

March 17, 2025

Alaska State Capitol
Senate Labor and Commerce Committee
120 4th St
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: SB 99 "An Act relating to private professional conservators; and providing for an effective date."

Honorable Senator Bjorkman, chair, Senator Merrick, Senator Gray-Jackson, Senator Dunbar, Senator Yundt,

I am writing my letter of support today as a private citizen in my capacity as a senior housing professional and not in my capacity as a member of the Alaska Commission on Aging board of directors.

I have worked in senior housing for the last 15 years and have witnessed just how important it is for our seniors to remain as independent as possible as they age. Seniors thrive socially, physically and emotionally when the appropriate amount of assistance is available for them. Losing independence too soon can cause them to retreat socially and feel discouraged because of the loss of control in areas of their lives which they could continue to address independently.

Over the years I worked with a couple of seniors that experienced tremors and could no longer write checks. They would hand me the check book asking me to fill it in for them. This always makes me uncomfortable because they are vulnerable to "bad actors" who could alter the check, get account numbers and other information. Having a conservator would close this loop and protect the senior financially. Also, since seniors don't use computers, a conservator has a better chance of identifying withdrawals from a senior's account promptly because of fraud such as "phishing."

A conservator has limited powers compared to a guardian because the conservator only manages financial affairs for the senior such as collecting and depositing all income, pays all debts and bills, secures all assets, and handles taxes and insurance. Making it more reasonable for accountants to fill this role by adjusting the licensing requirements, will assist our seniors in remaining independent longer, keeping their dignity intact while protecting them from "bad actors."

I want to thank you in advance for your support of this SB 99.

Sincerely,



Vivian M. Stiver

2ndavebnb@gmail.com

907-347-2102