

ALASKA LEGISLATURE COMMITTEE FILES, 2003-2004 8672

11335 SENATE STATE AFFAIRS

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# STATE of ALASKA

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Written Testimony  
for the  
Record:

TCN: 7782

Committee: SSTA File # 465-3517

Date: 3/28/03

Bill Number(s): SB117

Subject(s): Longevity Bonus

**Please enter my testimony into the record.**

Daniel C Connick  
Testifer's name (s):

Self  
Representing (opt.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone

DARREL C. CONNICK

296 ALDER ST.

BETHEL, AK 99559

I HAVE BEEN AN ALASKAN RESIDENT OF  
BETHEL, ALASKA FOR NEARLY 60 YEARS. I  
WILL BE 88 YEARS OLD IN JULY AND  
HAVE NOT BEEN EMPLOYED FOR ABOUT 15 YEARS.

I AM PROTESTING THE GOVERNOR'S ATTEMPT  
TO CUT OFF THE LONGEVITY BONUS.

I REALLY HAVE TO DEPEND ON MY MONTHLY  
LONGEVITY BONUS CHECK TO MEET LIVING  
COSTS. I OWN MY OWN HOME, BUT IF I  
HAD TO RENT I JUST COULD NOT AFFORD TO  
REMAIN IN ALASKA. MY TOTAL INCOME IS  
MY SOCIAL SECURITY CHECK AND MY  
LONGEVITY BONUS. EXPENSES, ESPECIALLY  
FUEL OIL AND ELECTRICITY HAVE BEEN  
INCREASING WITHOUT ANY INCOME  
~~EXPENSES~~ <sup>INCREASES</sup>. I AM TOO OLD TO WORK  
AND WOULD ~~NEVER~~ NEVER ACCEPT  
WELFARE.

THE NEW GOVERNOR INSULTS ELDERS  
BY PROPOSING THE ELIMINATION OF THE  
LONGEVITY BONUS. THERE ARE MANY  
ELDERS WHO RECEIVE THE BONUS DO  
NOT NEED IT. IF TIMES AS TOUGH AS  
THE GOVERNOR THINKS IT IS HE SHOULD  
CUT HIS OWN SALARY TO SHOW HIS  
SINCERELY BEFORE CUTTING THE SENIORS.

I AM NOT SPEAKING ONLY FOR MY FAMILY BUT FOR MANY OTHER SENIORS I KNOW IN THIS AREA. THE LONGEVITY BONUS IS SOMETHING US ALASKA PIONEERS NEED AND DEPEND ON AND IF IT IS ELIMINATED I KNOW MANY WOULD HAVE TO LEAVE THE STATE. I URGE THE LEGISLATURE, WHO CREATED THE LONGEVITY BONUS, TO HELP US ELDERS BY NOT ALLOW THE GOVERNOR'S ELIMINATION OF THE PROGRAM.

Janell C. Conwick



# STATE of ALASKA

*Bethel Legislative Information Office*

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## Written Testimony for the Record:

TCN: 17782

Committee: SSTA

Date: 3/28/03

Bill Number(s): SB117

Subject(s): SB117

**Please enter my testimony into the record.**

Bing Santamour  
Testifier's name (s):

Self  
Representing (opt.)

PO Box 388 Bethel, AK 99559  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone



## CITY OF BETHEL

SENIOR CITIZEN CENTER  
P.O. BOX 388 • BETHEL, ALASKA 99659-0388  
907-543-3988/3989

March 28, 2003

Alaska State Legislature  
State Affairs - Administration

RE: Elimination of Alaska's Longevity Bonus Program

I would like to add my voice in opposing the elimination of this particular program service to Alaska's senior citizens. In southwestern Alaska, roughly 98% of the recipients heavily rely upon this source of monthly income to pay their living expenses.

This seemingly small amount that the program pays to our Elders has become a major source of income to make their ends meet in their lifestyle needs. And for many in this part of Alaska, there are astronomical costs for groceries, utilities and other monthly expenses as compared with costs in larger Alaskan cities.

I join the rest of Alaska and rural Alaska to voice my opposition to the elimination of the program that benefits Alaska's Pioneers - the rural Alaskans who have lived in their Homelands since before statehood.

I would strongly recommend that the program be changed to remove those senior citizens who do not rely upon the Longevity Bonus program as a major source of income - for example those who are wealthy enough to live on other sources of income - and that this eligibility verification can take place using whatever acceptable means of proof of income. You employ people who can figure out this aspect.

Questions? Please feel free to contact me using above information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bing Santamour", written over a circular stamp.

(Ms) Bing Santamour, Director  
Eddie Hoffman Senior Center

cc: Bob Herron, City Manager



# Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate State Affairs Committee  
 committee name  
 committee on HB 117 - Eliminate Longevity, dated March 27, 2003  
 bill/subject

PLEASE SEE TESTIMONY  
 ATTACHED

Signed: Jim Duros  
 Testifier  
Myself  
 Representing (Optional)  
PO Box 867 Kodiak, AK 99615  
 Address  
907-486-5154  
 Phone No.

I strongly oppose Senate Bill 117 proposed by our Governor to immediately eliminate the Longevity Bonus Program already being phased out. I have now spent 54 years in Alaska and hope that I will be able to spend my remaining days in this beautiful State. I will always be humbly grateful for those benefits provided to me as a Senior Citizen and especially the Longevity Bonus checks I receive, that have made it possible for me and other Seniors to survive the ever-increasing high cost of living in Alaska. Most of us who are aided by the Longevity Bonus will not live much longer with so many of us now in our 80s and 90s, making the program extinct in a few more years. In my opinion our State will suffer an adverse economy if and when the Longevity Program ends. If we elder Alaskans are able to remain in Alaska we will continue to give back very much more than we receive....and this is the prime reason that the original Longevity Bonus Program was conceived. I thank you for this opportunity to express my views.

**LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION OFFICE  
PO BOX 1189  
ROOM 210 JARVIS OFFICE CENTER  
DELTA JCT., AK 99737**

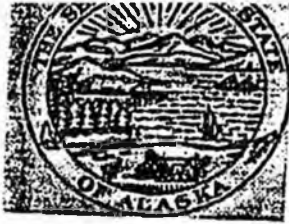
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**FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL SHEET**

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<b>TO:</b> Senate State Affairs	<b>FROM:</b> Elizabeth A. Sarver
<b>COMPANY:</b>	<b>DATE:</b> March 28, 2003
<b>FAX NUMBER:</b> 465- <del>332</del> 3517	<b>TOTAL NO. OF PAGES INCLUDING COVER:</b> 2
<b>PHONE NUMBER:</b>	<b>SENDER'S REFERENCE NUMBER:</b> (907) 895-4236
<b>RE:</b> WRITTEN TESTIMONY	<b>YOUR REFERENCE NUMBER:</b> (907) 895-5017 fax
<b>NOTES/COMMENTS:</b>	

---



# Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate State Affairs  
committee on SB 117 \_\_\_\_\_, dated 3/27/03  
bill/subject committee name

There must be other way to balance the budget other than staffing the Longevity!

- #1. Take \$200.00 from each dividend check.
- #2. Keep all air miles State workers collect when traveling around the country.
- #3. Impose a income tax.

Please no 124 a gallon gas tax. We do not have bus service on the Richardson Highway.

Take my dividend Cent please leave

Signed:

Walter M. Steele my Longevity alone  
Testifier

Representing (Optional)  
P.O. Box 825 Delta, AK  
Address  
(907) 895-1931  
Phone No.

[Fwd: keep the longevity bonus!!]

**Subject:** [Fwd: keep the longevity bonus!!]  
**Date:** Mon, 31 Mar 2003 14:46:27 -0900  
**From:** Gary Stevens <Senator\_Gary\_Stevens@Legis.state.ak.us>  
**Organization:** Alaska State Legislature  
**To:** Katrina Matheny <Katrina\_Matheny@legis.state.ak.us>

---

**Subject:** keep the longevity bonus!!  
**Date:** Mon, 31 Mar 2003 13:47:36 -0900  
**From:** "Cherie Tyler" <tyler\_cher@hotmail.com>  
**To:** senator\_gary\_stevens@legis.state.ak.us

VOTE NO. DO NOT ELIMINATE THE LONGEVITY BONUS.

The Alaskan seniors helped create this great state and deserve our support. The people currently receiving the longevity bonus have made plans based on the states promise to pay them. The program will eventual phase out without causing hardship to our seniors.

Murkowski's "it's not fair " rhetoric is ridiculous. Instead of impoverishing the seniors receiving the bonus, we need to find other ways to help those that don't qualify for it. It is exceptionally cruel to threaten the seniors. Murkowski is telling our parents, aunts, uncles and friends they will be homeless, hungry and/or forced out of Alaska by June 30th of this year. Don't let this happen. Vote No.

Concerned VOTING Citizen

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MSN 8 with e-mail virus protection service: 2 months FREE\*  
<http://join.msn.com/?page=features/virus>

*Senator  
Gary Stevens  
907 465 3517*

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

March 29, 2003

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

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

Dear Senator Cowdrey:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Very sincerely,

*Eva Lyn Casey*  
E. M. Casey

PS: Please delete or defeat SB 117 and HB 158

*Senator  
Gary Stevens  
907 465 3517*

PAGE 1 of 4 to 9

URGENT MESSAGES TO LEGISLATORS

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

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

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

E. M. Casey

## C O V E R S H E E T

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

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

From: E. M. Casey, an old voter

Date: March 28, 2003

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

Notes:

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

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

FAX TO: 907 465 3532

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

2nd OPEN LETTER TO:

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

March 28, 2003

Re: Equality & Fairness  
Anti SB 117 & HB 158

Dear Governor Murkowski:

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

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

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

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

If you have listened to any of the public testimony of seniors of all ages, their care-givers, and their organizations during hearings on HB 158, your eyes have been opened to the extent of need and reliance upon these payments among the older seniors

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

Page 2  
Letter to Governor Murkowski  
March 28. 2003

E. M. CASEY

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

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

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

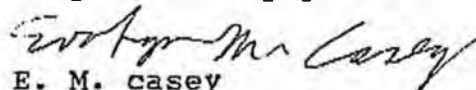
To now, this program has been an outstanding one in terms of the administrative expenses. These expenses are mainly clerical. Beneficiaries qualify themselves each month by returning a small form that is part of the stub with each month's check. Any consideration of making the program "needs" based should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

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

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

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

Very sincerely yours,

  
E. M. Casey

Addenda, Page 3 follows

FAX TO 907 465 3532

E. M. Casey

Page 3

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Very sincerely



E. M. Casey

cc: See cover sheet

FAX TO: 907 465 3532

OPEN LETTER TO:

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

March 24, 2003

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

HB 158  
SB 117

Dear Governor Murkowski:

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

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

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

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

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

Page 2

Open Letter to Governor Murkowski

E. M. Casey

March 24, 2003

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

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

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

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

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

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

Page 3

Open Letter to Governor Murkowski

E. M. Casey

March 24, 2003

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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 not to begin gathering data and considering during fiscal 2004 what a state services users fee based on a small percentage of the federal fee should be.

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

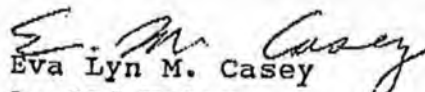
For 2004, after adjusting various fees attached to businesses to make them relevant to the size and economy of the businesses, a better reasoned decision about the amount of the CBR draw for 2004 is needed in order to buy time for you and the Legislature to work together in a cooperative and bipartisan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

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

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

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

Very sincerely yours,

  
Eva Lyn M. Casey  
An Old Voter

cc; See cover sheet



Page 2 of 2  
**Alaska State Legislature**

Please enter into the record my testimony to the \_\_\_\_\_ committee name

committee on Longevity Bonus dated 3/29/03  
bill/subject

Our seniors still should be thanked for what they have done to build Alaska and what they are still doing on a reduced scale due to their age. They should not be treated as a drag on our economy but as an important part of the economy of today.

The program has definitely not out lived its usefulness. I do not believe that it would be good for either the senior or the economy to stop the Longevity program before it terminates itself in a very few years. As for the safety net that the Governor is talking about, it does not even apply to or is it usable by the majority of the seniors. It is just a cop out.

Signed: William Plato  
Testifier

Representing (Optional)  
2001 Hygrade Wasilla, Alaska (PO Box 894697)  
Address  
357-4831  
Phone No.



Page: 1 of 2  
**Alaska State Legislature**

Please enter into the record my testimony to the SSTA  
committee name  
committee on SB 117 Longevity Bonus, dated 3/29/03  
bill/subject

My name is William Plat and my wife and I have been in Alaska for 30 years. We do not believe it would be good to stop the Longevity Bonus for either the seniors or the State of Alaska. As the Governor says, The Longevity Bonus program was established to thank the pioneer Alaskans and to keep our senior citizen from retiring and moving out of the state and to help the economy. The Governor says the program has out lived its usefulness.

I say the Governor is selling our seniors short by a long way. The longevity bonus checks are a small amount of the money the seniors need to live but a very important part as they could not live on it alone. So where does the rest of the money come from that they spend here in Alaska? Most of it comes from outside the state in the form of Social Security checks, disability checks, V.A checks and a multitude of other income mostly in small amounts but enough to make it possible to live here where cost of living is higher but it boosts our economy by that much.

Signed: William Plat  
Testifier

Representing (Optional)  
2001 Hygrade Wasilla, Alaska (PO Box 874697)  
Address  
357-4831  
Phone No.

Charles  
Honor 110

55TH  
all the testimony was  
faded during hearing  
on 5/5/17.

3/28/03



# Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the SDA  
 committee name  
 committee on Senate Bill #117, dated 3-27-03  
 bill/subject

*I absolutely oppose State of Alaska  
 taking away the Longevity Bonus  
 from our Seniors.*

Signed: Vada L. Moore  
 Testifier Vada L. Moore

Representing (Optional)  
PO Box 585 - Anchorage, Alaska 99556  
 Address  
235-9606  
 Phone No.

3/27/03  
Senate State Affairs

**SENATOR STEVENS:**

**I WOULD LIKE TO ADDRESS MY FEELINGS ON THE LONGIVITY BONUS BILL #117.**

**I KNOW IT WILL BE A BIG LOSS TO A MAJORITY OF SENIORS. THE LONGIVITY BONUS IS NOW BEING PHASED OUT. WE ARE LOOSING OUR RECEIPIENTS VERY QUICKLY. I WAS CONCERENED SO I CHECKED THE OBITUARIES IN THE ANCHORAGE PAPER FOR THREE DAYS AND FOUND THAT WE HAD LOST TWENTY TWO THAT WOULD BE ELIGIBLE . THAT WOULD BE \$66,000 FOR JUST THE THREE DAY LOSS. IT WOULD BE HARD TO FORCAST THE FUTURE BUT I FEEL THIS COST WOULD BE ELIMINATED IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE.**

**MOST OF THE SENIORS RECEIVING THIS BONUS ARE THE ONES THAT HELPED BUILD ALASKA.**

**I DO APPRECIATE WHAT THE STATE HAS DONE FOR MY HUSBAND AND ME. THAT IS WHY WE ARE STILL IN ALASKA. WE HAVE BEEN HERE 45 YEARS.**

**THANK YOU**

*Edna Dick*  
58775 E. End Rd  
Homer, AK 99603



# Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate State Affairs  
 committee name SB117  
 committee on Longevity Bonus, dated 3/27/03  
 bill/subject

My husband, Robert, and I came to Alaska in 1956, homesteading in Homer area in 1960.

We ask that you vote against SB117. We do not agree with the governor's statement that we have created a two-class society. The courts did that when they opened the program to ~~65~~ everyone 65 with one year of residence. I receive \$150 and was happy to accept it because I was out of control.

I sincerely believe this money circulated thru the hands of someone will be of more benefit to the state, than the same amount spent on one of the dubious programs we have seen over the years.

Signed: Ann Gillas  
 Testifier

Representing (Optional)  
51911 Old East Rd Homer 99603  
 Address

235-8964  
 Phone No.



# Alaska State Legislature

Pg 1 of 2

Please enter into the record my testimony to the S S T A  
 committee name  
 committee on Longevity Bonus dated 3-27-03  
 bill/subject

SB 117  
 Lived in Homer 37 years and Alaska  
 60 years. Raised my family here,  
 worked here, retired here and ex-  
 pected to spend the rest of my days  
 here - until SB 117 raised its ugly  
 head. If passed it would open a large  
 hole in our budget.  
 What's the hurry. The way AK elders  
 are popping, the present system will  
 be over. Most of bonus money (to Page 2)

Signed: Elwin J. Klopp  
 Testifier SELF

Representing (Optional)  
BOX 495 - Homer AK

Address  
235-8638

Phone No.



# Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the SSTA  
committee name

committee on 3-27-03, dated 3-27-03  
bill/subject

*stay in Alaska so what would the effect on AK to lose that money? I strongly advise not passing this bill.  
Thank you for listening to me*

Signed: *Elwin Kopp*  
Testifier

\_\_\_\_\_  
Representing (Optional)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone No.



# Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the SSTA  
committee name

committee on SB 117 - LONGEVITY PROGRAM dated 3-27-03  
bill/subject

I AM A 55 YEAR OLD RESIDENT OF ALASKA. I  
AM NOT IN FAVOR OF ABOLISHING THE  
LONGEVITY PROGRAM - SB 117

MANY OLDER ALASKANS WHO HAVE PROUDLY  
GIVEN YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE TERRITORY  
AND STATE NOW MUST DEPEND ON SOME HELP  
FROM THE STATE IN RETURN.

I FEEL IT IS SHAMEFUL FOR THE STATE TO  
DENY THEM THIS AID AND THUS FORCE THEM INTO  
A WELFARE EXISTENCE.

Signed: Kimber Klapp  
Testifier

PIONEERS OF ALASKA  
Representing (Optional)

BOX 495 HOMER AK 99603  
Address

907-235-8638  
Phone No.

MAR 31 2002



**LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION OFFICE**

PO Box 1189  
(Room 210, Jarvis Office Center)  
Delta Jct., AK 99737  
Phone: 895-4236 Fax: 895-5017

**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** March 27, 2003 *es*  
**TO:** Senate State Affairs  
**FROM:** Elizabeth A. Sarver  
Legislative Information Officer

**SUBJECT:** Testimony for Senate State Affairs Committee Hearing

Please accept the enclosed original of written testimony for the Senate State Affairs committee hearing that was scheduled for 03/27/03.

Copies of this testimony were transmitted by fax on 03/27/03

Thank you.

Enclosures: 9



# Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate State Affairs  
committee on SB 117 Longevity Bonus dated 3/27/03  
bill/subject committee name

I Do NOT SUPPORT SB 117 There are many of us seniors depend on this longevity program for food, utilities, transportation Food, Insurance, medical aid, Pioneer Payment Part and all the needs Elderly persons have.

It will Cost our children much needed funds to help those in need. Cost The State more money in the long run. Because many of the Elderly worked in days when wages wer low and their Social Security does not pay much. they cannot work any longer We have given up much to help develop this State and wish to stay in Alaska This program helps in this as it is more costly in Alaska. I am a 56 year Resident

Signed: Dorris Lee Kopp  
Testifier

Representing (Optional)  
P.O. Box 7011 Patson, Alaska 99737  
Address  
907-822-5823  
Phone No.



# Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate State Affairs  
committee on SB 117, dated 3/27/03.  
bill/subject committee name

Dear Governor Frank Murkowski

I'd like you to rethink your plan of taking the Longevity away from the Senior Citizens This will soon end any way.

Why not take the permanent fund away from everybody you'd be getting a lot more money to run the state. Maybe get the state out of debt

Another thing the foreigners would have to work harder, to make their homes here. This state gives the foreigner more than you give the Alaskan people that's worked their hole lives

Also think about this I'm against Teaching Foreign Language in our schools. Keep English the top language.

Thank you for your time

Signed: Emilio V. Keaster  
Testifier

Representing (Optional)

Address HCL60 Box 3360 Delta Jct. AK. 99737-9333.

Phone No. 907 895-4372



# Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate State Affairs  
committee on SB 117, dated 3/27/03  
bill/subject committee name

When you start cutting the longevity you are hurting the older people. Lots of older people had gone through hard times to make a life in Alaska. We look forward to our checks. You can take permanent fund, and see how many people will stay. The Russia come in here and get the permanent fund, welfare, green card. One family of 18 children plus the parents. Last year that's was \$30,815.20. That's more then 2 and lots of other made in a year. And there's coming here. They do nothing to support our country. The older people have been here lat longer. Take the permanent fund. You can do more with it. Lots of people get there <sup>divided</sup> and pay bills too.

Signed: Harold A. Marshall  
Testifier

Representing (Optional)  
HC 60 - Box 3350 Ullatuk, AK  
Address  
907-895-4912  
Phone No.



# Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate State Affairs  
committee on SB 117 Longevity Bonus dated 3/27/03  
bill/subject committee name

DO NOT PASS THIS BILL, THE PEOPLE ARE MUCH MORE  
KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT MONETARY NEEDS THAN A BUNCH OF OVERPAID  
POLITICIANS.

Signed:

Leigh B. Dennison

Testifier

SELF

Representing (Optional)

BOX 873 DELTA JCT, ALASKA 99731

Address

907 895 4555

Phone No.



# Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate State Affairs  
committee on SB 117 Longevity Bonus dated 3/27/03  
**committee name**  
**bill/subject**

The longevity Bonus is very important to us long time residents (50 years in my case) to defray the higher cost of living, medications, etc.

Suddenly discontinuing this income will definitely have a severe impact on our lives.

Please allow this income to continue!

Signed:

Hannelore H. Demmison

**Testifier**

self

**Representing (Optional)**

PO Box 873, Delta Jct, AK 99737

**Address**

(907) 895-4555

**Phone No.**



# Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate State Affairs  
committee on SB 117 Longevity Bonus dated 3/27/03  
bill/subject committee name

*Please do not discontinue the bonus.  
It greatly improves the quality of life  
for many people in the State.*

Signed:

*[Signature]*  
Testifier

Representing (Optional)  
*P.O. Box 165, Delta, AK 99737*

Address  
*(907) 533-1571*

Phone No.



# Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate State Affairs  
committee on SB 117 Longevity Bonus dated 3/27/03  
bill/subject committee name

*Lets keep our ~~old age~~ <sup>Longevity</sup> pension  
we need it.*

Signed:

*Janet E. Crobert*  
Testifier

\_\_\_\_\_  
Representing (Optional)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

*Delta Pt.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone No. *895-1905*



# Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate State Affairs  
committee on SB 117, dated 3/27/03.  
bill/subject committee name

*I don't approve of you taking our  
depend away. That is our livelihood.*

Signed:

Edith E. Walker

Testifier

Representing (Optional)

Address

Box 241

Phone No. 907-895-4402



# Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate State Affairs  
committee on SB 117 Longevity Bonus dated 3/27/03  
bill/subject committee name

LET'S NOT PLAY CAT AND MOUSE  
WITH OUR BONUS

Signed:

Rita Buck

Testifier

Representing (Optional)

Address

PX 664 DELTA JC.

Phone No. 907-4580



# Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the

Senate State Affairs

committee name

Committee on SB 117 Eliminate Longevity Bonus, dated

3-27-03

bill # / subject

public hearing date

SB 117

This is to state that I do not believe the Longevity Bonus program should be stopped. There are many seniors now that are living right on the edge, and to stop the bonus now would put them in poverty (including us.) We could no longer live in the state and pay these prices. We seniors are still a "force", and we do not need anymore on our backs, or do we need to be ~~forced~~ lied to. Please leave the program as it is. Thank you.

Signed:

Testifier

Representing (optional)

35465 West Ct, Box 109, Sterling, Alaska 99672

Address

907-262-4193

Phone number



# Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the

S STA  
committee name

Committee on

SB 117

, dated

3-27-03

bill # / subject

public hearing date

To: Senate Hearing on Longevity 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 longevity 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



# Alaska State Legislature

SENATE STATE AFFAIRS  
House State Affairs  
committee name

Please enter into the record my testimony to the

SB 117

Committee on HB 158 Eliminate Longevity Bonus, dated  
bill # / subject

Do not pass this bill, Seniors depend on this income  
to pay our high medical, heating and other monthly bills.

Signed:

*Alan A. Johnson*  
Testifier

Representing (optional)

P.O. Box 78 SOLDOTNA, AK. 99669  
Address

907-262-8731  
Phone number



# Alaska State Legislature

SENATE STATE AFFAIRS

House State Affairs

committee name

Please enter into the record my testimony to the

SB 117

Committee on HB 158 Eliminate Longevity Bonus, dated \_\_\_\_\_  
bill # / subject

With rising costs of medical costs and prescription drugs, as well as heat, electric bill seniors depend on this bonus check to meet our monthly expenses. How will we pay tem without this income that we depend on?

Signed:

Dorothy A. Johnson  
Testifier

Representing (optional)

P.O. Box 78 SOLOOTNA AK. 99669

Address

907-262-8731

Phone number



# Alaska State Legislature

*SENATE STATE AFFAIRS*

Please enter into the record my testimony to the

House State Affairs

committee name

*SB 117*

Committee on HB 158 Eliminate Longevity Bonus, dated

bill # / subject

*Do not take*

Signed: *Lloyd M. Morris*  
Testifier

Representing (optional)

*33300 Gaswell Rd*  
Address

*260-2850*  
Phone number



# Alaska State Legislature

SENATE STATE AFFAIRS  
House State Affairs  
committee name

Please enter into the record my testimony to the

*SB117*

Committee on HB 158 Eliminate Longevity Bonus, dated  
bill # / subject

*Ed Mooring Do not cut*

Signed:

*Ed Mooring*

Testifier

Representing (optional)

*33300 Haswell Rd Soldotna AK 99669*

Address

*260 7850*

Phone number



# Alaska State Legislature

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

Committee on SB 117 Eliminate Longevity Bonus, dated 3-27-03  
bill # / subject public hearing date

With rising costs of medical costs and prescription drugs, as well as heat, electric bill seniors depend on this bonus check to meet our monthly expenses. How will we pay tem without this income that we depend on?

Signed: Bonny A. Johnson  
Testifier

Representing (optional)	
Address	<u>A.O. Box 78 Seldotna, AK. 99669</u>
Phone number	<u>907-262-8731</u>



# Alaska State Legislature

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

Committee on SB 117 Eliminate Longevity Bonus, dated 3-27-03  
bill # / subject public hearing date

Do not pass this bill, Seniors depend on this income  
to pay our high medical, heating and other monthly bills.

Signed: Alan A. Johnson  
Testifier

Representing (optional)

P.O. Box 78 Soldotna AK. 99669  
Address

907-262-8731  
Phone number



# Alaska State Legislature

SENATE STATE AFFAIRS  
House State Affairs  
committee name

Please enter into the record my testimony to the

SB 117  
Committee on HB 158 Eliminate Longevity Bonus, dated \_\_\_\_\_  
bill # / subject

I AM A SENIOR CITIZEN. DO NOT PASS HB-158 -  
TO ELIMINATE THE LONGEVITY BONUS -

Signed: Leslie L. King (LESLIE L. KING)  
Testifier

Representing (optional)

32697<sup>th</sup> B STERLING Hwy, Sterling, AK 99672  
Address

907-262-5625  
Phone number



# Alaska State Legislature

SENATE STATE AFFAIRS  
House State Affairs  
committee name

Please enter into the record my testimony to the

SB 117

Committee on HB 158 Eliminate Longevity Bonus, dated \_\_\_\_\_  
Bill # / subject

*Please do not eliminate the longevity  
Program from our elderly residents  
they desperately need it to help with  
the cost of living*

Signed:

*Summy Ferguson*  
Testifier

Representing (optional)

*P.O. Box 2037*

Address

*907-282-1642*

Phone number



# Alaska State Legislature

SENATE STATE AFFAIRS

Please enter into the record my testimony to the

House State Affairs  
committee name

SB117

Committee on HB 158 Eliminate Longevity Bonus, dated  
bill # / subject

THE LONGEVITY BONUS IS VERY IMPORTANT AND NECESSARY FOR MY HUSBAND AND MYSELF TO BE ABLE TO MAINTAIN OUR HOUSEHOLD EXPENSES. We are at POVERTY LEVEL NOW AND WITH OUT THE BONUS WE WOULD ONLY BE RECEIVING \$1449 MONTHLY BETWEEN US. My husband IS 83 yo of AGE - IS ON OXYGEN ALL NIGHT AND A NEBULIZER FOUR TIMES DAILY. I AM 76 AND UNABLE TO WORK DUE TO COMPLICATION OF DIABETES. ANYTHING YOU CAN DO WOULD BE APPRECIATED TO SAVE THE BONUS. WE KNOW A GOOD MANY PEOPLE WHO ARE IN THE SAME FIX WE ARE IN. THANKS FOR YOUR PATIENCE AND CONCERN.

Signed: Mrs. Mary K. Galt Bar W. Mallett  
Testifier

Representing (optional)

P.O. Box 797 STERLING, ALASKA 99672  
Address

(907) 262-2869  
Phone number



# Alaska State Legislature

SENATE STATE AFFAIRS  
House State Affairs  
committee name

Please enter into the record my testimony to the

Committee on SB117  
HB 158 Eliminate Longevity Bonus, dated  
bill # / subject

I believe that seniors should be entitled to the longevity checks, because a lot of them count on these checks to live on.

Signed:

*Alan F. Jensen III*  
Testifier

Representing (optional)

39550 Fones + Lane Soldotna, AK 99669  
Address

(907) 262-7987  
Phone number



# Alaska State Legislature

SENATE STATE AFFAIRS

House State Affairs

committee name

Please enter into the record my testimony to the

SB117

Committee on HB 158 Eliminate Longevity Bonus, dated

bill # / subject

*I do not support the termination of the longevity bonus.  
Given inflation the funds are an continuing requirement for many.  
Would the legislators Reduce their pay as well.*

Signed: *Miriam R. Spalding*  
Testifier

Representing (optional)

*P.O. Box 989, Sterling, AK 99672*  
Address

*(907) 262-3755*  
Phone number



# Alaska State Legislature

SENATE STATE AFFAIRS

Please enter into the record my testimony to the

House State Affairs

committee name

SB 117

Committee on HB 158 Eliminate Longevity Bonus, dated \_\_\_\_\_

bill # / subject

I strongly oppose the elimination of the Longevity bonus plan. This would make a hardship on the seniors that have come to rely upon this.

How many of the legislators would be willing to give up the same percentage of their income?

Signed:

Mary E. Barker  
Testifier

3-20-03

Representing (optional)

PO Box 733 Sterling Alaska

Address

907-262-4132

Phone number



# Alaska State Legislature

SENATE STATE AFFAIRS

House State Affairs

committee name

Please enter into the record my testimony to the

SB 117

Committee on HB 158 Eliminate Longevity Bonus, dated

bill # / subject

Can't take the longevity from the  
Seniors. The ones who have served  
our places for many years, and now we  
can't work to supplement our income  
you want to cut out what we depend  
on. Thank you

Signed:

Mary S. Sapp  
Testifier

Representing (optional)

P.O. Box 184 Sterling, AK. 99672  
Address

(907) 262-~~8779~~ 9719  
Phone number



# Alaska State Legislature

*SENATE STATE AFFAIRS*

Please enter into the record my testimony to the

House State Affairs

committee name

*SB 117*

Committee on HB 158 Eliminate Longevity Bonus, dated

bill # / subject

*Those on social security alone are highly dependant on the longevity bonus. I have seen it and the permanent fund dividend disappearing.*

*Then perhaps thousands will depend the state doubling the effort of hurting the economy.*

Signed:

*Lee C. Suggs*

Testifier

Representing (optional)

*PO Box 684 Sterling AK 99672*

Address

*907 262 9719*

Phone number



# Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the

SENATE STATE AFFAIRS  
House State Affairs  
committee name

SB 117  
Committee on HB 158 Eliminate Longevity Bonus, dated \_\_\_\_\_  
bill # / subject

*PLEASE KEEP THE LONGEVITY BONUS. IT WOULD  
MAKE HARDSHIP ON THE SENIOR, THE UTILITIES,  
MEDICINE, AND GROCERY HAVE GONE UP.  
EVEN THO YOU CAN GET HELP WITH MEDICINE  
YOU STILL HAVE A BALANCE TO PICK UP.*

Signed:

William J. Bull  
Testifier

Representing (optional)

P.O. Box 725 Sterling AK, 99672  
Address

907-262-5119

Phone number



# Alaska State Legislature

SENATE STATE AFFAIRS  
House State Affairs  
committee name

Please enter into the record my testimony to the

SB117  
Committee on HB 158 Eliminate Longevity Bonus, dated  
bill # / subject

3-15-03

Dear Sirs:

It would make a very big hardship on our lives, since the medicines, groceries, electric & natural gas going so high.

I came up here in 1950 and have made my home in Alaska since then, we struggle back then to make this a better state, it is. Please keep the Longevity Bonus.

Signed:

Makine S. Bullington  
Testifier

Representing (optional)

P.O. Box 725 Sterling AK 99672  
Address

907-262-5119  
Phone number



# Alaska State Legislature

SENATE STATE AFFAIRS  
House State Affairs  
committee name

Please enter into the record my testimony to the

Committee on SB117 HB 158 Eliminate Longevity Bonus, dated  
bill # / subject

*You have taken the steps to eliminate the  
Program and it is phasing out due to attrition.  
More of us use this income to pay for the  
necessities of life. It has helped many of us  
attain an acceptable standard of living.  
I hope you will reconsider this move.*

Signed: Ernestine L. Alexander  
Testifier

Representing (optional)  
PO Box 527 Sterling, AK 99670  
Address  
907-262-5157  
Phone number



# Alaska State Legislature

SENATE STATE AFFAIRS

House State Affairs

committee name

Please enter into the record my testimony to the

SB117

Committee on HB 158 Eliminate Longevity Bonus, dated \_\_\_\_\_

bill # / subject

I am 85 years old - Widow for 15 years - my husband of 50 years and I settled in Sterling in 1970, over 32 years ago. We have been proud and happy in helping and seeing the community of Sterling develop into a beautiful place to live year around.

I would like express my feeling in wanting everything possible done to prevent anything or anybody from disturbing the present way set up for the elderly people who want to live here the rest of their lives.

My sincere appreciation for the needed help (Gov. medical, doctor bills, etc.) the longevity program has been to me.

Signed:

*Mrs. Luella P. Barker*

Testifier

Representing (optional)

*P.O. Box 723 Sterling, AK 99672*

Address

*(907) 262-7782*

Phone number



# Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the \_\_\_\_\_

SENATE STATE AFFAIRS  
House State Affairs  
committee name

SB. 117  
Committee on HB 158 Eliminate Longevity Bonus, dated \_\_\_\_\_  
Bill # / subject

Please do NOT Eliminate the Longevity  
Program from or Elderly Residents who  
would make them move out of Alaska

Signed:

Michael G Barker Michael D Barker  
Testifier

Representing (optional)

PO Box 643 Sterling Alaska 99677  
Address

262 2884 262 9412 wlk  
Phone number



# Alaska State Legislature

SENATE STATE AFFAIRS

House State Affairs

committee name

Please enter into the record my testimony to the

SB117

Committee on HB 158 Eliminate Longevity Bonus, dated

bill # / subject

Keep the bonus, we are  
dying real fast, and need the  
help just to survive.

Signed:

Margaret L. Schadle

Testifier

Representing (optional)

316680 N Kimberly Ct.  
Soldotna AK

Address

907-262-6318

Phone number



# Alaska State Legislature

*SENATE STATE AFFAIRS*

Please enter into the record my testimony to the

House State Affairs

committee name

*SB117*

Committee on HB 158 Eliminate Longevity Bonus, dated

bill # / subject

March 24, 2003

Mr. Mike Chenault:

As our representative I'm asking you to really look seriously at taking our longevity check. I'm 75 years old and unable to work. I'm seperated from my husband who contributes nothing to my living as he is on a very low fixed income also. How Come it is always pick on the poor to do the cutting. I pay my rent with that check and live on \$228.00 SS Check. How about the Government live like we have, lets cut them down to our size. I have lived here 34yrs and spend all I get in Alaska.

I hope you take a good look at the Problem.

Laura Steger/

Signed:

*Laura B. Steger*

Testifier

*Longevity Program*

Representing (optional)

*Po Box 464 Sterling AK. 99672*

Address

*907-262-8806*

Phone number



# Alaska State Legislature

SENATE STATE AFFAIRS  
House State Affairs  
committee name

Please enter into the record my testimony to the

Committee on SB 117 HB 158 Eliminate Longevity Bonus, dated \_\_\_\_\_  
bill # / subject

The seniors are the ones who live and put their money in the state, some rely on this just to exist

Signed: Edgar Plaine Schade  
Testifier

Representing (optional)

36680 N. Kinveluey (A. Soldner, AK 99665)  
Address

907 262-6318  
Phone number



# Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the

SENATE STATE AFFAIRS  
House State Affairs  
committee name

Committee on SB 117  
HB 158 Eliminate Longevity Bonus, dated \_\_\_\_\_  
bill # / subject

*Please don't take the Longevity Bonus  
from the senior Alaskans. Many  
depend on it to survive*

Signed: Harriette Turcott  
Testifier

Representing (optional)

P.O. Box 687  
Address

262-3761  
Phone number



# Alaska State Legislature

SENATE STATE AFFAIRS

Please enter into the record my testimony to the

House State Affairs

Committee name

SB.117

Committee on HB 158 Eliminate Longevity Bonus, dated \_\_\_\_\_

Bill # / subject

I am in favor of the Longevity Bonus.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Testifier

Representing (optional)

P.O. Box 4336

Address



Soldotna

99669

283-1450

Phone number



# Alaska State Legislature

SENATE STATE AFFAIRS

Please enter into the record my testimony to the \_\_\_\_\_

House State Affairs  
committee name

Committee on SB117 HB 158 Eliminate Longevity Bonus, dated \_\_\_\_\_  
bill # / subject

I believe that as a state we made a promise to our seniors who currently qualify for the longevity bonus and should honor it. However in life do decent people expect to make commitments implied verbally or otherwise and then change our minds and get to keep our respect and trust.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Testifier

Representing (optional)

Address

P.O. Box 545 Seward AK 99572

Phone number

202-9638



# Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate State Affairs

committee name

Committee on SB 117 / Eliminating the Longevity Bonus Program

Date, March 27, 2003

bill # / subject

I would like to go on the record in OPPOSITION to SB 117.

I am a 50 plus year resident of Alaska that will never benefit from the Longevity Bonus Program. I know a few people that do qualify, but unfortunately for Alaska, they are becoming less in number with the passing of every year.

Governor Murkowski could have chosen to let our honored seniors (and the Longevity Bonus Program) "go silently into the night". Instead Governor Murkowski is showing favor to the bureaucrats, his corporate supporters, and others at the money trough, who in many cases contributed NOTHING toward opening up Alaska as America's last frontier.

SB 117 may provide a short term fix to the over spending problem created and perpetuated by the legislature and administration. It will not amount to a hill of beans in a few short years if the real fiscal problem is not addressed. There is not enough personal wealth in Alaska to completely replace the lost revenue as the north slope oil fields continue their inevitable production decline.

SB 117 will offset a small amount of the lost oil revenues, but puts financial hardship directly on the backs of Alaskan Pioneers, many of which are on a fixed income. Shame on Governor Murkowski for even proposing such a cruel and inconsiderate measure in the first place, and shame on anyone who votes to support it.

**Vote NO on SB 117**, because it's the right thing to do!

Thank you.

Signed: Mike McBride  
Testifier

Self  
Representing (optional)

PO Box 6; Kenai, Alaska; 99611-0006

Address

907/776-5444

Phone number



# Alaska State Legislature

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

Committee on SB 117 Eliminate Longevity Bonus, dated 3-27-03  
bill # / subject public hearing date

I, Harene Manka depend on my \$200.00 a mo. Longevity Bonus to pay for medical and monthly payments.

I've been in Alaska since 1960. I think this was abused when people came up for only one year and got it.

Signed: Harene Manka  
Testifier

Representing (optional)

135 Amargill St. Seldotna, Ak, 99669  
Address

907 262-9302  
Phone number



# Alaska State Legislature

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

Committee on SB 117 Eliminate Longevity Bonus, dated 3-27-03  
bill # / subject public hearing date

I feel I need this \$250.00 as my Social Security is not very big so this small amount helps - and I'm not able to work as young enough to find a job to make it go

*Florence Trunger*

Signed: *Florence Trunger*  
Testifier

Representing (optional)

307 Hutton St. Kenai AK  
Address

283-5884  
Phone number



# Alaska State Legislature

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

Committee on SB 117 Eliminate Longevity Bonus, dated 3-27-03  
bill # / subject public hearing date

I need & enjoy my 250.00 A month  
and I do not want it taken  
away. I feel I have earned  
it, with the time of hard  
times in Alaska in the early  
days. Having lived here since  
1946, I feel I have earned  
it — Please leave it as  
is

Signed: Armen G. M. Deskevorkian  
Testifier

Representing (optional)

220 East Beluga, Soldotna Alaska  
Address 99669

907.262.4034  
Phone number



# Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the

Senate State Affairs  
committee name

Committee on

167

bill # / subject

, dated

3-27-03

public hearing date

Thank you Chairman Stevens and Senate State Affairs Committee for the opportunity to address you on "An Act Eliminating the Longevity Bonus Program". I would like to start by observing that the Commissioner of Administration's testimony on the issue was pure tailings up the stack and into the pond. Utter transparency in the Administration's effort to cut out the expenditure. His statement that the original intent of the Legislature is no longer valid, is perhaps partially correct. My question on that point; how many of the 18,000 seniors currently receiving the bonus were present during the years prior to Statehood in 1959? I am one and acquainted with many others throughout the State. Secondly, his statement that on elimination of the program the State will provide welfare benefits for some of us on a "needs basis" is an insult. Should the program be eliminating, Delores and I would have to seriously consider moving to a more cost effective location.

It is apparent that the Governor and his proponents on the issue consider the Alaskan seniors as a "sin tax", an easy hit to implement their budgetary goals, similar to the tobacco products, alcoholic beverages and games of skill and chance that are frequent targets. Contrarily, I believe we are deserving of the bonus and continue to be as approved by the legislature back in 1972. My financial situation, similar to many receiving the bonus, is simply that its elimination will reduce annual incomes from 10% to 30%. Additionally, it's my guess that those recipients in outlying areas will be affected to an even greater degree.

I do not support this measure and strongly suggest you resolve the subsistence issue should you approve it.

The State Administrations policy ref: the L.B.P. is not unlike the Veterans Administration's policy regarding Veterans' Benefits. To partially offset the savings achieved by the elimination of this program I suggest the following: an income tax on nonresidents of the State. These "pilgrims" work in Alaska, make no contributions to our economy, but rather take and spend their earnings outside. Their tax payments are made to the state of residence rather than to Alaska.

Sincerely,  
Bob Harrison  
PO Box 7414  
Nikiski, AK 99635  
776-5339



# Alaska State Legislature

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

Committee on SB 117 Eliminate Longevity Bonus, dated 3-27-03  
bill # / subject public hearing date

Please accept following page as written  
testimony for Mr. C.R. Morrison Jr.

Thank you

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Testifier

Representing (optional)

Address

Phone number

35671 Kenai Spur Hwy  
Soldotna, AK 99669  
March 27, 2003

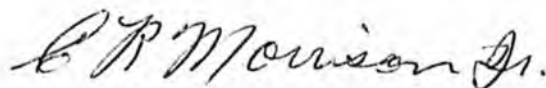
Alaska State Legislature  
'Longevity Bonus Plan'

To Whom Concerned:

I feel that to discontinue this plan would be a great mistake. For many elderly people, this would be a financial hardship. I also feel this would create a much larger drain on the 'States Medical Assistance' funds.

In the last couple years the financial cost of this program, through natural attrition, has declined appreciably. So, why place an additional hardship on people by eliminating a program that will soon discontinue through natural attrition?

Respectfully Yours,



C. R. Morrison Jr.



MAR 31 2002

# 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

I strongly oppose passage of SB117. This Longevity Bonus Program is well needed by those of us least able to support ourselves because of age and ability to work and care for ourselves. This program is going to sunset out. I believe other areas in state spending can be cut, such as over spending in the size of government and grants that might be cut and unneeded. The Longevity Bonus is needed by those who receive it.

I am over 71 years old and get \$100 per month. I have been a resident since 1957, before statehood. I believe the state would need to increase welfare for those if this program is discontinued. The savings for the state, I believe, would be minimal. I believe there would do more than good when everything is said and done. Obituaries are daily and inform us of reducing the cost of this program.

Thank you.

Signed: [Signature]  
 Testifier

self  
 Representing (optional)

44332 Sterling Hwy #36 Soldotna AK 99669  
 Address

262-6829  
 Phone number



# Alaska State Legislature

*SENATE Bill 117*

Please enter into the record my testimony to the

committee name

Committee on Alaska Longevity Program, dated  
bill #/subject

3-27-03  
public hearing date

To cut this program or reduce the amount at this time is just another TAX to a select group! It is not needed. The program is self limiting, We old-timers will soon be dead and gone!

If you want to save the state money than do as any large company or coporation does;; Use a percentage cut i.e. ALL DEPARTMENTS CUT.. At lest 10 % each year until the out-go and in-flow are equal.

There is NO department that cannot re-adjust.. There are NO SACRED COWS.

Signed: R.W. BOGARD

Testifier

MANY OLD\_TIMERS OF ALASKA

Representing (optional)

Box 1404 Sterling, ak 99672

Address

907-262-4985

Phone number



# Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the

Senate

Munkowski

committee name

Committee on

Bill 117

bill # / subject

, dated

3-27-03

public hearing date

*Leave the longevity alone*

Signed:

Donna L. Paulson

Testifier

Self

Representing (optional)

Box 224 Sterling, Ak. 99672

Address

907-262-5662

Phone number



# Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Mr Kowski  
committee name

Committee on Senate 117, dated 3-27-03  
bill #/ subject public hearing date

*Don't interfere with the sovereignty*

Signed: Charles W Paulson  
Testifier

Representing (optional)

Box 224 Sterling, AK. 99672  
Address

(907) 262-5662  
Phone number



# Alaska State Legislature

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

Committee on Bill 117 Longevity, dated March 27, 2003  
bill # / subject public hearing date

If I am denied the Longevity as proposed, I would have to leave the State of Alaska because it will cause a financial hardship.

I'm disabled and being taken care of by my son. A nurse comes in ~~once~~ a week to assist me, I have to pay for this service. My income is such that I am on the fringe for any medicare benefits and would be denied. This proposal has caused me so much stress that I cannot sleep.

Signed: Ruth E. Wilber  
Testifier

Representing (optional)

38285 Pine Wood <sup>AV.</sup> Sterling, AK, 99672  
Address

(907) 262-6125  
Phone number



**5**  
Write your  
own history



**27**  
Elderhostel  
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ISSN 0741-2894

# SENIOR VOICE

The Monthly Publication for Alaskans 50+

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## Bonus furor

*Plan to eliminate Longevity Bonus raises questions, ire*

By **DAVID WASHBURN**  
Senior Voice

Jim Kohn says he remembers very clearly standing before several hundred seniors in Valdez at a Pioneers of Alaska convention in the early 1990s. Kohn was head of the Longevity Bonus program and he was discussing the phase-out plan Gov. Walter Hickel was pushing through at the time.

One lady in the audience grilled him particularly hard about the phase-out, saying she feared it was just the first step toward a total elimination of the Bonus.

"She was very concerned that the legislature could at any time in the future change their mind," he recalls.

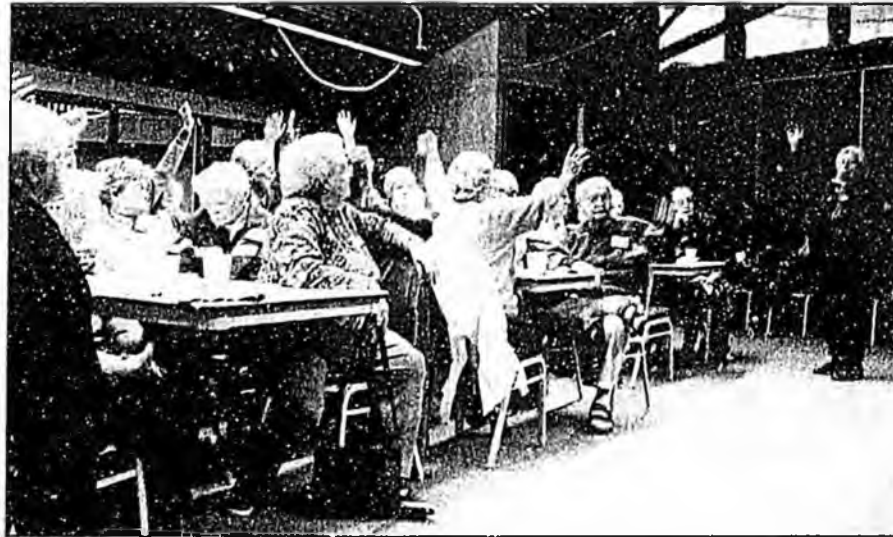
In February, Kohn retired from the post he held for 10 years as head of the Division of Alaska Longevity Programs. Talking by phone from his home, he said he remembers telling the woman that it was true that a future legislature could decide to eliminate the Bonus program, that the legislature at that time could not legally bind a future legislature from doing so.

Most people understood there was no complete guarantee, but there was also no shortage of reassuring rhetoric, he says. "There was no absolute promise made, but there were many legislators who said at the time that they felt this would be their final word (on the Bonus)."

It wasn't. In a speech outlining his fiscal budget and investment plan on March 5, Gov. Frank Murkowski shocked many around the state when he said his plan includes the elimination of the Longevity Bonus.

The program has "outlived its usefulness," Murkowski said, and by cutting it, the state could save \$47 million next year.

"Elimination of this program will allow state funds to be redirected to primary services of education, public safety and safe transportation systems—services that benefit seniors as well as other Alaskans," Murkowski said. He added, "We will not abandon our seniors. We have sufficient safety nets through other programs that



Amy Hartley/Senior Voice

During an AARP chapter meeting March 17 at the Anchorage Senior Center, Chapter President Peg Stout, right, asked attendees who volunteer in their community to raise their hands. Arms shot up across the room and Stout said, "Sometimes people just think about how much we take. Maybe they could think about how much we are giving, too." More than 100 people turned out for the meeting, firing questions and comments at a Murkowski staff member over the governor's proposal to eliminate the Longevity Bonus.

I intend to maintain. We will protect people in need."

The Bonus elimination is contained in House Bill 158 and companion Senate Bill 117, and legislators are giving the bills serious consideration.

### Speaking out

Outcry over Murkowski's proposal was immediate and loud. Senior centers and other se-

nior service agencies warned that without their monthly bonus check of \$250, \$200, \$150 or \$100 (depending on when they entered the program), many older Alaskans will face serious hardships.

"I've had numerous calls ever since it was publicized, and a lot of people are very concerned, particularly the low-income and those who are in long-term care," said Peggy Burgin, a member of

page 23 please



# No stranger to Alaska, or serving seniors

It is my pleasure to be serving as the new executive director of OPAG. I am eager to use my skills and knowledge of non-profit administration to help foster the growth and development of this long-standing senior advocacy agency. I think the future success of this agency will depend upon the teamwork and cooperation of all concerned Board members, staff, and volunteers. While we advocate on behalf of seniors, continue to publish the awarding winning Senior Voice, as well as the Directory for Older Alaskans, a guide to senior services throughout Alaska.

I am not a stranger to Alaska. My wife, Dawnia, and I have lived in Anchorage for the past 23 years. Two of the youngest of our three children graduated from Service



Ray Clements

High School. Over the years I have had the opportunity to visit and work with many Alaskans throughout our state in such places as Bethel, Dillingham, English Bay, Port Graham, Wainwright, Barrow, Anaktuvuk Pass, Anchor Point, Seldovia, Soldotna, Kenai, Homer, Nuiqsut, Beaver, Upper Kulskag,

Savoonga, Emmonak, Sitka, Juneau and Fairbanks.

More importantly, I have a clear and growing understanding of the health, social, and economic needs of seniors. My mother, Emily, as of April 2, 2003, is 95 years young. She has lived at Chugiak View Apartments for 17 years, and more recently has been a resident of Providence Horizon House, where she enjoys the wonderful cheerful surroundings and helpful staff in this very fine assisted living facility.

Over the past 22 years, I have been a volunteer for the National Senior Service Corps, Foster Grandparent and Senior Companion Programs, while my wife, Dawnia Clements, has served as its State wide executive director.

My mission is to help protect and

enhance the welfare of seniors throughout the State of Alaska, and to help promote and sustain their quality of life in their later years. Working together with other senior service agencies and groups, such as the Senior Advocacy Coalition, we will keep Alaska aware of the great resource it has in its older population and the issues they face while aging in our great state.

My door at OPAG is always open. Stop by and see me, or e-mail, call, write, or fax. Our Anchorage address is 325 E. Third Ave., Ste. 300; phone 276-1059 or (toll free) 800-478-1059; e-mail [execdiropag@gci.net](mailto:execdiropag@gci.net). Our Web site is at [www.opagak.org](http://www.opagak.org).

Stay healthy and young in spirit!

Ray Clements, PhD

Older Persons Action Group

Executive Director

# Study graded Alaska's end-of-life care unfairly

The December 2002 issue of the Senior Voice had an article entitled, "State flunks on End-of-life care," based on a nation wide survey. After reviewing the November 2002 study, we believe that Alaska was not fairly scored on several items. This study is called *Means to a Better End: A Report on Dying in America Today*. The survey, conducted by the end-of-life care advocacy organization Last Acts, gave Alaska the lowest possible grade of "E" on five measures.

We believe Alaska is addressing the issues of end-of-life care – just not the way the Lower 48 does. Let's review the measures used to grade Alaska and clarify how we do it in Alaska.

throughout the state are required to offer living wills and durable power of attorneys. Chief Andrew Isaac Health Center (CAIHC) has a program for offering assistance with any of these advance directives forms. Alaska Legal Services is also available to provide forms. CAIHC physicians also have the Comfort One Program for anyone who is terminally ill.

The second "E" measure is for Hospice use in Alaska. According to Last Acts, only 5 percent of people over 65 who died in Alaska used Hospice in the last year of life. Last Acts only used Medicare-certified Hospice services in their study. The state of Alaska has ten (10) Hospice

programs, 6 percent have Hospice programs and 18 percent have palliative care programs. These percentages are based on the 16 hospitals in Alaska. It is a Joint Commission Accreditation for Hospital Organization (JCAHO) requirement for pain control scales in all hospitals. CAIHC has pain scales in use for visits to the clinic.

The fourth "E" measure is for state pain policies. Last Acts says Alaska's pain policies create barriers to good pain management. Fairbanks Memorial Hospital, Denali Center and

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and regula-  
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programs, 6 percent have Hospice programs and 18 percent have palliative care programs. These percentages are based on the 16 hospitals in Alaska. It is a Joint Commission Accreditation for Hospital Organization (JCAHO) requirement for pain control scales in all hospitals. CAIHC has pain scales in use for visits to the clinic.

The Last Acts study is obviously needed to support the issues surrounding end-of-life. We do acknowledge that there is lots of room for improvement in Alaska on end-of-life issues. It is most unfortunate that the surveyors for this study did not more accurately give a true picture of life and death in Alaska.

Charlotte M. Davis, RN PHN,  
Chief Andrew Isaac Health Center  
Elders Program  
Lisa Richard, RN PHN,  
Chief Andrew Isaac Health Center  
Rural Home Care program

Editor's note: We were not able to print this article in its entirety due to space constraints. We will print the rest in a follow-up in next month's issue.