



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Department of
Health and Social Services

ALASKA PIONEER HOMES
Pioneer Homes Advisory Board

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December 13, 2021

The Honorable Mike Dunleavy
Office of the Governor
PO Box 110001
Juneau, AK 99811-0001

Dear Governor Dunleavy,

On behalf of the Alaska Pioneer Homes Advisory Board, I am pleased to inform you of the board's support of your reintroduction of the proposal to reorganize the Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) into two smaller departments, the Department of Health and the Department of Family and Community Services.

The board recognizes that with the large size and diverse nature of the current DHSS structure, it is difficult to ensure that adequate time, attention, and resources are equally divided across the needs of each division and the general public whom they serve. With the reorganization into two departments, greater efficiencies, responsiveness, and flexibility can be achieved to aid in each divisions' ability to provide the foremost service possible to their end users. For the Division of the Alaska Pioneer Homes, that is ensuring our vulnerable elderly residents and future residents can be provided the quality of life they deserve while in residence. The change will also allow the six Alaska Pioneer Homes' staff, administrators and division leadership to better focus on their efforts and communicate the needs to the new Department of Family and Community Services leadership. Focus on the needs of the Pioneer Homes will best be served by this new department including health and wellness measures, staff development and recruitment, and addressing each home's deferred maintenance.

Thank you for providing the leadership to enable the Alaska Pioneer Homes to succeed and be better served under the new Department of Family and Community Services.

Respectfully,

Robert Pawlowski,
Chair, Alaska Pioneer Homes Advisory Board