

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPT. OF HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES

Alaska Commission on Aging

March 2, 2009

The Honorable Bob Lynn
House State Affairs
Alaska State Capitol, Room 104
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Subject: Support for CSHJR 10 (MLV)

Dear Chair Lynn:

The Alaska Commission on Aging (ACoA) supports CSHJR 10 sponsored by Representative Guttenberg, Representative Kawasaki, Representative Salmon, Representative Kerttula, Representative Gruenberg, Representative Cissna and you. ACoA concurs with this resolution and its petition to Congress to improve health care and access for veterans by providing sufficient, timely, and stable funding for their health programs and enhanced service delivery.

Health care is a key benefit of the services provided to persons who served in the armed forces. The number of veterans returning from military duty, in addition to veterans who are aging, is increasing along with the associated health care expenses.

Alaskan veterans come from all areas of the state. Veteran clinic facilities are located only in Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau, and Kenai. If a veteran lives outside of these areas and his/her medical condition is not 51% or more service-related, that individual is responsible for paying their own travel expenses. The Commission on Aging supports the Resolution's recommendation of a special "Heroes Health Card" to provide veterans access to quality health care in communities where they live, including those without veteran clinic facilities, by coordinating care provided by local medical providers, community health care facilities, mental health centers, substance abuse treatment centers, tribal health organizations, and other appropriate providers with care provided by military doctors and medical facilities. In addition, ACoA supports the Resolution's request for Congress to increase funding for research into traumatic brain injuries and to improve its electronic claims filing process.

ACoA supports CSHJR 10 and believes that veterans who served our country deserve decent health care where they live. It is our responsibility and obligation to provide quality and accessible health care for veterans who joined the armed forces to serve and protect our nation. Please feel free to contact Denise Daniello, ACoA's executive director (465-4879), should you have any questions regarding our position. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Sharon Howerton-Clark
Chair, Alaska Commission on Aging

Sincerely,



Denise Daniello,
ACoA Executive Director

Cc: Representative Seaton, Vice Chair

Representative Gatto

Representative Johnson

SARAH PALIN, GOVERNOR

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