

Dear Chairman Casey and members of the House Municipal Government and Housing Committee:

I write today in support of [House Bill No. 5100](#)

This bill would make it easier for municipalities to create shelter for the homeless in times of need. According to a 2023 U.S. Department of Health & Human Services report, older adults are the fastest-growing age group of those experiencing homelessness.

As an AARP advocacy volunteer this humane legislation reminds me of the story of the founder of AARP in 1958. She started AARP in response to seeing an elderly lady living in a chicken coop who, although she had worked her entire life, could not afford housing. I was excited to learn that our elected officials would align with Ethel Andres, our AARP founder, on this issue and walk toward a helpful solution to this problem by introducing HB 5100.

I look forward to your approval on HB #5100.

Link to Chicken Coop story: <https://states.aarp.org/alaska/chicken-coop-unlikely-birthplace-aarp>

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