliminating.

We are told that Alaska is going broke. In response to this, many new ways of raising money for the state have been suggested --sales tax; income tax; tourism tax; skimming a little from each dividend check; a lottery; cutting the state's bloated bureaucracy, boondoggles, and other monetary hemorrhages. But an obvious large and relatively painless source of revenue is never mentioned--the taxing of church property.

Exempting any property from taxation for religious reasons violates the First Amendment, the separation of church and state. Tax exemption for religion causes others to pay higher taxes to make up for potential revenue shortfalls. This unfair practice causes many to indirectly support religion they may not agree with.

Because of religious political clout and the personal prejudices of many in government, no politician seriously considers taxing church property. But why not? This would force religion to be more frugal. The added burden, if any, on the average parishioner would be small.

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Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate finance Committee
Committee name

Committee on SB 117, dated 05-01-03
Bill/Subject

In 75 years old and Lived in the MAT-Su Valley 47 years. I strongly oppose any change in the way our Longevity bonus is distributed. Leave it alone!, dont Pick on us Pioneers who built Alaska to where it is, there have many other Suggestion's made to Fund our states needs - if you will only Listen, but instead you go after the most Vunerable - the Sick and Elderly, - Picture - yourselves if you were Put into a Welfare-type Program in your Last remaining year's, now Please - remember We Seniors ALL Vote. We will remember each and every one of you Legislators next election day. in conclusion -

(Gov. Frank Murkowski will not ever be elected to Public office) again - we Seniors ALL Vote!

Signed: Henry Malcoy
Testifier

HENRY MALCOY
Representing (Optional)

P. O. Box 870206 Wasilla, AK. 99687
Address

907-376-5850
Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the SENATE FINANCE
Committee name
Committee on SB 117, dated 5-5-03 ⁴⁻³⁰⁻⁰³ _{meeting}
Bill/Subject

3 PAGES

Signed: FRANK L. GIRARD
Testifier
SELF
Representing (Optional)
1245 SCOTWOOD DRIVE
Address
(907) 373-3072
Phone number

May 5, 2003

Frank L. Girard
1245 Scotwood Drive
Wasilla, AK 99654

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278-6724

Senate Finance (Senate Bill 117 -) NO VOTE!
May 1-2003

I came to Anchorage 44 years ago. I'm 79. Lost my home in Turnagain 1964. Now am mostly in bed or wheel chair alone in my own home. As others I am handicapped and suffering and on the Longevity Bonus, not welfare.

Threatened with \$122,000 basic Medical Nursing Home Care costs, plus drugs & other additional costs, I remain at home.

To see my present 34 year old house, I need new roof, flooring, Carpets, paint, Cabinets, stove, furnace. at an impossible cost of \$20,000+

The natives have free hospital, nursing, medical care. I pay \$2400 a year plus drugs. When they received the 1st Ciri payout of \$65,000, they did not give up any monthly welfare checks!!

Consider under S.B. 117, the remaining 4,300 people would be ^{mostly} natives, not Pioneers. With \$16,924 retirement or \$22,716 husband & wife income outside of Ciri gifts - with a new \$50,000 distribution: \$60,924 or \$72,716 would be mostly Federal Income.

Tax free and S.B. 117 would still send them the Longevity Bonus. Where is Need-based there? Native Land Claims + Federal Laws still flow

Why are you taking away the honor of pioneering and building infrastructure and independence from welfare by independent living, but (soon to die??) people now from the past don't count? Please say we do! Terry Berne CO.

(1)

FAX TO: 907 465 6814
907 465 4779
HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE
SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE

E. M. CASEY, AN OLD VOTER
May 2, 2003
LONGEVITY AMENDMENTS
SB 117 (i)

DEAR COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

THERE ARE 4 AREAS OF DEEP CONCERN THAT ARE RAISED BY TESTIMONY SO FAR ABOUT THE FORM IN WHICH THE LONGEVITY BONUS PROGRAM PAYMENTS WILL BE ALLOWED TO CONTINUE:

(not necessarily in order of importance)

1. INCOME ELIGIBILITY should not be even lower than for various other public interest programs nor should that for a couple be less than twice that of an individual--should be at least two and one-half times federal poverty level because those not already on welfare have many health insurance and other expenses not paid by government.
2. ASSET ELIGIBILITY should not penalize those who have scrimped to put aside money for such catastrophic expenses as essential repairs to their home: frozen pipes, roof leaks, plumbing failures--and home insurance. And, for the legions of month-to-month renters who can at a landlord's whim be faced with all the expenses of moving: first and last month's rent, deposits, utility connections and deposits, and paying for help to find a place to live, pack, move, and unpack--we need to be allowed at the very least to retain ten thousand dollars of emergency savings for all the many things the state does not provide for us.

Note: Such emergency savings cannot be "structured" to produce income offsets referred to by the Welfare Department.

3. EXCESSIVE PAPERWORK DEMANDS would prevent many elders who rely on LBP for sustenance from being able to qualify. A simple, form, easily understood written for this program only and signed under penalty of perjury which can be submitted by mail initially and annually could be a rational and practical substitute for the only alternative suggested by welfare-minded.
4. FREEZING ELIGIBILITY to allow dropping out and regaining eligibility if needed in the future needs to be clarified.

cc)
8480 Jewel Lane, Anchorage AK
tel. 243 8530



LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AGENCY
INFORMATION & TELECONFERENCING

PO Box 845

Tok, AK 99780

Phone: 883-5020 Fax: 883-5021

Date: 4/30/03

Please accept the enclosed original(s) of written testimony for the Senate Finance
teleconferenced hearing that was scheduled on SB 117 Longevity Bonus

A copy of this testimony was transmitted to your committee via fax on 4/30/03

Thank you.

Tok LIO

Fax 465-2187

I speak for myself. I am opposed to Senate Bill 117 as a substitution for and eventual elimination of the Longevity Bonus program.

It was originally designed to encourage the older Alaskans who worked & helped build up what is now our present state. These elderly persons worked hard to make an unforgiving land one of promise where we could live a life style of choice & still be able to abide by Government rules and laws.

Your recommendation for qualification is one of inequitable possibilities under the current age of increasing cost of living.

The loss of income will force many to apply for other subsistence & the mountains of paper work will cost more in the long run than if you continue to pay the Bonus. Therefore you are robbing the senior to create more political jobs. You will be stripping us of pride & income.

The loss of spending cash will effect

the already poor economy.

At the hearings I listened to many reasonable possible solutions to help keep this program and also help your budget.

You Governor Murkowski and Senators should try to live on the budget you set for the seniors on this program & see how it feels. In your campaigns we were promised how you would improve the state, and as thanks for our votes & contributions you are taking away part of our income. I'm sorry I voted for you.

I am a widow 75 years old and a resident of Alaska for 48 years. I have worked hard & donated many hours & dollars to help make this state and my community a good place to raise my family & grandchildren in.

Geneva L. Smith To: Alaska



State of Alaska
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AGENCY
INFORMATION & TELECONFERENCING

Tok Legislative Information Office
PO Box 845
Tok, AK 99780
Phone: 883-5020
Fax: 883-5021
Email: tok_li@legis.state.ak.us

**To Senate Finance Committee: Testimony for SB 117 Teleconference
4/30/03 @ 5:30 PM**

* Original mailed 5/1/03

I speak for myself. I am opposed to Senate Bill 117 as a substitution for and eventual elimination of the Longevity Bonus program

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I am a widow 75 years old and a resident of Alaska for 48 years. I have worked hard and donated many hours and dollars to help make this state and my community a good place to raise my family and grandchildren in.

Geneva Smith



Alaska State Legislature

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

Committee on Sec. 47.15.015/SB 117, dated 4-30-03
Bill/Subject

Thank you for being considerate of families that depend on longevity program.

Signed: Lois M. Wertz James I. Wertz
Testifier

Representing (Optional)

7362 W. Parde Hwy. # 303 Healy, AK 99654
Address

357-5647
Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the SFIN Committee name

Committee on HB 117 dated 4/30/03
Bill/Subject

I do not sanction putting the longevity bonus in a welfare concept. If we are already on it, please leave us alone or let us know it until we die. Many of us are far from \$1402.00 per month, why dig in to our private bank accounts. It is none of your business how we handle our private matters. Please keep so much politics out of our private affairs.

Signed: Edward F. Anderson
Testifier

Representing (Optional)
1752 Century Circle #111 Waukena Ak. 99654
Address

357-2205
Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

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

Committee on SB. 117, dated 4/30/03
Bill/Subject

Wow - how Gov Murkowski -
SB 117 would give us pioneers a
chance to apply for charity! Thanks!
Your promise made to prompt me
to vote for you gave no indication
that we would be so demeaned!!

Should this bill pass I sure know
who us seniors and our family will
vote out of gov Office in the coming
election! Sincerely -

Signed: Eileen O. Jenson
Testifier

Myself & senior friends & family
Representing (Optional)

501 KMK GOOSE BAY Rd WASILLA AK 99654
Address

907-373-1139
Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the SFIN Committee name

Committee on SB117 dated 4/30/03
Bill/Subject

See attached

2 PAGES

Signed: William K Church
Testifier

Representing (Optional)
020 Church Rd Kodiak AK
Address

376 5767
Phone number

April 30, 2003

To Members of the Senate Finance Committee

Subject: Longevity Bonus

My name is Bill Church, age 72, and I have lived in Alaska for 69 years. I worked my whole life here and subsequently retired here.

I'm not so old that I can't realize the necessity of cutting the budget. However, there are many elderly people who can't make it without the longevity bonus and I think it would be pretty heartless take this away from them. This "needs based longevity bonus" would take care of these people who would otherwise fall between the cracks.

I consider myself a true Alaskan, and I can see a need for changes in the longevity program. As has been said many times, it was created to reward those longtime Alaskans who lived here, worked, and helped make Alaska what it is today. It no longer serves that purpose. As has also been said, it has created two classes of seniors; actually more than that. There are long-time Alaskans who get the bonus; there are short time Alaskans who get the bonus; and there are long-time Alaskans who don't get the bonus. It probably would be a fairly reasonable thing to say that those of us who don't get the bonus could use it just as well as those getting it. Whether they needed it or not, those receiving the bonus have received thousands of dollars since the program started, or they reached age 65. We are all being asked to tighten our belts, so perhaps those not in dire need of the bonus will now be willing to sacrifice a little in order to look out for those who are.

I sat in during the last two legislative audio conferences, and heard many people talking about, "it being nice to have, they had gotten used to it and it wasn't right to take it away now, it was their mad money, etc." I also had planned on the bonus at age 65, but missed the deadline by 5 months. It was necessary to make several major adjustments in our retirement plans at that time, as my wife would also have received it. Perhaps the people fortunate enough to have received the bonus should be grateful it lasted as long as it did.

I spoke with one of the Johnny come lately Alaskans and he said, and I quote him, "If the legislature does this, I'm going BACK down south." All I can say is that people like this are not Alaskans. Alaskans are here through both the good times and the bad. Perhaps it would not be such a bad thing if some of these people who came up here strictly for the benefits Alaska offered were to return home when the benefits stopped.

When you consider the number of senior citizens residing in Alaska, these hearings show how few of them are willing to give up even a few minutes to defend the programs benefiting them. Perhaps they are not as important to them as we think.

Bill Church



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the

SFIN

Committee name

Committee on

SB117

, dated

4/30/03

Bill/Subject

see attached

3 PAGES

Signed:

Testifier

Representing (Optional)

Address

Phone number

4-30-03

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

I have read and heard that the Governor
wants to grow the resources to balance
the state's budget. My opinion is that
seniors are a resource. When we receive
the Longevity Bonus each month it is
spent right here in Alaska and therefore
goes ^{all} into the economy. We also spend our
pensions, if we have one, some do not!
~~which are usually smaller than~~
~~our salaries ^{were} when we worked.~~ The Alaska
budget benefits from our presence here.

Seniors are also proud. To apply for
welfare is demeaning. It is also a problem
for those who have trouble filling out forms
and doing paper work. The Bonus, in
contrast, is based only on age - seniors can
maintain their dignity - ~~not~~ feel they are begging.
2

Since age is the criterion, this program is phasing out naturally. I, for instance, am 89 and don't expect to be on the list much longer. Every day there are names of people in their late 70's, 80's and 90's listed in the Obituary columns.

Doing away with the Longevity Bonus will have an impact on younger Alaskans also. Many of them will have to help their parents who will not have money to buy their presc. drugs, and pay living expenses.

This is a program that helps everyone in Alaska.



Alaska State Legislature

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

Committee on SB 117, dated 4-30-03
Bill/Subject

My husband and I both need
the Longevity Bonus for
medicines & food - due to
their high cost.

Signed: James M. Slater - Robert H. Slater
Testifier

Self - Husband
Representing (Optional)

PO-Box 2403 Wasilla AK 99687 (872403)
Address

745 6508
Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Finance
 Committee name
 Committee on Longevity Bonus Senate Bill No. 117, dated 4-30-03
 Bill/Subject

The figures used for monthly income is low. The Fed Bank of Alaska uses \$1709.⁰⁰ for one and \$2,302.⁰⁰ for two people. The Dept. of Health & Social Services Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program used these same figures.

The change in the Longevity Bonus program looks like a welfare program. Seniors little \$100.⁰⁰ to \$250.⁰⁰ a month have kept them off that programs and give them independence.

There has been several seniors passed away in the past month. Now in the Wasilla Senior Campus so the 15000 has been reduced. As seniors die the program will be phased out completely. So why change it.

Signed: Betty Mercer
 Testifier
Seniors and Wasilla Senior Center
 Representing (Optional)
101 Frank Smith Way #206 Wasilla 99654
 Address
Office: (907) 376-3104
 Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

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

Committee on SB 117, dated _____
Bill/Subject

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Signed: William G. Plott
Testifier

Representing (Optional)

2001 Hygrade Circle Wasilla AK 99654
Address

357-4831
Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the SENATE FINANCE

Committee name

Committee on SB 117, dated 5-5-03 ⁴⁻³⁰⁻⁰³ _{month}

Bill/Subject

37 PAGES

Signed: FRANK L. GIRARD

Testifier

SELF

Representing (Optional)

1245 SCOTWOOD DRIVE

Address

(907) 373-3072

Phone number

May 5, 2003

Frank L. Girard
1245 Scotwood Drive
Wasilla, AK 99654

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2

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Alaska State Legislature

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Committee on HB 117, dated 4/30/03
Bill/Subject

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Signed: Edward F. Anderson
Testifier

Representing (Optional)
1752 Century Circle #111 Waukena AK 99654
Address
357-2205
Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

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

Committee on S.B. 117, dated 4/30/03
Bill/Subject

Wow - How Gov Murkowski -
SB 117 would give us pioneers a
chance to apply for clarity! Thanks!
Your promise made to prompt me
to vote for you gave no indication
that we would be so demeaned!!
Should this bill pass I sure know
who us seniors and our family will
vote out of your Office in the coming
election! Sincerely -

Signed: Eileen O. Jensen
Testifier

Myself & senior friend & family
Representing (Optional)

501 KMK GOOSE BAY Rd WASILLA AK 99654
Address

907-373-1139
Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the SFIN _____
Committee name

Committee on SB117 _____, dated 4/30/03 _____
Bill/Subject

See attached

2 PAGES

Signed: William K Church _____
Testifier

Representing (Optional)
000 Church Rd Whittier AK _____
Address

376 5767 _____
Phone number

April 30, 2003

To Members of the Senate Finance Committee

Subject: Longevity Bonus

My name is Bill Church, age 72, and I have lived in Alaska for 69 years. I worked my whole life here and subsequently retired here.

I'm not so old that I can't realize the necessity of cutting the budget. However, there are many elderly people who can't make it without the longevity bonus and I think it would be pretty heartless take this away from them. This "needs based longevity bonus" would take care of these people who would otherwise fall between the cracks.

I consider myself a true Alaskan, and I can see a need for changes in the longevity program. As has been said many times, it was created to reward those longtime Alaskans who lived here, worked, and helped make Alaska what it is today. It no longer serves that purpose. As has also been said, it has created two classes of seniors; actually more than that. There are long-time Alaskans who get the bonus; there are short time Alaskans who get the bonus; and there are long-time Alaskans who don't get the bonus. It probably would be a fairly reasonable thing to say that those of us who don't get the bonus could use it just as well as those getting it. Whether they needed it or not, those receiving the bonus have received thousands of dollars since the program started, or they reached age 65. We are all being asked to tighten our belts, so perhaps those not in dire need of the bonus will now be willing to sacrifice a little in order to look out for those who are.

I sat in during the last two legislative audio conferences, and heard many people talking about, "it being nice to have, they had gotten used to it and it wasn't right to take it away now, it was their mad money, etc." I also had planned on the bonus at age 65, but missed the deadline by 5 months. It was necessary to make several major adjustments in our retirement plans at that time, as my wife would also have received it. Perhaps the people fortunate enough to have received the bonus should be grateful it lasted as long as it did.

I spoke with one of the Johnny come lately Alaskans and he said, and I quote him, "If the legislature does this, I'm going BACK down south." All I can say is that people like this are not Alaskans. Alaskans are here through both the good times and the bad. Perhaps it would not be such a bad thing if some of these people who came up here strictly for the benefits Alaska offered were to return home when the benefits stopped.

When you consider the number of senior citizens residing in Alaska, these hearings show how few of them are willing to give up even a few minutes to defend the programs benefiting them. Perhaps they are not as important to them as we think.

Bill Church



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the SFIN Committee name

Committee on SB 117 dated 4/30/03

Bill/Subject

see attached

3 PAGES

Signed: _____

Testifier

Representing (Optional)

Address

Phone number

4-30-03

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

I have read and heard that the Governor
wants to grow the resources to balance
the state's budget. My opinion is that
seniors are a resource. When we receive
the Longevity Bonus each month it is
spent right here in Alaska and therefore
goes ^{right} into the economy. We also spend our
pensions, if we have one, some do not!
~~which are usually smaller than~~
~~our salaries when we worked.~~ ^{The} Alaska
budget benefits from our presence here.

Seniors are also proud. To apply for
welfare is demeaning. It is also a problem
for those who have trouble filling out forms
and doing paper work. The Bonus, in
contrast, is based only on age - seniors can
maintain their dignity - not feel they are begging.

- 2 -

Since age is the criterion, this program is phasing out naturally. I, for instance, am 89 and don't expect to be on the list much longer. Every day there are names of people in their late 70's, 80's and 90's listed in the Obituary columns.

Doing away with the Longevity Bonus will have an impact on younger Alaskans also. Many of them will have to help their parents who will not have money to buy their presc. drugs, and pay living expenses.

This is a program that helps everyone in Alaska.

*Senate Floor
Committee
+ Delany*

COMMENTS ON SB 117, SENATE COMMITTEE AMENDED VERSION "I" 4-30-03

INADEQUATE PROVISION AS TO ALLOWANCE FOR LIQUID ASSETS, CASH AVAILABLE TO RECIPIENTS WITHOUT DISQUALIFICATION, INITIALLY OR ON A CONTINUING BASIS, AND CONSTANT REQUALIFICATION EXCESSES:

IF RECIPIENT DOES NOT OWN OR LIVE IN HIS OR HER OWN HOME NEEDS TO BE ABLE TO IMMEDIATELY MEET COSTS IF FORCED BY CIRCUMSTANCES TO MOVE, E.G., FIRST AND LAST MONTH'S RENT, SECURITY DEPOSITS, INCLUDING THOSE FOR PETS, AND PAYING FOR PACKING HELP AS WELL AS MOVING HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, ETC., CONNECTING UTILITIES AND ANY DEPOSITS FOR CONNECTION--AND COSTS OF HAVING HELP IN FINDING A PLACE TO MOVE. TO PROVIDE FOR LESS PUTS VULNERABLE SENIORS IN DANGER OF BECOMING HOMELESS WITH A LIFETIMES ACCUMULATION SITTING ON A STREET!

CONSIDERING THAT OVER \$150,00 PER MONTH IS SPENT PERSONALLY BY MANY RECIPIENTS ON MEDICAL INSURANCE (PART B AND MEDI GAP) EXPENSES NOT CALCULATED AS BEING PAID BY PEOPLE ON PUBLIC WELFARE (MEDICAID RECIPIENTS) A HIGHER LEVEL OF INCOME IS CALLED FOR THAN MERELY 200% OF FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL. WE ALSO PAY ALL OUR COSTS FOR THE NUTRITIONAL SUPPLEMENTS THAT CONTROL PAIN AND HELP PRESERVE WHAT MOBILITY WE MAY HAVE, OTHER MEDICAL SUPPLY NEEDS WHICH MEDICAID WOULD BE CHARGED WITH IF WE WERE WELFARE CASES (INCONTINENT SUPPLIES AS JUST ONE EXAMPLE) AND PRESCRIPTION DRUGS. A 200% LIMIT ON INCOME LEVEL IS NEITHER ADEQUATE, EQUITABLE, NOR REASONABLE!

THE STATE HAS ALWAYS RELIED UPON OUR VERACITY IN THE MONTHLY QUESTIONNAIRE AS TO PRESENCE/ELIGIBILITY. TO REQUIRE MORE THAN THAT TYPE OF CHECK-OFF AND RETURN FORM IS BOTH DEMEANING, NEEDLESS, AND CREATES A VERY BUREAUCRATICALLY EXPENSIVE BURDEN. EVEN ACTUAL WELFARE CASES ARE NOT MADE TO GO THROUGH AN ASSET CHECK EVERY MONTH--I BELIEVE THAT IS ANNUAL AND DONE VIA A FORM FILLED OUT ONCE A YEAR AND MAILED BACK TO THE WELFARE OFFICE.

MANY OF LBP RECIPIENTS SUFFER SEVERLY LIMITED MOBILITY AND CANNOT GO TO SOME WELFARE OFFICE INITIALLY OR REGULARLY. I AM VIRTUALLY HOUSEBOUND AND SEVERLY DISABLED AND CANNOT USE FORMS OF PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION THAT WOULD BE AVAILABLE TO ME IF MY MEDICAL SITUATION WERE BETTER.

LBP WAS NEVER INTENDED TO BE A WELFARE PROGRAM. JUST BECAUSE IT HAS BEEN TRANSFERRED FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION TO HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES IS A POOR REASON TO TREAT THE SENIORS WHO RELY UPON THE PROMISE MADE YEARS AGO AS IF THEY ARE SOME UNTRUSTWORTHY PEOPLE WHOSE WRITTEN WORD AND SIGNATURE ARE NOT TO BE TRUSTED WOULD BE INSULTING AND UNALASKAN.

E.M. CASEY, AN OLD VOTER, 8480 JEWEL LAKE RD., ANCHORAGE, AK 99502
243 8530 tel.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Finance Committee
Committee Name

Committee on Longevity Bonus, dated May 1, 2003
Bill Subject

I object to the Longevity Bonus being a form of Public assistance.

I think you should honor the phase ^{out} of this program that is now in effect. The program is definitely needed.

Signed Gene D Stewart
Testifier

Representing (Optional)

Address 2904 W. 34th Ave

Phone Number Anchorage, Alaska 99517-2228

243-3045

May 1, 2003

FAX

Pages: 1

To: Senate Finance Committee, Senators Green & Wilken, CO-Chairs
FAX 465-2187

Subject: SB 17 Re: Longevity Bonus

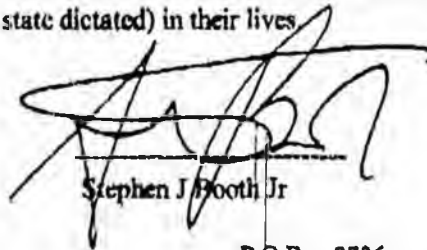
Gentlemen:

My wife and I were deeply disturbed by what we read in today's local newspaper (The Peninsula Clarion) regarding the *FATE* of the above subject and the many *Seniors (such as we) dependent upon same* as currently being considered in the Senate Finance Committee.

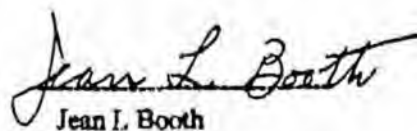
We know this is not an easy problem however, if "*Seniors NEEDS*" are decided upon, and they should not by The State, how can the Senate Finance Committee in all its wisdom define the "*NEEDS*" of the individual *Seniors* involved? *Elimination* of the current "*LONGEVITY BONUS PROGRAM*" or a drastic "*NEEDS BASED*" adjustment (to the current program such as mentioned in the above article) will be devastating to many *Seniors*. Such action will deprive many '*SENIORS*' of their independence and self respect plus force them involuntarily to be dependent upon (and raise the "*COST*" of) "*STATE WELFARE PROGRAMS*"!

We urge you to drop the "*NEEDS BASED*" agenda and let the "*LONGEVITY BONUS PROGRAM*" continue until it dies as presently scheduled. Failing that, please consider no changes prior to the middle of 2004 in order to enable "*SENIORS*" (those that can) to make reasonable changes (not state dictated) in their lives

Sincerely,



Stephen J. Booth Jr



Jean L. Booth

P O Box 2786
Soldotna, Alaska 99669
907-262-4790
FAX: 907-262-2922

CC: Senator Tom Wagoner
Representative: Kelly Wolf

FAX

TELECONFERENCE TESTIMONY OF JOHN L. CERUTTI, P.O. BOX 871, VALDEZ, AK 99686, TO SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE, RE SENATE BILL 117(), APRIL 30, 2003.

THIS IS A NEARLY VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT OF MY VERBAL TESTIMONY:

"I AM MAKING MY CLOSING STATEMENT FIRST IN CASE I RUN OUT OF TIME.

"IN CLOSING, I THINK THE GOVERNOR AND ALL YOU IN THE LEGISLATURE, HOUSE AND SENATE, LACK THE INTESTINAL FORTITUDE TO ENACT AN INCOME TAX. NOTE THAT SUCH A TAX NICKS THE [LONGEVITY] BONUS PAYMENTS OF THE BETTER-OFF SENIORS!

"I AM NOW 83. FIRST CAME TO ANCHORAGE JUNE '49; WENT OUTSIDE SEPT. '54 FOR EDUCATION; RETURNED MAY '60; NOW A [TOTAL] OF 47 YEARS IN ALASKA. BOTH OF MY ADOPTED CHILDREN WERE BORN IN TERRITORY.

"THE CHANGE TO 1 YEAR RESIDENCY WAS STUPID! EVERYONE HAD THE SAME CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT TO LIVE IN ALASKA FOR 25 YEARS.

"I ACCEPTED THE 'BONUS AS AN INCENTIVE – A PROMISE? – TO REMAIN IN THE STATE WHEN I REACHED 65 ON SEPT. 1, 1984, SO I STAYED AND MADE VERY MODEST INVESTMENTS IN ANCHORAGE AND VALDEZ – [PAYOFFS] NOW RUNNING OUT. AS A [LICENSED] CIVIL ENGINEER, MY WORK HAS HELPED IN BUILDING THE STATE'S INFRASTRUCTURE – NO BONUSES [READ, RETIREMENT BENEFITS]."

THE FOLLOWING WAS NOT PART OF MY TESTIMONY BUT IT CAN BE CONSIDERED AS ADDITIONAL TESTIMONY.

INCIDENTALLY, I DO APPRECIATE VERY MUCH THE OPPORTUNITY TO VOICE MY OPINION IN THIS, OR ANY OTHER MATTER OF INTEREST. AS A MEMBER OF AARP, I FEEL BETRAYED BY THOSE LOCAL OFFICIALS WHO ESPOUSED COMPROMISING. Y'ALL ARE TO BE COMMENDED FOR HAVING THE PATIENCE TO SIT THERE FOR THREE HOURS, AFTER WORKING HOURS, TO HEAR THE TESTIMONY OF SO MANY PEOPLE. I REITERATE THAT AN INCOME TAX IS THE FAIREST OF ALL BUDGET FINANCING METHODS: IT DOESN'T SUPPORT THE COST OF GOVERNMENT ON THE BACKS OF THE LOW INCOME PEOPLE AS WILL A SALES TAX – ESPECIALLY IF LEVIED ON THE NECESSITIES OF LIFE. A SCHOOL TAX OF \$100 PER WAGE OWNER CAN BE ONEROUS FOR LOW INCOME FAMILIES (REMEMBER THE TERRITORIAL DAYS WITH THE \$10 TAX?). A TOUR BOAT PASSENGER HEAD TAX OF MORE MODEST PROPORTION SEEMS FAIR SINCE THAT INDUSTRY DOES IMPOSE A BURDEN ON THE PORTS-OF-CALL GOVERNMENTS BUT YOUR VERSION PUTS ALL SUCH REVENUE IN THE STATE TREASURY.

IN CLOSING, SHOW ONE PERSON WHO IN SOME WAY IS NOT SUBSIDIZED BY THE GOVERNMENT!!!

John L. Cerutti

Senate Finance Room 520

April 30-03

Attn.

General Information Office Fax 465-2864

Gary Wilkew Senate Bill SB 117

Eliminating Longevity Bonus

The longevity bonus for seniors when
ruled unconstitutional should have
ended at that time. -- Period

Since that time seniors that turned
sixty five and lived in the state
only one year received \$250 per month.
Also many new seniors came to the state.
They received the bonus also. This
increased State dollars \$ \$ \$ \$

The phasing out program the
legislature passed in early 1990
was another big mistake and
unfair. Now we have many
seniors 65 to 70 plus that receive
0. Some have lived in the state
all their lives. My husband and I
since 1955 along with many friends
on the 0 list.

The longevity when started gave seniors
a little help to stay in Alaska when they
lived here thirty years or all their
lives. This was a good program at the time.

I and my husband agree with
governor Murkowski, Longevity
Bonus is unfair and should exist
to help cut State spending.

Take seniors that are in need and look
for help in other social service programs
Our State and Federal Government have
A list of programs was mailed to all
State seniors from the governors
office. I kept my list.

Thank you for my time and your time

Ruth Johnson

PO Box 1402 Sitka AK 99835

P.S. The other day a lady I know made the
remark she and her husband enjoy their bonus
money of \$6000 per year for traveling. I moved to the
State in 1990 when 65 years old. Smart move
for them.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Finance Committee
Committee Name

Committee on Longevity Bonus, dated 5-1-03
Bill/Subject

URGENT! URGENT! URGENT!

We are greatly concerned and disturbed concerning the Longevity Bonus!!

What does the compromise do? It affects some of the "in between" who have depended upon the bonus. If the Longevity Bonus is "unfair to some" then limiting it to those whose income levels can be no higher than \$16,824 for singles and \$22,716 for couples is still "unfair."

One of us works part-time to meet our commitments. An income cut immediately would hurt. Pioneer Alaskans were known always to make good on their promises with a handshake. We have faith that those Alaskans who "don't need the Longevity Bonus" will willingly volunteer to turn theirs back to help the State budget. But leave the Longevity Bonus in tact to run out its term for those who depend on it now.

Signed [Signature] Alfred & Virginia Augustad
Testifier Virginia Augustad

Representing (Optional)
1439 Virginia Court
Address
Anchorage AK 99501
Phone Number
907 272-0380



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Finance
Committee Name

Committee on Longevity Bonus, dated 4-30-03
Bill/Subject

My concerns are for our Native Elders who rely on the Longevity Bonus Program as a major source of income. Many have Native Allotments and own houses through the HUD program. Can the Legislature leave Native allotments and HUD housing off the list of assets. Also in villages, people need more than one type of vehicle for the different seasons - such as snow machines, four wheelers, and boats. I would suggest leaving these off the list of assests for qualifying for the program. Our Native people honor our Elders and ask that thrs program be allowed to continue.

Signed Roberta Mote
Testifier

Representing (Optional)
PO Box 15 Deering AK 99736

Address
907-363-2188

Phone Number

465-6595



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the State Finance Committee
Committee Name

Committee on Longevity Bonus, dated 5-1-03
Bill/Subject

Dear Sirs,

This Fax reached me in the afternoon of 4-30-03. Obviously we missed the deadline to testify.

This is an atrocity to take away this money from deserving Alaskans. My assets are tied up, my monthly income is a fixed amount, and the lack of that Bonus will hurt me. Again, for 30 years I have been a contributing member of this state. I am livid that this political machine will hurt me. All my life I have had faith in you, my Legislature to take care of my needs. Apparently I was wrong. This is very unfair.

Signed Billy Jo Taylor
Testifier

Representing (Optional)

Address 2930 Bennett Ave Anchorage

Phone Number 907 243-4380

State of Alaska
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AGENCY
INFORMATION & TELECONFERENCING

Tok Legislative Information Office
PO Box 845
Tok, AK 99780
Phone: 883-5020
Fax: 883-5021
Email: tok_li@legis.state.ak.us

**To Senate Finance Committee: Testimony for SB 117 Teleconference
4/30/03 @ 5:30 PM**

* Original mailed 5/1/03

I speak for myself. I am opposed to Senate Bill 117 as a substitution for and eventual elimination of the Longevity Bonus program

It was originally designed to encourage the older Alaskans who worked and helped build up what is now our present state. These elderly persons worked hard to make on unforgiving land one of promise where we could live a life style of choice and still be able to abide by Government rules and laws.

Your recommendation for qualifications is one of inequitable possibilities under the current age of increasing cost of living.

The loss of income will force many to apply for other subsistence and the mountains of paperwork will cost more in the long run than if you continue to pay the Bonus. Therefore you are robbing the senior to create more political jobs. You will be stripping us of pride and income.

The loss of spending cash will affect the already poor economy.

At the hearings I listened to many reasonable possible solutions to help keep this program and also help your budget.

You, Governor Murkowski, and Senators should try to live on the budget you set for the seniors on this program and see how it feels. In your campaign we were promised how you would improve the state, and as thanks for our vote and contributions you are taking away part of our income. I'm sorry I voted for you.

I am a widow 75 years old and a resident of Alaska for 48 years. I have worked hard and donated many hours and dollars to help make this state and my community a good place to raise my family and grandchildren in.

Geneva Smith

119 N. Cushman St. Suite 101
Fairbanks, AK 99701
Phone: 907-452-4448
Fax: 907-456-3348

**Fairbanks Legislative
Information Office**

Fax

To: Senator Gary Wilken, Co-Chair

From: Fairbanks LIO

Senate Finance Committee

Fax: 465-2187

Date: 5/1/2003

Phone: 465-2618

Pages: 6

Re: Written Testimony SB 117

CC:

Urgent

For The Record

Please Comment

Please Reply

•Comments Written testimony for SB 117, teleconferenced on 4/30/04. The originals will be pouched to the committee co-chair.

Fran/Fbx LIO



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Finance Standing Comm.
 Committee on CS for SB117 Committee Name Dated 4.30.03
Bill / Subject

A bad idea! Makes one feel like a "third class citizen" - a worthless longtime Alaskan.

There haven't been 18,000 longevity recipients since mid 2001. Lets not inflate numbers. (Where did the ^{recent} 4,000 additional "unfairly treated seniors" come from since February 2003 - when there were 20,000 - (to quote the Gov. both times!))

Most seniors are trying to avoid becoming wards of the state by careful planning.

- Have you considered illegal use of
1. Permanent funds going outside? - don't live here.
 2. 10% teacher retirement going outside - don't live here.
 3. G.I.'s who have no intention of returning to Ak to live.

That 47 million is an easy way to please the Gov.!

SIGNED:

Jamette Hanneman
 Testifier

myself and Pioneers of Alaska
 Representing

3370 Davis Road Ft. Sts. AK 99709-5303
 Address / Phone Number

April 30, 2003

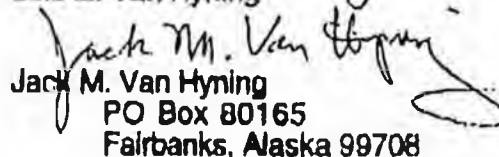
Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

After reading the recently revised Senate Bill No. 117 we could not believe that any Alaska State Legislator would ever want to remove the Safety Net from the old timers who helped build Alaska years ago. Now that these Pioneers are well over 75 years of age and are at a time of life where the Longevity Bonus (like a retirement) is needed now and when unexpected health and financial problems are most apt to occur. To tell these pioneers that we will not keep a promise to you. You cannot have a personal savings or money to see you through your last years is extremely demeaning. To say to old timers that you do not deserve a safety net unless you qualify for income at the welfare level is to tell them that you do not deserve anything for your hard work, hardships and efforts in building Alaska. Even President Bush is trying to put relief money back into the pockets of citizens to stimulate the economy. Our Alaska Legislature needs to recommend a State Sales Tax or Seasonal Tax so the elderly seniors and disabled would be assured of "Meals on Wheels" and the Longevity Bonus. Kids Care and adequate funds for education are also are priorities to maintain an adequate standard of living. A tax on out-of-state workers during the construction and fishing seasons should be put in place and the Governor and the Administration should prevail on their oil company friends to pay their bills. Many Alaska fishing families have received nothing from Exxon for the 1989 spill and payment of the now greatly reduced punitive damage claim would be a great boom to the Alaskan economy.

Respectfully,



Lois E. Van Hying

Jack M. Van Hying
PO Box 80165
Fairbanks, Alaska 99708

907-479-2476

April 30, 2003

To: Senate Rules Committee

Subject: CS for Senate Bill No. 117 - Re: Longevity Bonus

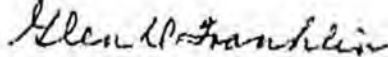
This proposed legislation is intended to supplement the current regulations that cover the Longevity Program, and will take the place of the phase-out that the current law designates. With due respect, I find this Bill degrading and an insult to the pioneers involved in the program, whether they as individuals would be eliminated from the program, or those that would qualify. As the Governor has stated, Alaska has many programs that are designed to help the poor and pick up the tab for those who are destitute.

The Longevity Bonus was not designed for those reasons and the recipients are entitled to a phase out that has some dignity about it. Many of us will agree that the annual expenditures for the current qualified long-term residents if carried to its demise, (estimated 2031,) is excessive, and not fair to other Alaskans.

A more equitable way to eliminate the Program would be to speed up the phase out. Each year, starting with July 1, 2003, reduce the annual payments to current participants by 20% per year. For example, current participants receiving \$250 would be reduced to \$200 per month and so on down the line of other lesser amounts as specified in the current program. The phase-out would then eliminate the Program in five (5) years. Everyone takes the same hit, and participants will have a period to adjust their income to offset the shock of a one-time blow. There would be very little additional expense determining who was eligible for the phase-out, as compared to changing the recipients to a "needs" basis.

Keep in mind that we did not invent the Longevity Program, and we had nothing to do with the increase in recipients, but we do need time to adjust to the loss of income.

Since the Program was to be phased out, we had no warning before the ballots were counted in the last election that the Governor was taking aim at the Longevity Bonus Program.

Glen D. Franklin, 
1213 Copper St., Fairbanks, Ak 99709



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Finance Committee ^{Standing}
 Committee on SB 117 (CS I) _{Bill / Subject} ^{Committee Name} Dated 4-30-03

Oppose the bill & its concept.

Remember your friends!!

The (BIG BOSS) does not need it all at once.

If longevity must go — Go Slow.
 Give time to adjust!!!

DO NOT ADD EMPLOYEES TO PROGRAM
 JUST TO CUT IT !!

SIGNED:

Alex L. Harman
 Testifier

Self
 Representing

3370 DAVIS RD FBKS 99709
 Address / Phone Number

907-479-6686



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Finance
 Committee on SB 117 Committee Name
Bill / Subject Dated 04/30/03

I am against your Bill that would
 take the money away from the poor people
 - by in hell don't you put in a income tax
 the you could get people that make the money
 here and go out side and spend it out side
 and don't give a damn about the people here
 we need some people in our government that
 will do something for the people that live here
 I have lived in Alaska for seventy three years
 just don't pass a bill against us

SIGNED: Lawrence Starobin
 Testifier

 Representing

 Address / 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 F. Caldwell
Testifier

Representing (optional)

Po 1446 SOLDOTNA AK 99669
Address

262-5107
Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

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

Committee on SB-117, dated Apr. 28, 2003
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 + receive little reward 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 apply welfare + assistance? The administration +

Signed: Petia Falkenberg
Policy of Testifier: These requirements will also increase the cost of Government. You need to respect your Elders!

Representing (optional) 0

Box 3293 Kenai

Address

(907) 283-7858

Phone number

(Suggest a State lottery) It does work other places + the money is volunteered not raised 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
C. Sfr. 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 making 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 craft 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)

5125 Silver Salmon Dr. #1 - Kenai, Ak 99611
Address

283-2220
Phone number

AAEP Capital City Task Force 4/30

~~##BT##~~

Your Committee has copies of my ^{previous} written testimony on this bill in which I covered the economic impact on the state & to the communities in which they live,

The bonus allows them to remain independent rather than have to apply for any of the Governor's safety nets. I won't repeat what you have already heard.

AAEP believes the services should have an opportunity to work with the administration on how this program could be reconfigured to help finance it.

Marie Darlin
586-3637

*Mc chairman
Horton
Senators
Stevens
O'Leary
Hoffman*



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Finance
Committee Name

Committee on SB 117, dated April 30, 2003

Bill/Subject

I am here to express my ^{*objection*} to SB 117 regarding the Alaska Longevity bonus. This bill would detrimentally impact Alaska's most honored citizens, our elders. *objecting the enactment of such legislation*

I respect this Committee's diligence in addressing the budget shortfalls. I recognize your decisions are difficult and laden with burden.

I believe there are two options, cut back spending or generate more revenues. This proposed cutback will hurt elders. Generating revenues makes everyone that can pay for services and programs - pay. I was told that there are approximately 18000 Alaskan elders that receive the longevity bonus. The cost is approximately \$47 million.

In 2001, total wages earned in Alaska equaled \$9.3 Billion dollars and non-residents earned \$1.1 billion dollars of that money. A 5% income tax would have generated \$465 Million dollars, of which Non-residents would have had to give back to Alaska in the amount of \$50.5 Million dollars. **The revenue generated from the non-residents alone would be more than enough to cover the expenses related to providing a bonus to our respected elder..**

We all know it's time to pay the piper. But the question is who is to pay? I believe it should be those that work and can afford to pay, not our honored elders. Why would anyone want to balance the budget on the backs of our elders?

Many of ~~the~~ ^{*these*} elders ^{*benefiting*} paid income tax and provided ^{*income*} ~~income~~ ^{*to the state's coffers.*} *ask you, REVENUE*
The question is not whether we can afford this program; the question is, "are there alternative solutions?" I believe there are. I respectfully request that you not support SB 117.

Signed *Myrna Gardner*

Testifier - Myrna Gardner

Self

Representing (Optional)

PO Box 33391, Juneau, Alaska 99803

Address

907-463-7386

Phone Number

*I wish
Senator
Burdell
had stayed
in this hearing
to see*



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Finance
 Committee name
 Committee on Longevity Bonus , dated 4-30-03
Senate Bill No. 117
 Bill/Subject

The figures used for monthly income is fair. The Fed Bank of Alaska uses \$1709⁰⁰ for one and \$2,302⁰⁰ for two people. The Dept. of Health & Social Services Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program used these same figures.

The change in the Longevity Bonus program looks like a welfare program. Seniors get \$100⁰⁰ to \$250⁰⁰ a month, have kept them off that programs and give them independence.

There has been several seniors passed away in the past month here in the Wasilla Senior Campus so the 18000 has been reduced. As seniors die the program will be phased out completely. So why change it.

Signed: Betty Mercer
 Testifier

Seniors and Wasilla Senior Center
 Representing (Optional)

101 Frank Smith Way #206 Wasilla 99654
 Address:

Office: (907) 376-3104
 Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the SFIN _____

Committee name

Committee on SB117 _____, dated 4/30/03 _____

Bill/Subject

See attached

3 PAGES

Signed: _____

Testifier

Representing (Optional)

Address

Phone number

1

4-30-03

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

I have read and heard that the Governor
wants to grow the resources to balance
the state's budget. My opinion is that
seniors are a resource. When we receive
the Longevity Bonus each month it is
spent right here in Alaska and therefore
goes ^{into} into the economy. We also spend our
pensions, if we have one, some do not!
~~which are usually smaller than~~
~~our salaries when we worked.~~ The Alaska
budget benefits from our presence here.

Seniors are also proud. To apply for
welfare is demeaning. It is also a problem
for those who have trouble filling out forms
and doing paper work. The Bonus, in
contrast, is based only on age - seniors can
maintain their dignity - ^{not} feel they are begging.

- 2 -

Since age is the criterion, this program is phasing out naturally. I, for instance, am 89 and don't expect to be on the list much longer. Every day there are names of people in their late 70's, 80's and 90's listed in the Obituary columns.

Doing away with the Longevity Bonus will have an impact on younger Alaskans also. Many of them will have to help their parents who will not have money to buy their presc. drugs, and pay living expenses.

This is a program that helps everyone in Alaska.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the SFIN _____
Committee name

Committee on SB117 _____, dated 4/30/03 _____
Bill/Subject

See attached

2 PAGES

Signed: William K Church _____
Testifier

Representing (Optional)
020 Church Rd Kodiak AK _____
Address
376 5767 _____
Phone number

April 30, 2003

To Members of the Senate Finance Committee

Subject: Longevity Bonus

My name is Bill Church, age 72, and I have lived in Alaska for 69 years. I worked my whole life here and subsequently retired here.

I'm not so old that I can't realize the necessity of cutting the budget. However, there are many elderly people who can't make it without the longevity bonus and I think it would be pretty heartless take this away from them. This "needs based longevity bonus" would take care of these people who would otherwise fall between the cracks.

I consider myself a true Alaskan, and I can see a need for changes in the longevity program. As has been said many times, it was created to reward those longtime Alaskans who lived here, worked, and helped make Alaska what it is today. It no longer serves that purpose. As has also been said, it has created two classes of seniors; actually more than that. There are long-time Alaskans who get the bonus; there are short time Alaskans who get the bonus; and there are long-time Alaskans who don't get the bonus. It probably would be a fairly reasonable thing to say that those of us who don't get the bonus could use it just as well as those getting it. Whether they needed it or not, those receiving the bonus have received thousands of dollars since the program started, or they reached age 65. We are all being asked to tighten our belts, so perhaps those not in dire need of the bonus will now be willing to sacrifice a little in order to look out for those who are.

I sat in during the last two legislative audio conferences, and heard many people talking about, "it being nice to have, they had gotten used to it and it wasn't right to take it away now, it was their mad money, etc." I also had planned on the bonus at age 65, but missed the deadline by 5 months. It was necessary to make several major adjustments in our retirement plans at that time, as my wife would also have received it. Perhaps the people fortunate enough to have received the bonus should be grateful it lasted as long as it did.

I spoke with one of the Johnny come lately Alaskans and he said, and I quote him, "If the legislature does this, I'm going BACK down south." All I can say is that people like this are not Alaskans. Alaskans are here through both the good times and the bad. Perhaps it would not be such a bad thing if some of these people who came up here strictly for the benefits Alaska offered were to return home when the benefits stopped.

When you consider the number of senior citizens residing in Alaska, these hearings show how few of them are willing to give up even a few minutes to defend the programs benefiting them. Perhaps they are not as important to them as we think.

Bill Church



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the SFIN _____

Committee name

Committee on HB 117 _____, dated 4/30/03 _____

Bill/Subject

I do not sanction putting the longevity bonus in a welfare concept, if we are already on it, please leave us alone or let us draw it until we die. Many of us are far from \$1402.00 per month, why dig in to our private bank accounts. It is none of your business how we handle our private matters. Please keep so much politics out of our private affairs.

Signed: Edward F. Anderson
Testifier

Representing (Optional)

1752 Century Circle #111 Waukena AK 99654
Address

357-2205
Phone number