



[Native ELDER Act](#)

Senators Lisa Murkowski and Tina Smith have introduced this legislation that will improve federal programs and services for Alaska Native, American Indian, and Native Hawaiian Elders. The legislation was introduced in May of 2024. The **Native ELDER Act** builds on the **Strengthening Services for Native Elders Act** by prioritizing supportive services and in-home modifications, to ensure Native American Elders are able to age at home within their own communities. This act includes provisions to:

What is the issue?

Many seniors, particularly Native seniors, struggle to remain in their communities while receiving the care they need. According to Senator Murkowski “Our Elders already face substantially worse health outcomes at disproportionately higher rates than other seniors. We have to help bridge this divide by ensuring our Elders have the support they need to age at home, in their local communities”.

Why is this important?

For Native elders it is particularly important to remain within their communities to help preserve and pass down cultural knowledge to future generations. According to Brian Ridley, Chief of Tanana Chiefs Conference “This Act is an excellent step towards improving agency coordination and increasing funding” and “Our culture puts great emphasis on elder care. Our elders should have the ability to pass down traditional knowledge in the safety and comfort of their homes”.

What can we do about it?

- Get to know your [congressional representatives](#) . Introduce yourself to them and make them aware that this issue is important to their constituents. Encourage your representatives to support this act.
- Write and [send letters or emails](#) to your legislators informing them of the issue. Many legislators see receiving a few dozen letters as an overwhelming show of support for a given issue. Most local legislators also have email addresses where constituents can reach out to them with concerns. Sending letters or emails can show that this issue is important and worthy of attention.
- Make sure to increase your political awareness by [tracking bills](#), showing support for bills that help Alaska seniors, and opposing any action or inaction that would harm Alaska seniors.

To learn more about the legislative process in Alaska, [click here!](#)