

# STATE OF ALASKA

## DEPT. OF HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES

*Alaska Commission on Aging*

**SARAH PALIN, GOVERNOR**

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**To: Members of the Alaska Senate**

**From: The Alaska Commission on Aging**

**Re: Support SB 13, Denali Kid Care (Senator Davis)**

**Date: April 3, 2009**

On behalf of the Alaska Commission on Aging (ACoA), we encourage support of SB 13 which would raise eligibility levels for children to be accepted into the Denali Kid Care program from 175% of the federal poverty level to 200%. In addition to providing comprehensive and preventive health coverage for more young people and pregnant women, we believe that this proposal would benefit the growing number of older Alaskans caring for their grandchildren while living on a fixed income. This bill is authored by Senator Bettye Davis, and co-sponsored by Senators Paskvan, Ellis, Wielechowski, and French.

According to a 2008 study that examined the extent of hunger among older Americans by the Center for Poverty Research at the University of Kentucky, one in five senior households with a grandchild (but no adult child) present is at risk of hunger compared to one in twenty households without a grandchild present. Most seniors would choose to go without than subject their grandchildren to hardship. At 200% FPL, the enhanced Denali Kid Care program would provide coverage for additional grandparent headed families who earn too much to qualify for Medicaid, but not enough to afford the rising costs of health care insurance and other basic necessities on their fixed incomes.


The Commission encourages support of SB 13. Please feel free to contact Denise Daniello, ACoA's executive director at 465-4879, should you have questions regarding our position of this bill. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Sharon Howerton-Clark  
Chair, Alaska Commission on Aging

Sincerely,



Denise Daniello  
ACoA Executive Director

Cc: Senator Gary Stevens  
Senator Linda Menard  
Senator Donald Olson  
Senator Joe Thomas  
Senator Fred Dyson  
Senator Johnny Ellis  
Senator Albert Kookesh  
Senator Thomas Wagoner  
Senator Bill Wielechowski  
Senator Joe Thomas

Senator Con Bunde  
Senator Kevin Meyer  
Senator Bettye Davis  
Senator Hollis French  
Senator Charlie Huggins  
Senator Lyman Hoffman  
Senator Lesil McGuire  
Senator Bert Stedman  
Senator Joe Paskvan  
Senator Gene Therriault