

ALASKA LEGISLATURE COMMITTEE FILES, 2003-2004 8672

11332 SENATE STATE AFFAIRS

Subject: Longevity Bonus Program

Date: Sat, 8 Mar 2003 11:03:25 -0900 (AKST)

From: filletrelease@webtv.net (Jacqui & Lane Anderson, Alaska)

To: Gov_Budget@gov.state.ak.us

Ya did good getting rid of this program, ya might also think about a RIP for State employees to save a few bucks too. Keep up the good work!!!

Lane Anderson

longevity
^

Subject: longevity

Date: Fri, 07 Mar 2003 23:02:07 -0900

From: joantower <jetower@gci.net>

To: Gov_Budget@gov.state.ak.us

I am 61 and I feel that you are doing the right thing in eliminating the longevity bonus. Also I have worked for private non profits for 13 years and feel that if they would use the money that they receive wisely there would be no need for wait lists
Joan Tower

Subject: HB 158 Concerning the Longevity Bonus

Date: Tue, 11 Mar 2003 16:43:09 EST

From: Beclifford@aol.com

To: Gov_Budget@gov.state.ak.us

- Support - LB cut

AAUP has sent an alert concerning the above and is seeking support. I am a senior Alaska citizen. I have been happy for those who have benefited from the bonus over the years. I also understand the problems Alaska is having and fully support necessary efforts to balance our State budget. I believe that State Government must be made smaller in the coming years. More can be said and while I am happy for those who continue to receive the bonus, I SUPPORT THE PASSAGE OF HB 158 which I understand is to stop the bonus program effective June 30 this year.

Considerations I have in this decision:

The bonus program is not an entitlement.

The Zobel ruling in my mind said that if any share, all share. This is no longer the case for the bonus program.

I believe that when the 1996 bill was passed and new applications were no longer being taken, the program should have been reduced \$50.00 a month, for those who were in the program at that time, to zero rather than the way the program was formatted.

I know of families who brought parents and other family members to Alaska because of the bonus program. This was not the intent of this program and I consider it a major abuse of the bonus.

Thank you for considering my voice.

Burton L. Clifford
9500 Victor Road
Anchorage, AK

Subject Code: Longevity Bonus
Renewance

Date: 3/11/2003

Name: Shattuck, Roger

Mailing Address: 1714 Willow Drive

Juneau AK 99801-

Email address:

Message: In favor of cutting longevity bonus and the budget

*2-B
Supports
cut.*

Record Number: 70

Entered By: m

Office of Constituent Relations For Internal Use

Action taken: _____

Date: _____

By whom: _____

Comments: _____

LB-SP

Subject: Proposed Longevity Cut

Date: Wed, 12 Mar 2003 13:06:37 -0800

From: Gloria Kent <glo@alaskalife.net>

To: gov_budget@gov.state.ak.us

A great place to cut an inequity! A supplemental rent or medicate payment has never been the intent of this payout and is not an appropriate justification to continue to help some, but not all seniors who helped to make this a great state.

LB-SP

Subject Code: Longevity Bonus -

Date: 3/12/2003

Name: Roland, Ken

Mailing Addr HC 04 Box 9194

Palmer AK

Email address

Message: longevity bonus is discriminatory, get rid of it.

Record Number: 38 **GB** **Entered By:** m

Office of Constituent Relations For Internal Use

Action taken _____

Date: _____

By whom _____

Comments _____

LB-SP

Subject Code: Longevity Bonus -

Date: 3/12/2003

Name: Laykep, Denny

Mailing Addr 8913 Duran Street

Juneau AK 99801-

Email address

Message: ABOLISH the longevity bonus. I fully support the Governor

Record Number: 42 GB **Entered By:** ly

Office of Constituent Relations For Internal Use
Action taken _____
Date: _____
By whom _____
Comments _____

LB - SP

Subject Code: Longevity Bonus -

Date: 3/12/2003

Name: Kleine, Jerald

Mailing Addr 12311 Tracy Road

Anchorage AK 99516

Email address

Message: SUPPORT THE LONGEVITY REMOVAL

Record Number: 39 GB Entered By: ly

Office of Constituent Relations For Internal Use

Action taken _____

Date: _____

By whom _____

Comments _____

Subject: Longevity Payments

Date: Thu, 13 Mar 2003 18:07:28 +0000

From: "Josef Ressel" <inajeam@hotmail.com>

To: Gov_Budget@gov.state.ak.us

LB - SP

Dear Governor Murkowski,

The name longevity bonus is a big misnomer and has nothing to do how long a person lived in Alaska. This program should have never been started in the first place, but at least totally eliminated a long time ago. You are correct to do it now!

Sincerely,
The Ressel Family,
Joe and Ina
4043 North Point Dr.
Anchorage

MSN 8 helps eliminate e-mail viruses. Get 2 months FREE*.
<http://join.msn.com/?page=features/virus>

HOUSE OK'S OLD-TIMER PAY

'Annuity' To Benefit Over 65s

Retirement Aid
Bill Approved
On 25-12 Vote

Times Juneau Bureau
JUNEAU — The House passed 25-12 today a bill to pay Alaskans 65 years of age who have lived in the state for 25 years a \$250 a month supplementary retirement.

Rep. Tom Flink, R-Anchorage, one of the leading opponents of the bill, called it a "cruel hoax" and pointed out that the funding provided would not permit full payment of \$250 allowed if as many as 3,000 were eligible.

The House first tabled, 22-16, a motion which would have changed the philosophy of the program of one of an incentive for old-timers to stay in the state to one that would have been based on need.

Rep. Chancy Croft, D-Anchorage, said the amendment would raise the level of those on old age assistance and would have benefited a greater number by including all those 65 years of age regardless of whether they had lived in the state 25 years.

House Speaker Jalmar Kerttula, D-Palmer, who relinquished his chair to participate in the debate said the bill was an effort to make a direct contribution to the old-timers who have tolled in the state and may "have a very few more years to participate in the wealth of the state." He said the money would be paid on an "annuity basis" with the interest derived from a \$100 million fund.

Kerttula said he resented the bill being called a bribe or a cruel hoax and he added that if in 15 or 20 years it becomes too expensive, like any other law it can be repealed.

Sen. Jay Hammond, who listened to the House debate, said this is an issue which may tie up the legislature for some time. He said, "I'm just very fearful. You don't have the type of support and nobody will bust loose and break the committee system to get it out of the Senate."

Rep. John Sackett, R-Galena, was successful in changing the requirement for an application to be submitted by those receiving benefits every six months rather than monthly. He said it would create a tremendous burden on persons from bush communities to have to complete an application every month when mail service may be more than a month behind.

The amendment was the only amendment adopted to the finance committee substitute for Rep. Clem Tillion's bill.

The Halibut Cove Republican told the House that two-thirds of those who would be eligible to receive the payments are natives. In response to questions, Tillion said that between 2,200 and 3,200 persons over 65 could be eligible for the program, and of that number 1,180 are natives.

*Office of the Governor
550 West 7th Ave, Ste 1700
Anchorage, AK 99501
(907-269-7450)*

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

Date: *March 17, 2003*

From: *Renee Reenstra
5600 Craig Drive
Anchorage, AK 99504
333-1492*

To: *Governor Murkowski*

Subject: *Longevity Bonus*

Operator: *Susan Fischetti*

Received letter from Senator Davis and Rep. Crawford and Cissna. Agree with phasing out the longevity bonus but should be based on those that need it and not given to those that don't qualify. It has saved my back but should be used to help those who need it.

To <i>Phil Phillips</i>	From <i>Jim Harrower</i>
Co./Dept.	Co.
Phone # <i>405-3147</i>	Phone #
Fax #	Fax #

FAX COVER SHEET

TO: Governor
Frank Murkowski

DATE: 3/17/03

FROM
JIM HARROWER

SENDING TO FAX NUMBER:
269-7461

MESSAGE: Governor Frank;

Stand your ground and don't flinch or blink. You are doing the right thing!

I will be 70 in Nov and don't care about a bonus - my concern is to cut the state bureaucracy - reduce the state's effect on small business and encourage capitalism, private ownership and profits.

Jim Harrower

PAGE 1 OF 1

NORTHWARD BOUND

1200 East 76th St.
P.O. Box 92249
Anchorage, AK. 99509

Office: 907-243-3007
Fax: 907-243-9559

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2003 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 1
 Bill Version: SB 117
 (S) Publish Date: _____

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): 3/27/04 (correction) Dept. Affected: Administration
 Title: _____ BRU: Longevity Bonus
 Component: Longevity Bonus Grants
 Sponsor: Governor
 Requester: _____ Component No.: 26

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

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

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims	(44,777.9)	(41,543.3)	(38,344.2)	(35,203.3)	(32,130.4)	(29,080.8)
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	(44,777.9)	(41,543.3)	(38,344.2)	(35,203.3)	(32,130.4)	(29,080.8)

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
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CHANGE IN REVENUES ()						
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FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF	(44,777.9)	(41,543.3)	(38,344.2)	(35,203.3)	(32,130.4)	(29,080.8)
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type--Do not abbreviate)						
TOTAL	(44,777.9)	(41,543.3)	(38,344.2)	(35,203.3)	(32,130.4)	(29,080.8)

Estimate of any current year (FY2003) cost: 0.0
 Mark this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2004 budget proposal:

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

This reduction reflects the FY2004 savings from eliminating the Longevity Bonus program. The reduction is included in the FY2004 budget. This fiscal note is for information purposes only.

This corrected fiscal note shows expected savings in each fiscal year when compared to forecast expenditures under the existing program.

Prepared by: Dan Spencer Phone 465-5655
 Division: Administrative Services Date/Time 3/27/03 10:30 AM
 Approved by: Mike Miller Date 3/27/2003
 Agency: Commissioner

FRANK H. MURKOWSKI
GOVERNOR

GOVERNOR@GOV.STATE.AK.US



STATE OF ALASKA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
JUNEAU

100
231174
P.O. Box 110001
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811-0001
(907) 465-3500
FAX (907) 465-3532
WWW.GOV.STATE.AK.US

March 5, 2003

The Honorable Gene Therriault
President of the Senate
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 107
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear President Therriault:

Under the authority of art. III, sec 18, of the Alaska Constitution, I am transmitting a bill that would eliminate the Alaska Longevity Bonus Program.

In 1972 Alaska initiated a program to reward our long-term residents (seniors) for their contributions and provide them with an incentive to remain in Alaska for their retirement years. It was originally intended to help those Alaskans who had been residents for 25 years and as stated in its original passage, was intended for those seniors who had "molded Alaska as we know it through skillful application of their talents."

Since that time, the Courts ruled that the 25 year residency requirement was unconstitutional. The new program instituted was expanded to all seniors residing in the state for one year. By 1993, the cost to the state was up to \$65 million a year. The legislature, recognizing that the cost would continue to escalate with the rapid growth of Alaska's senior population, implemented a phase out of the program.

The judiciary eliminated the longevity program for Alaska's pioneers. The bill I transmit today ends its successor, eliminating a program that has outlived its original purpose and no longer offers special consideration to those pioneers so deserving of our thanks.

The Honorable Gene Therriault

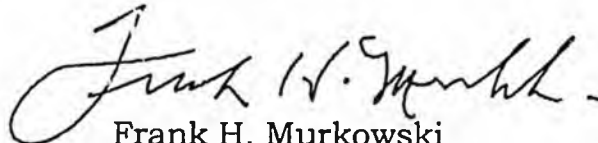
March 5, 2003

Page 2

Alaska will continue to provide assistance and "safety net" programs for senior citizens. Some are directed toward all seniors such as an exemption from Hunting and fishing fees, the senior citizen property tax exemption and Pioneers' Homes. Many are targeted at seniors with limited means, including, adult public assistance, Medicaid assistance, personal care attendant services, nursing home services, home and community based waiver services, senior housing assistance, nutrition programs, and senior training and employment programs.

I urge your prompt and favorable action on this measure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Frank H. Murkowski".

Frank H. Murkowski
Governor



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the

SSTA
committee name

Committee on

SB 117

, dated

3-27-03

bill # / subject

public hearing date

To: Senate Hearing on Longivity Bonus

March 25, 2003

Please regard this issue as a disaster to many seniors if this bonus check is taken away from them. There are many of us in the same category older seniors with more health issues, higher medical and prescription drug bills, higher gas, heating oil and electrical prices and at a point in our lives with no chance of earning money to keep up with monthly bills. Also consider that we all spend this money here at home, the money circulates here in Alaska. If cuts need to be made consider cutting from those on the highest scale of incomes and benefits, not those on the lowest income level.

Thanks for your time and support the seniors longivity program as we depend on it.

Fern Chamberlin

Box 109
Sterling, AK 99672

Phone 907-262-4193

Signed:

Fern Chamberlin

Testifier

Representing (optional)

Address

Phone number

Room 417
Dear Senator or Representative:

Stevens
SUBJECT: LONGEVITY BONUS PROGRAM

9450 Herbert Pl.
Juneau, Alaska 99801
799-7516

Please leave this program alone, it is working well. The State of Alaska made a PROMISE to the people who helped get us Statehood, built up Alaska in Territorial days and took pride in doing so. Fourth Avenue was the only paved road in Anchorage, the fishermen trappers and miners ran the Territory they loved. They were all hard working people. When they aged, they wanted to stay in Alaska. The Sitka Pioneer Home, the only one at the time, helped a lot. Others had to leave Alaska due to our high cost of living.

The PROMISE was the Longevity Bonus Program to help these Pioneers stay here. They were the people who had lived and worked here, even though it was hard at times. Governor Murkowski says we can use other available programs to offset the loss of the monthly check. NOT TRUE.

1. Medicare pays less and less. More medical no longer covered. Some needed blood tests not covered, hospital charges \$91.00 for this one alone.
2. Some doctors will not take new Medicare patients.
3. Costs of prescriptions are out of sight. Some people have to decide whether to eat or get needed medicine to help their condition.
4. Meals on Wheels cannot bring a meal to your home if you can drive a short distance or a family member can. Or if you walk your dog in your own yard. I can't get respite for even 2 hours a week for the same reason.
5. The Pioneer Homes have long waiting lists, lots of empty beds due to the lack of help. I also know some people are paying over \$4,000 a month there even though they are not bed ridden. I don't understand this charge. Suppose the Governor closes these Pioneer Homes? At \$4,000 per month, how much of your savings could be left to go elsewhere? I realize the "have nots" stay there, too, but how is the amount charged the "haves" decided? A percentage of the remaining balance in savings?

Fewer of us to receive these checks because we are a dying breed. I figure the youngest person receiving a check of \$100 per month was 72 years old this year. I was 74 on 12/23/2002, which makes me one of the last people to qualify for \$250.00 per month. I have been in Alaska 55 years. This means a lot of people who receive \$250 are older than I am, but may not have been in Alaska as long due to the program rule of residency was declared to be unconstitutional and opened it up to anyone of a certain age, no matter how recently they had come to Alaska. Lots of people we know brought up Mom & Pop to live here and get the \$250 a month, turned the garage into an apartment. This made the list of those getting checks go out of sight.

Three generations of our family born in Alaska, children, grandchildren and great children. We do own our home. I receive \$250, date of birth 12/23/28, my husband gets \$200 even though he's been here longer, dob 2/22/29, 2 months younger than me. Every penny we spend for anything is spent here. We contribute to local charities, and quietly help individuals needing it, taught remedial reading without salary, helped deaf 13 year old to speak and other personal help to make life better here. That's what the pioneer Alaskans always did, help each other because we cared and not for money.

We need this program to continue as it is, it's working well. As I said in the beginning, leave the program alone, we're dying off and the Governor is wrong, most of us don't qualify for the programs he thinks are there and we don't want charity. Also, if we lose this program I can think of other ways to save money, but then a lot of people wouldn't like it because it would be their money being given up.

I cannot believe the Governor and our Senators and Representative would even consider touching this program. At the same time the Tourist Industry, which is private industry, is again asking for a government FREE subsidy to offset its advertising costs. Tourists have always come to see our different, beautiful State. Let this private industry finally stand on its own. I would think the elderly are more important, remember, we live here.

Thank you for your time, Sincerely

Marilyn O'Brien

2.

My husband and I worked hard for Statehood, at our own expense, working with Delegate E. Bob Bartlett. My husband's letter to Congress regarding our Fisheries, was so impressive it became a part of the Congressional Record.

I'm sorry this is so long, but it is a very important to our age group and it seems as though the needy, the handicapped and the elderly are often targets of cutting costs of government down and more funds are asked for and given to businesses which should always stand on their own two feet. I consider this a form of welfare, meaning the business handouts, because it is their problem how they advertise. Saying they are bringing business to Alaska, they are doing this advertising for their business, Alaska itself does not need advertising. They choose to do big time advertising, fine, they can pay for it like the rest of us do. We pay for an ad in the newspapers. The State should not pay for anyone's advertising and these funds are not repaid to us, the people of Alaska. The industry is quick to say how much they do for Alaska, it looks to me like they want to be paid twice, one when they charge the customer and once when they ask the State for money for free.

Sorry if I sound cynical, these two subjects are related. One, the government wants to take away from people who can no longer work except for charitable organizations due to health and age restrictions and continue to give to private industry every single year. If they were a charity that would be different and would be considered however, maybe these people have over extended their business for the all mighty dollar and feel the State owes them something. Not true, as Harry S. Truman said, if you can't stand the heat, get out of the kitchen. Businesses come and go, I know this to be true, I feel very strongly about this, we should not subsidize tourist industry.

ROSALEE T. WALKER

1220 Glacier Ave., #208

Juneau, AK 99801

(907) 586-2873

TESTIMONY REGARDING THE LONGEVITY BONUS PROGRAM

My name is Rosalee T. Walker, and I have been a resident of Juneau, Alaska for 37 years. I come before you as a member of the Board of Directors for the Older Persons Action Group (OPAG), and as the president of the AARP Mount Juneau Chapter #865. Both of these organizations oppose the elimination of the Longevity Bonus Program.

It is well documented that for many years Alaskan seniors have voluntarily worked with elected officials at all levels of government to help to seek solutions to a variety of problems. We are proud of the quality and extent of our volunteer involvement. As Alaskans, we do not restrict our activities to issues that are related to seniors only, but we work cooperatively to seek responsible, reasonable, and fair solutions that will benefit our nation, our state, and our local communities. We are, indeed, sensitive to the growing

concerns about Alaska's budget situation and we participate with the decision makers during their deliberations on budgetary matters.

When the Governor stated that he wanted to eliminate budgetary waste as a part of his plan to address Alaska's budget dilemma, we applauded this effort. Needless to say, it came as a great shock to us to find out that we had been targeted as budgetary waste in the proposal to eliminate the Longevity Bonus Program. The gross simplified justification that has been offered by the Administration to eliminate the Longevity Bonus Program is based upon an uninformed decision. Ending this program in such a sudden and deliberate manner will open a Pandora's box the results of which cannot be imagined. Instead of helping to solve our budget problems, the elimination of the Longevity Bonus Program has the potential to exacerbate Alaska's budgetary problems. Additionally, the negative impacts that will be imposed upon some of Alaska's most vulnerable citizens will be devastating.

There is nothing new about attempts to eliminate the Longevity Bonus Program, and seniors have been zealous in their efforts to maintain at least some portion of its benefits. In a sincere effort to salvage the program in 1993
~~1994~~, the Legislature made a commitment to continue the Longevity Bonus

Program on a limited basis and to allow the program to “sunset” itself as the participants left the state or died. For many of us who were involved at that time, the agreement that was made was considered to be closure as far as this particular issue was concerned. The Legislature made a commitment in good faith and we seniors were satisfied that this would be the end of the matter.

State policy decisions concerning the Longevity Bonus Program should be viewed in the context of current economic and social benefits to the recipients as well as economic and social benefits to the state. Seeking waste in government does not mean that it is necessary to “rip and run” with any funds that may seem available without serious examination of impacts upon the recipients, agencies, families, and communities. We all realize that the devil is in the details, but the Administration has not taken the time to analyze the Longevity Bonus Program to find out where the devil may be hiding.

The proposal to eliminate the Longevity Bonus Program has been presented to the Legislature in haste with no concern about anything except the confiscation of funds for the Administration’s purposes. We seniors feel that

we were deliberately ignored during the development of this proposal, and we feel a sense of betrayal regarding the ¹⁹⁹³~~1994~~ legislative commitment.

We respectfully ask that you vote against the Administration's proposal to eliminate the Longevity Bonus Program. If any of you have nagging and persistent concerns, vote "NO" anyway. Give us at least one year to have an opportunity to work with the Legislature, the Administration, and the recipients to seek a solution that is responsible, reasonable, and fair. We are ready, willing and able to volunteer the time and effort that will be necessary to reach that goal.

PLEASE DO NOT ACCEPT THE ADMINISTRATION'S PROPOSAL TO ~~ELIMINATE~~ THE LONGEVITY BONUS PROGRAM! VOTE "NO"!

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

State's safety net may not help more seniors than currently

By **CATHY BROWN**
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The state's safety nets for older Alaskans may not catch any more needy people than it does now if the longevity bonus program is eliminated.

That's because the state has never counted the \$100-\$250 monthly bonuses in deciding whether someone is eligible for many programs that help low-income seniors.

However, some older Alaskans who were eligible for public assistance but never asked for it may apply if they lose the longevity bonus, said Elmer Lindstrom, a special assistant in the Department of Health and Social Services.

"Intuitively, we would assume there would be some people in that category," Lindstrom said. "But we are scratching our heads and puzzling over how in the world to figure out what the actual population might be."

When Gov. Frank Murkowski proposed eliminating the monthly longevity bonuses that go to some senior citizens, he said the state had sufficient safety nets, such as adult public assistance, to protect needy Alaskans.

Adult public assistance is a program that provided cash to more than 4,700 low-income Alaskans

over age 65 last year.

The Pioneers of Alaska - a group representing about 7,000 seniors who have lived in the state at least 30 years - opposes eliminating the longevity bonus.

Bob Huffman, who heads the group's government affairs committee, said he could not estimate how many elderly Alaskans will turn to public assistance for help without their bonuses.

"Some of the Pioneer seniors that I've talked with, you know, just can't stand the thought of going on welfare," Huffman said.

The longevity bonus program at one time provided all Alaskans over age 65 with a \$250 monthly stipend, regardless of income. In the early 1990s the Legislature passed a law phasing out the program, so that only Alaskans who were at least 65 and living in the state in 1996 continue receiving checks.

Some 20,000 older Alaskans still receive some level of bonus, at a cost of \$47.5 million a year.

In a letter accompanying the bill to eliminate the program, Murkowski said Alaska will continue to offer help to older Alaskans through other programs.

He noted seniors are eligible for free hunting and fishing licenses, property-tax exemptions, nutrition programs such as meals-on-wheels and access to pioneers' homes,

which are state-run assisted-living facilities.

In his letter to the Legislature, the governor said low-income seniors also can receive adult public assistance, Medicaid, nursing home and home-based health care, and senior training and employment services.

The governor's proposed fiscal 2004 budget does not include estimates on the added cost to the state if seniors turn to other state programs if longevity bonuses are eliminated, said Ross Soboleff, a spokesman for the Department of Health and Social Services.

Soboleff said the department is still trying to calculate that.

To be eligible for adult public assistance, a senior citizen must have income of less than \$12,300 a year and can't have more than \$2,000 in savings. Those on adult public assistance are eligible for other programs, including Medicaid, which pays for prescription drugs.

Seniors with medical needs significant enough to qualify for nursing-home care can receive Medicaid even if their income is close to \$20,000 a year.

A hearing on the bill to eliminate the longevity bonuses is scheduled for 3:30 p.m. Thursday in the Senate State Affairs Committee.

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 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 the at Christmas and refusing, "then let them die and decrease the surplus population." Are we not dying off fast enough 1?

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

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Open Letter to Governor Murkowski

E. M. Casey

March 24, 2003

effected protection if they were relying on the program or 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.

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

Page 4

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 reason not to begin gathering data and considering during fiscal 2004 what a state services user's 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 such a progressive tax which ^{into the} 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 tax, ^{aka} ~~the~~ user's fee. *took into account*

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 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 in the aforesaid two bills. I am too infirm and immobile to travel to Legislative Offices for teleconference 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--as long as I can pay the phone bill.

Very sincerely

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



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

March 24, 2003

SB 117 (Governor Murkowski) – Oppose

Dear Chair Stevens:

On behalf of the AARP members in Alaska, we encourage you and your colleagues on the Senate State Affairs Committee to oppose SB 117, submitted by the Senate Rules Committee on behalf of Governor Murkowski. SB 117 would eliminate the Alaska Longevity Bonus Program.

In 1972, the State of Alaska initiated the Longevity Bonus Program as a way of rewarding those older Alaskans who contributed to the State's growth when Alaska was a territory, then eventually a state.

As the program is no longer accepting new applicants, there are Alaskans, who because they applied prior to the program's discontinuation, are grandfathered into the program. These individuals are aging. Every year, the number of those who are grandfathered into the program diminishes, as individuals pass away. Those who are currently in the program have depended on that monthly income, often for rent in an assisted living facility or prescription drug costs. We question whether it is advisable for the Governor to suddenly stop the program, when 18,000 older Alaskans depend on the \$100, \$150, \$200, or \$250 check every month.

We're concerned that, as the bonus goes to the oldest of older Alaskans, these are the same ones who are likely to use the most pharmaceutical drugs. These are the same ones who are most likely to be widowed older women trying to "age in place" and stay independent.

It would be difficult for people to go back to work at their ages. The youngest Longevity Bonus recipients are in their early 70's. The longevity bonus recipients have received these checks for years and have built it into their monthly budgets.

Anyone of any age would have trouble accepting a salary cut of \$250 a month.

Older Alaskans are willing to do their fair share of belt-tightening to help the State get its fiscal house in order. Although our members don't like taxes any more than their younger counterparts, AARP has indicated we would support fiscal plans that would make sense and were fair. If taxes must be levied, we believe a graduated income tax is the most equitable method to use. However, for most of the Longevity Bonus recipients, the worst case scenario of an income tax and a sales tax combined would not take as much money from their monthly budgets as the Governor's proposed elimination of the Bonus. It may not be a tax, but it certainly has the same fiscal impact in the end.

Without a prescription drug benefit under Medicare and with no Alaska state pharmaceutical benefit, we need to recognize that many of the bonus recipients are not going to be able to pay for their prescriptions and undoubtedly will suffer health problems. Pharmaceutical prices in Alaska rose over 25% in 2001 -- 25% in just one year -- this was the highest increase in the entire United States.

If the Governor wants to take away the Longevity Bonus, then he should help older Alaskans get some assistance with pharmaceutical costs. The Governor indicated that programs like adult public assistance would help those Longevity Bonus recipients who are harmed the most by the loss of the Bonus. AARP recognizes that "public assistance" has an entirely different meaning for older Alaskans than a "Longevity Bonus" that honors their contributions to building our State.

AARP supports the Governor in addressing our state's budget situation; however, these 18,000 older Alaskans, who receive the Longevity Bonus are not just statistics. They are individuals who will have to leave assisted living facilities or forego needed prescription drug medication. The impact will be felt by these individuals and their families.

Undoubtedly, some of these recipients might be able to stay independent, even if they lose the Bonus; but, we know that many of them cannot. Surely Alaskans can address the State's budget shortfalls with plans that make sense and are fair to our oldest citizens.

AARP recommends a "NAY" vote on SB 117..

Should you have any questions about our position, please feel free to contact Marie Darlin (907-586-3637), Coordinator of the AARP Capital City Task Force; Patrick Luby (907-762-3314), AARP Legislative Representative; or me (907-245-5259).

Sincerely,

Marguerite Stetson

Marguerite Stetson
AARP Alaska Executive Council Member for Advocacy
3009 Northwood Street
Anchorage, AK 99517-1871
907-245-5259
Fax 907-245-5279
ffmas@aurora.uaf.edu

CC: Vice-Chair John Cowdery
Senator Fred Dyson
Senator Gretchen Guess
Senator Lyman Hoffman
Governor Frank Murkowski

MAR 25 2002

March 17, 2003

Senator Gary Stevens
State Capitol Building
Juneau, Alaska, 99801

Dear Gary:

As a 50 year resident of Alaska, retired, and living on a fixed income, the \$200.00 longevity check I receive each month is vital to my budget and helps me meet the high cost of my expenses and allows me to remain here. Terminating this program will have a major impact on all of us who have factored it into our budget for these several years.

Please ask the Governor to reconsider his proposal to terminate this program. He should also be aware that the cost of this program is being reduced almost daily as we oldtimers reach the "end of our trail".

Sincerely,

Delmore Schmidt

Box 2549

Homer, Alaska 99603

March 17, 2003

Senator Gary Stevens
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, Ak. 99801-1182

Senator Stevens,

As a 45 year resident of Alaska, and retired on a small fixed income, the \$150.00 longevity check helps me pay the high cost of maintaining my residence in Alaska. The number of persons receiving benefits are declining due to death. I believe this program must continue to enable us seniors to stay in our beloved Alaska. It would be a real shame to discontinue this very necessary aid to seniors, many of whom cannot this amount in their budget, as I do, for the daily living expenses, taxes and so forth.

I would appreciate your consideration of this important situation.

Thank you,

Sincerely,

Sue Jane Myers

PO Box 777

Homer Ak. 99603-0777

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2003 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 1
 Bill Version: SB 117
 (S) Publish Date: 3/6/03

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): _____ Dept. Affected: Administration
 Title: _____ BRU: Longevity Bonus
 Component: Longevity Bonus Grants
 Sponsor: Governor
 Requester: _____ Component No. 26

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

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

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims	(47,519.3)	(47,519.3)	(47,519.3)	(47,519.3)	(47,519.3)	(47,519.3)
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	(47,519.3)	(47,519.3)	(47,519.3)	(47,519.3)	(47,519.3)	(47,519.3)

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
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CHANGE IN REVENUES ()						
-------------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--

FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF	(47,519.3)	(47,519.3)	(47,519.3)	(47,519.3)	(47,519.3)	(47,519.3)
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type--Do not abbreviate)						
TOTAL	(47,519.3)	(47,519.3)	(47,519.3)	(47,519.3)	(47,519.3)	(47,519.3)

Estimate of any current year (FY2003) cost: 0.0
 Mark this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2004 budget proposal:

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

This reduction reflects the FY2004 savings from eliminating the Longevity Bonus program. The reduction is included in the FY2004 budget. This fiscal note is for information purposes only.

Prepared by: Dan Spencer Phone 465-5655
 Division: Administrative Services Date/Time 3/5/03 9:13 AM
 Approved by: Mike Miller Date 3/5/2003
 Agency: Commissioner

APR 30 2002

April 25, 2003


Dear Alaska State Legislators
and Governor Murkowski :

Enclosed herewith are sixteen pages containing 158 signatures of Alaska residents who are strongly opposed to any changes in the Longevity Bonus Program.

So strongly are Fairbanksans opposed to Governor Murkowski's proposed elimination of the Longevity Bonus Program that Republicans are likely to suffer in future elections should any changes be made.

The comment, "Governor Murkowski made me a Democrat," was frequently expressed by those signing the enclosed petition.

Sincerely yours,


Ruth B. Bohms
Longtime Alaskan
P O Box 80155
Fairbanks, AK 99708
(907) 479-6970

Encls.

TO: Our Alaska State Legislators

April 25, 2003

Before you vote to alter the Longevity Bonus Program please consider the following:

①

- The Alaska Longevity Bonus Statistical Summary for the month of January, 2003 shows 17,340 active participants receiving warrants. With each passing week, this number decreases and the cost to the State shrinks considerably. In FY2004, just 8 months from now, the number of recipients is projected to be 17,252 (88 fewer). Source: State's White Paper, page 4, dated March 14, 2003.
- Implementation of means testing into the Longevity Program will not only be expensive and burdensome for the state but will be an intrusion into the personal finances of recipients, an invasion of their privacy.
- In the best interests of the State and the recipients, we ask that any changes to the current program be postponed for a minimum of one year pending an in-depth study to determine the impact on participants, on the State, on the families of seniors, and on the economics of their communities.
- A timely notice of any changes to the program should be given to the Longevity Bonus recipients as a matter of law.

NAME (PRINT)	NAME (SIGNATURE)	PHYSICAL ADDRESS	MAILING ADDRESS	CITY & ZIP	PHONE	E-MAIL
Marian Thomas	Marian Thomas	1606 Marika Rd. #9	Fairbanks, AK	99709	474-4561	
Ruth Bohms	Ruth Bohms	P.O. Box 80155	Fairbanks, AK	99708	479-6970	
Dennis Giltzer	Dennis Giltzer	15 FARWELL #203	FBKS AK	99701	456-7370	
Arlene Spurgin	Arlene Spurgin	246 Charles St	Fbks AK	99701	452-4069	
ALBERT HINES	Albert Hines	3071 Riverview Dr	FBKS AK	99709	474-0865	
ESTHER HACKNEY	Esther Hackney	1136 Sunset Dr.	Fbks AK	99709	474-0610	
BRENCHAN BARR	Brendan Barr	820 6th Ave	FBKS AK	99701	474-3712	
Larry K. Wike	Larry K. Wike	611 Change Lane Fairbanks AK				
Bruce Newman	Bruce Newman	1 Block N. of Aurora	VENETIE, AK	99781	849-8113	
Russ Ensign	Russ Ensign	2156 Peede Rd	PO Box 56556 North Pole, AK 99705	99705	488-2148	

TO: Our Alaska State Legislators

April 25, 2003

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NAME (PRINT)	NAME (SIGNATURE)	PHYSICAL ADDRESS	MAILING ADDRESS	CITY & ZIP	PHONE	E-MAIL
Becky L. Spear	Becky Spear	787 High Road Way	same Fairbanks	Fairbanks, ak 99712	451-7017	
Hope Helms	Hope Helms	1452 Noble St	Fairbanks Alaska	Fairbanks Alaska 99701	452-3474	
Roy Helms	ROY HELMS	1452 Noble St	Fairbanks AK	99701	452-3474	
VEVA BECKER	Veva Becker	4137 Rosebud Lane	Fairbanks	99709	479-6968	
JUDITH STELLA	Judith Stella	235 Skelton Dr	Fairbanks	99701	456-1454	
ALICE OATES	Alice Oates	3252 Adams ^{1014 1/2}	Fairbanks	99709	452-8966	
GLENN HACKNEY	Glenn Hackney	1136 SUNSET DR.	SAME	FAIRBANKS 99709	474-2610	
FRANK MCGILVARY	Frank McGilvary	112 FAREWELL	SAME	FBKS 99701	452-6929	
R.A. O'Grady	R.A. O'Grady	201 ELLINGSON	son N F Fx	Fbks, 99701	456-5740	
Rachel Thomas	Rachel Thomas	3070 Totem	same	Fbks 99709	479-2004	

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3

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NAME (PRINT)	NAME (SIGNATURE)	PHYSICAL ADDRESS	MAILING ADDRESS	CITY & ZIP	PHONE	E-MAIL
Niilo E. Koponen	<i>Niilo E. Koponen</i>	710 Chena Ridge Pl	710 Chena Ridge Fairbanks AK 99709	FAIRBANKS 99709	907-479-6782	niilosac@wasguitonet.com
Ron Braum			Po Box 877911	Wasilla 99687	3571020	
Justin Billi		864 Sirdin Dr		North Pole	488-0410	
BRENDA Reichenberg	<i>Brenda Reichenberg</i>	113 Duwikel	PO Box 73694	Fbks, AK-	479-9296	
Marion Brand	<i>Marion Brand</i>	500 10 th Ave	Same	" "	452-6952	
Evelyn Sites	<i>Evelyn Sites</i>	1601 Marika #1	Fbks. AK	99709	456-5257	
JANICE HAMMAN	<i>Janice Hamman</i>	1605 Mareike	Helel Ak	99709	456-5431	
Malie C. Gray	<i>Malie C. Gray</i>	399 Hillside Dr	Fbks. AK	99712	457-5737	
THOMAS LINCOLN	<i>Thomas Lincoln</i>	2509 ALSTON RD	Fairbanks AK	99709	479-6716	
Harm De Boer	<i>Harm De Boer</i>	3205 N. Van Horn Rd	P.O. Box 60499 Fairbanks, AK	99706	452-2583	

TO: Our Alaska State Legislators

April 25, 2003

4

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NAME (PRINT)	NAME (SIGNATURE)	PHYSICAL ADDRESS	MAILING ADDRESS	CITY & ZIP	PHONE	E-MAIL
DIANA CRAWFORD	<i>Diana Crawford</i>	3390 HOWDEN RD	P.O. BOX 7004	FBKS	457-7771	
JAY HAWLEY	<i>Jay Hawley</i>	1630 DULCIMER	PO BOX 83215	FBKS 99708		
Robert W Upright	<i>Robert W Upright</i>	1591 Fools Gold	POB 10764	Fbks 99712	457-5424	
Bettie H. Upright	<i>Bettie H. Upright</i>	1591 Fools Gold Rd	PO BOX 10764	Fbks 99712	457-5424	
Carol Callahan	<i>Carol M. Callahan</i>	606 Bennington	Same	FBKS 99709	479-2078	
Anita Hines	<i>Anita M. Hines</i>	3071 Riverview W	Same	FBKS 99709	474-0865	
Nancy Plante	<i>Nancy Plante</i>	1616 Dredgerview Dr.	Attn Dr Same	Fbks 99712	456-1971	nancy.plante@pt.alaska.net
Ruth Knapman	<i>Ruth Knapman</i>	1280 Gilmore Tr	same	99712	457-6380	
CATHERINE R. JONES	<i>Catherine R. Jones</i>	3690 Widener Lane	P.O. Box 80023	Fbks 99708	479-6955	
Becki Phypis	<i>Becki Phypis</i>	522A Farmers Sp	POB 70143	Fbks 99707	451-6821	

TO: Our Alaska State Legislators

April 25, 2003

Before you vote to alter the Longevity Bonus Program please consider the following:

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NAME (PRINT)	NAME (SIGNATURE)	PHYSICAL ADDRESS	MAILING ADDRESS	CITY & ZIP	PHONE	E-MAIL
HILDA P. MELCHIOR	Hilda P. Melchior	2721 Horsetail Trail	2721 Horsetail Trail	Fbks. 99709	907-455-1615	hpm@mosquitonet.com
D.A. MCGILVARY	D.A. McGilvary	112 Farewell Ave	112 Farewell Ave	Fbks, 99701	907 452-6929	grammy@gci.net
ROY E. TRAXLER	Roy E. Traxler	950 TOK ST.	950 TOK ST.	Fbks 99709	907 474-0513	
LOIS E. VAN HYNING	Lois E. Van Hyning	2844 Gold Hill Rd.	P.O. Box 80165	Fbks, AK 99708	907-479-2476	
PRISCILLA PHARR	Priscilla G. Pharr	3343 HIMALAYA RD.	P.O. Box 10012	Fbks. AK 99710	907-458-7831	PHARRAK01@yakoo.net
GEORGE PHARR	George W Pharr	3343 Himalaya Rd	P.O. Box 10012	Fbx AK 99710	907 458 7831	Woody@Alaska.net
NORA DIERINGER	Nora G. Dieringer	666 11 th Ave #305	Fairbanks Alaska	Fairbanks, Ak 99701	(907) 452-3902	
GLADYS MAIN	Gladys Main	1728 Farmers Lp	810605 Fbks 99708		479-2465	
JAMES A. GRAB	James A. Grab	1118 128 th St	P.O. Box 30109	Central	907 5205322	James A. Grab
JEANNETTE GRAB	Jeanette Grab	1369 Bredaine Rd	same	Fairbanks	455-6263	

TO: Our Alaska State Legislators

April 25, 2003

Before you vote to alter the Longevity Bonus Program please consider the following:

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NAME (PRINT)	NAME (SIGNATURE)	PHYSICAL ADDRESS	MAILING ADDRESS	CITY & ZIP	PHONE	E-MAIL
Janette Hanneman	Janette Hanneman	3370 Davis Rd	3370 Davis Rd	Fairbanks 99709-5303	479-6686	
Colette Buchholtz	Colette Buchholtz		PO Box 85185	Fairbanks 99708	455-4860	
Mark Olson	DICK OLSON	2501 Mission Rd	P.O. Box 56359	North Pole 99705	488-3977	
Mary Hastings	Mary E. Hastings	2225 Indep. Cir E		North Pole	488-1416	
Don Bates	Don Bates	1145 Broadway		North Pole	488-7763	
DEBBIE REED	Debbie Reed	805 Astin St.		FAIRBANKS	452-2491	
Lucille Reese	Lucille Reese	2701 Perimeter Dr		North Pole AK	488-9246	
Leslie Callan Van	Leslie Callan Van	1892 Agate Ave		Box 99709		
CATHLEENE ALDEN	Cathlene Alden	1117 Galena St	1117 Galena St	Fbks 99709	474-0611	
MARIA BILLINGS	Maria Billings	4018 TEAL AVE	same	Fbks 99709	479-2479	

TO: Our Alaska State Legislators

April 25, 2003

Before you vote to alter the Longevity Bonus Program please consider the following:

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NAME (PRINT)	NAME (SIGNATURE)	PHYSICAL ADDRESS	MAILING ADDRESS	CITY & ZIP	PHONE	E-MAIL
PATRICIA FRANKLIN	<i>Patricia Franklin</i>	1213 Coppit	1213 Coppit	Fairbanks, AK 99709	474-9475	
John GRANDFIELD	<i>John Grandfield</i>	3451 Buffalo Ln	PO Box 10509	Fairbanks 99710	485-9305	
KEN BREWER	<i>Kenneth Brewer</i>	1701 TAMARACK ST	Same	FBKS AK	452-2919	
Peter Smith	<i>Peter Smith</i>	3277 Helen Place	Same	"	479-4521	
Rachel Phillips	<i>Rachel Phillips</i>	3512 Briathalon	same	N Pole	490-0099	
Gandy Setzer	<i>Gandy Setzer</i>	244 ana	Same	Fairbanks	474-8775	
David Czech	<i>David Czech</i>	1225 Susie A	P.O. Box 10242	Fairbanks 99710	452-3696	
Diann Darnall	<i>Diann Darnall</i>	2030 Jack St. P.O. Box	P.O. Box 8489	FAIRBANKS	719-0952	
Aaron Soland	<i>Aaron Soland</i>	4861 Glasgow	4861 Glasgow	Fairbanks 99709	479-8855	
Karen Estrada	KAREN ESTRADA	1903 Bridgewater Dr.	Same	Fbks 99709	452-3143	

TO: Our Alaska State Legislators

April 25, 2003

Before you vote to alter the Longevity Bonus Program please consider the following:

8

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NAME (PRINT)	NAME (SIGNATURE)	PHYSICAL ADDRESS	MAILING ADDRESS	CITY & ZIP	PHONE	E-MAIL
Grace Chang	Grace Chang		1500 Carline	FBKs 99709 AK	456-7466	
DELORES LINZNER	Delores Linzner	1235 Noble # 6	same	Fbks 99701 AK	452-5658	
LOIS FRANZ	Lois Franz	3624 HOLDEN RD	same	Fai 99709	479-6692	
ROBERT E. FRANZ	Robert E. Franz	3624 Holden Rd	"	FBKS 99709	479-6692	
Sharm Bullock	Sharm Bullock	3030 Davis Rd C-44	same	Fbks 99709	456-7350	
Virginia K. L. McDowell	Virginia K. L. McDowell	2077 Kathleen Rd	99712	FBX 99712	488-6068	
Cliff Brenner	Cliff Brenner	1314 Viewpointe	99709	Fairbanks 99709	479-6742	
Harlan Luce	Harlan Luce	1033 Pedro St		Fairbanks 99709	458-7614	
MACK RIFE	Mack Rife	803 John Cole Road	same	Fairbanks 99709	488-2957	
Mildred E. Wheat	Mildred E. Wheat	666 11 th Ave	same	" 99701	452-8636	

TO: Our Alaska State Legislators

April 25, 2003

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NAME (PRINT)	NAME (SIGNATURE)	PHYSICAL ADDRESS	MAILING ADDRESS	CITY & ZIP	PHONE	E-MAIL
LORI CANNON	<i>Lori Cannon</i>	3063 Hillary		Fairbanks 99709	451-4391	LOECANNON@mosquitonet.com
Helen Burnell	<i>Helen Burnell</i>	1005 Gilmore St		✓ 99701	456-1056	-
Floyd Danner	<i>Floyd Danner</i>	591 Funk Rd.		Fbks 99712	378-7509	
JOYCE C. TAPPER	<i>Joyce C. Tapper</i>	PO Box 55352		NORTH POLE 99705		
BONITA POST	<i>Bonita Post</i>	Pu Box 72962		99707 FBKS AK	907 455-6583	
M. Chapman	<i>Mary Anne Chapman</i>	576 Hilltop		Fair AK	(907) 479-2332	
PATRICK SWEENEY	<i>Patrick Sweeney</i>	1428 Stacey St		Fairbanks AK	99701	
Eleanor Chinn	<i>Eleanor Chinn</i>	880 Fairweather Rd		Fairbanks	99712 457-3277	
Randy Stowell	<i>Randy Stowell</i>	880 Fairweather Rd		Fairbanks	99712 457-3277	
Judy Schoenewald	<i>Judy Schoenewald</i>	POB 82272		Fairbanks	99708 455-6586	

TO: Our Alaska State Legislators

April 25, 2003

10

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NAME (PRINT)	NAME (SIGNATURE)	PHYSICAL ADDRESS	MAILING ADDRESS	CITY & ZIP	PHONE	E-MAIL
John E Gaston	John E Gaston	1825 Sheldon Ave	Same	Fbks AK 99701	456-2754	
Frank Worcester	Frank Worcester	3135 Formosa Dr	Same	Fbks AK 99709	—	
LAVELLE M. MONTGOMERY	Lavell M. Montgomery	15 FAREWELL	PO Box 83593	Fai. AK	—	—
JANET CENKER	Janet Cenker	647 11 th	PO Box 75406	FRK AK	—	—
Mercia Kolloch	Mercia Kolloch	3293 Laurance Rd	P.O. Box 56091	No. Pole	—	—
Judith K Shiffler	Judith K Shiffler	929 Reindeer Dr.	Same	Fairbanks 99709	479-6104	
Wendy Shiffler	Wendy Shiffler	929 Reindeer Dr.	11	11	11	
SHIRLEY HEATWOLE	Shirley Heatwole	PO Box 72275	Same		452-2084	
Solena Brotherton	Solena Brotherton	POB 82892	—	FBKS 99708	388-5484	
Marilyn Stowell	Marilyn Stowell	880 Fairweather #1 Fairbank	PO Box 72041	Fbks 99707	457-3277	

TO: Our Alaska State Legislators

April 25, 2003

(11)

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NAME (PRINT)	NAME (SIGNATURE)	PHYSICAL ADDRESS	MAILING ADDRESS	CITY & ZIP	PHONE	E-MAIL
Nancy D. Williams	Nancy D. Williams	1119 2nd Ave ^{Fairbanks}		Fairbanks, AK 99701	452-4628	nancydwilliams@netscape.net
Walter D. Williams	Walter D. Williams	1119 2nd Ave.		Fairbanks AK	452-4628	jwalaska50@qci.net
Larry N. Knappman	Larry N. Knappman	1280 Gilmore Trl.		Fairbanks AK	457-6380	
Donald A. Callahan	Donald A. Callahan	606 Bennington Dr		Fairbanks 99709	479-2678	
Mike D Thurman	Mike D. Thurman	2874 Nelson rd	same	North Pole AK	488-2031	
Vic Salburg JR	Vic Salburg JR	2727 PARKWAY	Box 23485	Fairbanks AK	488-0430	
HERB MELCHOR	Herb Melchor	2721 Husetair Trl		Fairbanks, AK	455-6615	
Jack VanHuyne	Jack VanHuyne	2844 Goldhill Rd.	PO Box 80163	Fairbanks AK	479-2476	
Marlys Henderson	Marlys Henderson	572 Line Dr Fairbanks AK	same	Fairbanks AK	479-6698	
Sally Ponten	Sally Ponten	3206 Rinnweir 99709	same	Fairbanks AK	479-8838	

TO: Our Alaska State Legislators

April 25, 2003

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(12)

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NAME (PRINT)	NAME (SIGNATURE)	PHYSICAL ADDRESS	MAILING ADDRESS	CITY & ZIP	PHONE	E-MAIL
PLuff	Mary	same	1458 Lacey	Fairbanks	452-3457	
Margaret Mowery	Margaret Mowery	545 Wild Horse Ln	Same	Fairbanks	479-2446	
Sandra Crabb	Sandra Crabb	mi 128 Steese	PO Box 30109	Central	520-5322	
Michelle Joseph	Michelle Joseph	424 McKinley View	PO B 83502	Fairbanks 99730	474-8865	
Glen L Hanneman	GLEN L HANNEMAN	3370 Davis Rd	SAME	FAIRBANKS AK 99709	479-6686	NA
Jon Ewig	Jon Ewig	2325 30th Ave	Same	Fbks 99701	452-5538	
Shirley Grandfield	Shirley Grandfield	3421 Buffalo Lane	PO Box 10509	Fbks 99710	488-9508	
LeRoy Zimmerman	LeRoy Zimmerman	477 Lost Lane #2	PO Box 252 Ester, AK 99725	Fbx 99709	479-8097	
Craig Hausler	Craig Hausler	3161 John Cole Rd	PO Box 10033 Fairbanks AK 99710	Fbx 99710	488-3254	
Leila R Peterman	Leila R Peterman	2465 Old Steese Hwy	same	Fairbanks 99712	457-6969	

TO: Our Alaska State Legislators

April 25, 2003

(13)

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NAME (PRINT)	NAME (SIGNATURE)	PHYSICAL ADDRESS	MAILING ADDRESS	CITY & ZIP	PHONE	E-MAIL
MARtha Markey	martha markey	1855 Holmes Rd	Same	N. Palak 99705	907 488 6458	
Lilly Czech	Lilly Czech	1225 Susie @	P.O. Box 10242	Fbks, 99710	907-452-3696	
DON GRAY	Don J. Gray	399 Hillside Dr.	same	Fbks. 99702	907 457-5137	
Karen Heimer	Karen Heimer	1098 Chona Pumpkin	"	Fbks 99709	907-479-4313	
L. Ford Batey	Rebecca Batey	1212 29th Ave #2	Same	Fb 99701	907-456-7521	
Manci Jones	Manci Jones	2454 Coombs Dr	PO Box 55314	NP AK 99705	907-488-6290	rhock.jones@worldnet.net
Authy Lindoff	Authy Lindoff	710 East Dr.	Bx 371	99729 Hoonah, AK	907 945 3106	
GEORGEY OULTON	Georgey Oulton	171 Pebble Dr.	Bx 22	99725 Estla AK	907 479-0578	
CONNIE MERRILL	Connie Merrill	288 Sunblinn Rd FAIRBANKS	SAME	Fbks 99712	457-6174	
Rosalyn Stowell	Rosalyn Stowell	51.3 mile Elliott Hwy	177 Simpson Way	Fbks, 99712		akwmnres@starband.net

TO: Our Alaska State Legislators

April 25, 2003

14

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NAME (PRINT)	NAME (SIGNATURE)	PHYSICAL ADDRESS	MAILING ADDRESS	CITY & ZIP	PHONE	E-MAIL
Coral Cook	Coral Cook	Junkerich Rd	Box 80093	WAS 99708	479-3457	
MARYLON TEEL	Marylon Teel	1846 Esquimaux Ln	Same	FBKS 99709	452-2248	
HELEN WOMACK	Helen Womack	1154 Park Dr ^{Hanks}	P.O. Box 70773	.. 99707	452-7878	
Rebecca Angell	Rebecca R Angell	147 Glacier Ave	same	Fbx 99701	457-7043	wrangell@gci.net
Elizabeth Cogan	Elizabeth Cogan	169 Leathold Dr	Box 75133	FBKS, 99707	389-2746	elizabethcogan@yahoo.com
VIRGIL SEVERNS	Virgil D Severns	2292 Severns Rd	same	FBK 99712	490-5912	
MURRAY HOWK	Murray Howk	328 Parker Hwy	HC33 Box 32801	WENONA	388-7357	
Violet Robinson	Violet Robinson	5270 Cherokee	Same	Fairbanks	479-2470	-
Roger Post	Roger A. Post	1525 Golden View Dr.	P.O.B 72962	Fairbanks 99707	455-6583	
WALT GOZY	Walt Gozy	3307 Baker Ln	N.P.	AK 99705	488-2781	

TO: Our Alaska State Legislators

April 25, 2003

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NAME (PRINT)	NAME (SIGNATURE)	PHYSICAL ADDRESS	MAILING ADDRESS	CITY & ZIP	PHONE	E-MAIL
Jorlyn Tiemeszen	Jorlyn Tiemeszen	15 Farewell	15 Farewell	Fbk	456 7584	JORLYN@webTV.net
LINDA PEARSON	Linda Pearson	3252 Helen Pl.	Fairbanks, AK	99709	479-3447	lpearson18@yahoo.com
WILLIAM L. LARPARI	William L. Larpari	1526 Name TRAIL	PO BOX 45 DELTA Jct AK	99737	895-5266	—
Claude E Klaver	Claude E Klaver	4811 Ambient Dr	rome	Fbks 99709	479-7633	
Jane N. Williams	JANE WMS	1048 NORRIS Ln	"	" 99712	457-4979	
Georgiana Brenner	Georgiana Brenner	1314 Viewpoint Dr	"	Pbx 99709	479-6742	
Adrian Maranpon	Adrian Maranpon	709 WAVES Rd	"	FBX	455-7093	
Leslie Correll	Leslie Correll	320 Pleasant Valley	P.O. B. 61132	FBX 99706	488-5254	
Robert Burgess	Robert M. Burgess	1001 MIA	PO Box 2799	FBX 99708	452-8980	
Chelsea Walker	Chelsea Walker	509 9 th Ave	"	Fbks 99701	452-4259	

16

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NAME (PRINT)	NAME (SIGNATURE)	PHYSICAL ADDRESS	MAILING ADDRESS	CITY & ZIP	PHONE	E-MAIL
Adrienne Brownell	<i>[Signature]</i>	709 Wades Rd	← same	Fairbanks 99709	455-7093	AHBA13@aol.com
Charles Henry	<i>Charles Henry</i>	Alfaia		Healy AK 99743	683 4504	
Bob Ayer	<i>[Signature]</i>	717 FARMERS LOOP	POB 80705	FBKS		
Tim Stallard	<i>Tim W Stallard</i>	1001 Mia st.	PO Box 82096	Fairbanks AK	474-6027	
June Hernandez	<i>JUNE HERNANDEZ</i>	4781 PALO VERDE	SAME	FBKS 99709	474-8477	
Mary Synoground	<i>MARY SYNOGROUND</i>	1515 2nd ave	SAME	FBKS 99701	451 4428	
John Pritchard	<i>John M. Pritchard</i>	2 mile M-6 ROAD	P.O. Box 61419 Fairbanks	FBKS 99701	457-3565	
Steven YSAIS	<i>Steve Ysaais</i>	2032 Larkspur	same	FBKS 99701	452-2003	

SB

117

(FILE 2)

APR 01 2002

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

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

Dear Senator Taylor:

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

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

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

Sincerely yours,

James H. Richardson
James H. Richardson

Muriel Richardson



APR 01 2002
PRESBYTERY OF ALASKA

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

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

presbyt1@alaska.net
INBOX: PBY ALASKA

March 30, 2003

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

Dear Senator Stevens:

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

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

Sincerely,

Elder Guy Warren
Stated Clerk
Presbytery of Alaska

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

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

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

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

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

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

Fax.

MAR 24 2003

3/24/03

Senator Robert Taylor
Fax, #907 465 3922

Dear Senator,

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

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

Thank you & Regards,

Dennis Branham
Box 190184
Anchorage , Ak. 99519

Copy
Sen. Hollis French 907 465 6595

Rep. Ethan Berkowski 907 465 2137

Lorraine A. Lamoureux

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

Phone: 907-248-4971

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

Dear Sen. Taylor:

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

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

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

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

Very truly yours,



Lorraine A. Lamoureux

cc: Rep. Ethan Berkowitz
Sen. Hollis French

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

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

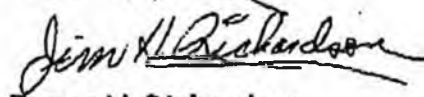
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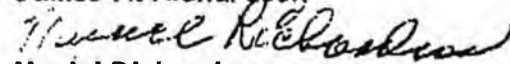
We recommend the Longevity Program be allowed to run its course as promised.

Cc: Rep. Cheryl Heinze
Sen. Johnny Ellis

Sincerely yours,



James H. Richardson


Muriel Richardson

Dist 24

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

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

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

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

Subject: House Bill 158/Senate Bill 117

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sue Brown

1908 W Hillcrest Dr. # 31

A/A 99517

26 4/5 R

From: Amy - Rep. Berkowitz
3467



MAR 25 2003

Alaska State Legislature

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

Committee on HB 158 Eliminate Longevity Bonus, dated 3-25-03
bill # / subject

DO NOT ELIMINATE HB-158

I AM A RETIREE & I AM ON A FIXED INCOME

THANK YOU

Signed: [Signature]
Testifier

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

Phone number
907-262-5625

MAR 25 2003

To: Senator Robin Taylor
FR: Roy L. Jones

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

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

I hope you reconsider this

Thank you

Roy Jones

MAR 24 2003

March 24 03

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

Dear Sirs:

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

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

Without it my finances will be extremely compromised.

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

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

signed

Billy Jo Taylor

March 25, 2003

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

MAR 25 2003

The Honorable Senator Taylor

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

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

Richard and Patricia Garvin
2822 Knik Avenue
Anchorage, AK 99517

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

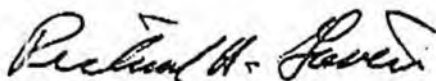
Alaska is our home and truly hope we will be able to stay in Alaska for the rest of our lives as we have planned. I am 76 years of age, still working full time and contributing member of our community and state. We are counting on the Longevity Bonus as an important part of our retirement plan, if we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

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

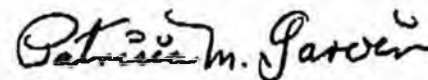
Senator Taylor and committee members consider the promise by our state to seniors; a person's word has always been our way in Alaska. About the Longevity Bonus and the budget? Well, it is a self-solving problem. Please just give a little time.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Richard H. Garvin



Patricia M. Garvin

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

URGENT! URGENT! URGENT!

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

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

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

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

MAR 25 2003

26-685-n-u

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

3-25-2003

Senator Robin Taylor
Chairman State Affairs Committee
State of Alaska

MAR 25 2003

Dear Senator Taylor,

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

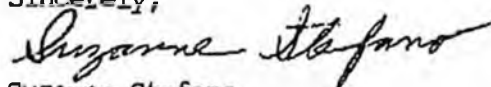
I think it is entirely unfair to these seniors to have such funds eliminated. Many of these people depend on these funds to enable them to stay in Alaska, hopefully in their homes and most often near their families.

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

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

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

Sincerely,



Suzanne Stefano
1971 Wildwood Ln.
Anchorage, Ak. 99517

cc: Senator Hollis French
Representative Ethan Berkowitz
Governor Frank Murkowski

Const.

3-25-03

MAR 25 2003

Senator Robin Taylor
Chairman State Affairs Committee
State of Alaska

Dear Senator Taylor,

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

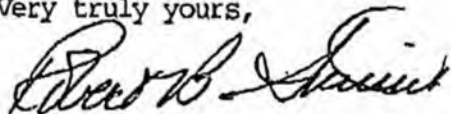
I think it is entirely unfair to these seniors to have such funds eliminated. Many of these people depend on these funds to enable them to stay in Alaska. I don't feel it is fair to target the seniors on this program to balance the statewide budget. The budget affects all Alaskans and it is inequitable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

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

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

I strongly recommend this legislation not be passed.

Very truly yours,



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

CC: Senator Hollis French
Representative Ethan Berkowitz
Governor Frank Murkowski

26-645-R

MAR 25 2003

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

Re Senate Bill 117

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

Robert E. Renkert Mildred W. Renkert

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

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

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

March 24 2003

Senator Robin Taylor
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Senator Taylor:

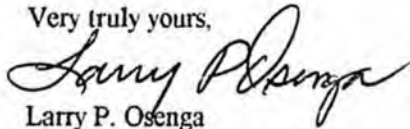
Please be advised that we are opposed to Governor Murkowski's effort to eliminate our Longevity Bonus program for the following reasons:

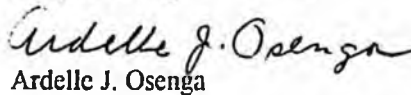
We are retired and have no health insurance. I am sure there are many other senior citizens in our position. This seems like the last place to cut costs. The extra money helps us pay for our prescriptions and other medical costs.

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

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

Very truly yours,


Larry P. Osenga


Ardelle J. Osenga

cc; Senator Hollis French
Representative Ethan Berkowitz

26-045-R-R

March 25, 2003

3040 A Wexley Way

Anchorage, Alaska

Representative Ethen Berkowitz
State Capitol - Room 404
Juneau, Alaska

Dear Representative Ethen Berkowitz,

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

I cannot see the Longevity Bonus to
apply to my nest.

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

Peace,

Angelina Dutra

ANGELINA R DUTRA

26-665-D

99517-1404

Sent in
message (author)
(3/14)

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

To Chair of the Committee
Senator Robin Taylor.

Please don't eliminate the
Longevity Bonus.

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

MARCH 28, 2003

SENATOR ROBIN TAYLOR:

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

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

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

Frances Ketterer - 52 plus years in Alaska.

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

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

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

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

Dear Senator Taylor:

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

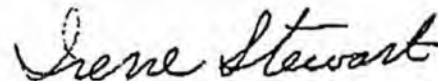
I recommend the Longevity Program be allowed to run its course as promised.

Cc: Senator Hollis French

Sincerely yours,

Rep. Ethan Berkowitz

Irene Stewart



Subj: Senate Bill 117

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

From: Seniorstar22

To: ~~Senator John P. Cogswell~~ ~~senator@legis.state.ak.us~~

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

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

MAR 28 2003

March 25, 2003

Senator Robin Taylor
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: Senate Bill 117

A friend too me named Sophocles wrote:

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

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

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

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

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

Yours,


James C. Merbs

2082 Esquire Dr,

A/A 99517-1345

26-645-D

MAR 28 2003

26 March 2003
2419 McKenzie Drive
Anchorage, Alaska 99517

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

Dear Ethan:

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

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

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

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

Respectfully,

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

MONTAGUE
2419 McKevzie Dr.
A 99517-1130

26-650-N-A