HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 20

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES PARISH, Josephson

Introduced: 4/13/17
Referred: Health and Social Services

A RESOLUTION

Urging the United States Congress and the President of the United States to maintain health insurance coverage for individuals currently covered by Medicaid expansion.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

WHEREAS access to health care is essential for Alaskans to live healthy, safe, productive, and rewarding lives; and

WHEREAS Alaska has the second highest rate of residents without health care insurance in the nation; and

WHEREAS Medicaid expansion has provided health care to more than 30,000 Alaskans; and

WHEREAS Medicaid expansion, which limits eligibility to individuals with a maximum annual income of $20,300 for a single person, provides health care to some of the most vulnerable residents of the state, many of whom are employed, retired, disabled, in school, or caring for family members; and

WHEREAS Governor Walker has declared a state of emergency regarding opioid addiction in the state; and

WHEREAS Medicaid provides 16,000 Alaskans with behavioral health treatment,
including treatment for substance abuse; and

WHEREAS Medicaid expansion provides continued access to treatment for Alaskans
who are released from prison, thereby helping to prevent reincarceration; and

WHEREAS Medicaid expansion has infused hundreds of millions of dollars into the
state's economy, providing a significant financial boost during the current recession; and

WHEREAS, during the current recession, health care is one of the few industries
experiencing growth in the state; and

WHEREAS Medicaid expansion has created and will continue to create jobs in the
state; and

WHEREAS Medicaid expansion returns tax dollars to the state; and

WHEREAS the state spends the second lowest percentage of state funds on Medicaid
of any state in the nation; and

WHEREAS Medicaid expansion has reduced uncompensated care provided by
Alaska hospitals by tens of millions of dollars, which helps reduce costs for all patients;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature urges the United States
Congress and the President of the United States to maintain health insurance coverage for
individuals who are currently covered by Medicaid expansion.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Donald J. Trump, President
of the United States; the Honorable Michael R. Pence, Vice President of the United States and
President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Paul D. Ryan, Speaker of the U.S. House of
Representatives; the Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Minority Leader of the U.S. House of
Representatives; the Honorable Mitch McConnell, Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the
Honorable Charles E. Schumer, Minority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Lamar
Alexander, Chair of the U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions;
the Honorable Virginia Foxx, Chair of the U.S. House Committee on Education and the
Workforce; and the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the Honorable Dan Sullivan, U.S.
Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska
delegation in Congress.