



THE STATE  
of **ALASKA**  
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

Department of  
Health and Social Services

ALASKA COMMISSION ON AGING

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February 15, 2017

Representative Zach Fansler  
Alaska State Capitol, Room 416  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

**Subject: Support for HB 106, Civil Legal Services Fund**

Dear Representative Fansler:

The Alaska Commission on Aging (ACoA) is pleased to offer our support for HB 106, a bill authored by you and co-sponsored by Representatives Les Gara and Chuck Kopp, to amend the Civil Legal Services Fund and allow the Legislature to appropriate up to 25% of the filing fees received annually by the Alaska Court System into the Fund.

Alaska Legal Services Corporation (ALSC), a nonprofit organization, is the sole statewide agency that provides comprehensive low- and no-cost civil legal assistance for seniors, veterans, and other eligible Alaskans. HB 106 aims to create a sustainable funding mechanism for ALSC through the Civil Legal Services Fund to ensure that all Alaskans have access to civil legal assistance.

Last year, Alaska Legal Services provided direct legal aid to more than 1,500 seniors and 171 caregivers statewide through their Elder Law project. ALSC assists seniors to establish Miller Trusts and advance directives such as powers of attorney and wills; protects seniors from losing their housing due to predatory lending practices, illegal foreclosure or eviction, and unlawful renter-landlord disputes; and helps seniors obtain and maintain Social Security and Public Assistance benefits.

The Commission supports HB 106 and appreciates your leadership of this legislation. Access to legal information, advice, and assistance helps older Alaskans preserve their financial and personal independence, retain control of their financial and health care decisions, maintain appropriate family relationships, and protect their personal assets and well-being.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David A. Blacketer".

David A. Blacketer  
Chair, Alaska Commission on Aging

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Denise Daniello".

Denise Daniello  
ACoA Executive Director

Cc: Representative Les Gara  
Representative Chuck Kopp