

# STATE OF ALASKA

## DEPT. OF HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES

### Alaska Commission on Aging

March 16, 2012

The Honorable Wes Keller, Chair  
House Health & Social Services Committee  
Alaska State Capitol, Room 432  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

**Subject: Support for HB 218, Insurance for Specialty Tier Medications**

Dear Chair Keller:

The Alaska Commission on Aging (ACoA) is pleased to offer our support for HB 218, a bill to protect persons with critical and chronic diseases from sudden changes in their prescription medications that may exceed their insurance coverage. HB 218 extends the notification date for insurance companies from 30 days to 90 days providing the patient with additional time to explore other therapy options with their doctor and find alternate payment plans. As you know, this bill is sponsored by the House Health and Social Services Committee.

Seniors who are not covered by Medicare are at serious risk when the cost of their life-saving medical treatments unexpectedly rises and exceeds their insurance coverage. Pharmaceutical treatments for cancer, rheumatoid arthritis, bleeding disorders, neurological diseases, Crohn's disease and other complex medical conditions are examples of diseases that fall under specialty tiers and may impact senior health.

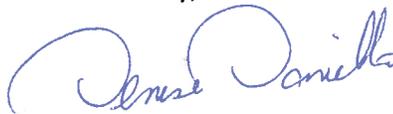
Finding alternate medication regimes and payment plans is complicated and takes time. HB 218 is a good consumer bill that provides 60 additional days of insured treatment for the critically ill patient. Thank you for sponsoring HB 218. Please feel free to contact Denise Daniello, ACoA's executive director, by phone (465-4879) or email ([denise.daniello@alaska.gov](mailto:denise.daniello@alaska.gov)) should you have questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,



Sharon Howerton-Clark  
Chair, Alaska Commission on Aging

Sincerely,



Denise Daniello  
ACoA Executive Director

Cc: Representative Dick  
Representative Herron  
Representative Seaton

Representative Kerttula  
Representative Miller  
Representative Millet

SEAN PARNELL, GOVERNOR

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