



THE STATE  
of **ALASKA**  
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

## Department of Health

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

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March 20, 2024

Scott Logan  
Social Security Administration  
Office of Income Security Programs  
Keys Section  
2518 Robert A. Ball Building  
6401 Security Boulevard  
Baltimore, Maryland 21235

Dear Mr. Brown:

Please find the State of Alaska's updated certification of compliance for fiscal year 2024.

The State of Alaska is in full compliance with Section 1616(e) of the Social Security Act (the Keys Amendment) for Federal Fiscal Year 2024. Through the Department of Health, Division of Health Care Services Residential Licensing and the Background Check Program, the State continues to enforce standards for safe and appropriate residential settings as an alternative to institutional living for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) recipients; limits the use of SSI funds for substandard facilities; and publicizes and makes available the standards and enforcement procedures for these facilities as a means of involving the public in monitoring the standards.

In 2021, Alaska Senate Bill 89 (<https://www.akleg.gov/PDF/32/Bills/SB0089Z.PDF>) was signed into law, establishing new and clarifying existing assisted living house rules and resident rights, as follows:

- Clarified that *"a safe and sanitary environment"* includes *"free from abuse and discrimination"*
- Established that a resident has a right to *"access to the Internet provided by the home, subject to availability"* and *"having a private device to access the Internet at the resident's own expense"*
- Clarified that the right to meals that are consistent religious or health-related restrictions also means consistent with cultural preferences
- Clarified that the right to file a grievances or recommend changes in the home's policies, procedures, or services must be upheld *"without fear of reprisal or retaliation"*
- Defined *"retaliation"* as *"adverse action taken, or threatened, by an assisted living home or an agent of an assisted living home against a resident in response to a complaint made to, or about, the home"*.

Sincerely,

*Heidi Hedberg*

Heidi Hedberg, Commissioner  
Department of Health

