



Supporters of Medicaid Reform & Expansion

1. AARP Alaska
2. Abused Women's Aid in Crisis, Inc. (AWAIC)
3. Ahtna, Incorporated
4. AK Child & Family
5. AKEELA
6. Alaska AFL-CIO
7. Alaska AIDS Assistance Association
8. Alaska Association on Developmental Disabilities
9. Alaska Baptist Family Services
10. Alaska Brain Injury Network
11. Alaska Chamber
12. Alaska Coalition on Housing and Homelessness
13. Alaska Early Childhood Advocacy Group
14. Alaska Family Services
15. Alaska Federation of Natives
16. Alaska Geriatric Exchange Network
17. Alaska Injury Prevention Center
18. Alaska Island Community Services
19. Alaska Legal Services Corp.
20. Alaska Literacy Program
21. Alaska Mental Health Board and Advisory Board on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse



22. Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority
23. Alaska Municipal League
24. Alaska Native Brotherhood and Alaska Native Sisterhood Camp 70
25. Alaska Native Health Board
26. Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium
27. Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault
28. Alaska Nurses Association
29. Alaska Pharmacists Association
30. Alaska Physical Therapy Association
31. Alaska Physicians & Surgeons
32. Alaska Primary Care Association
33. Alaska State Hospital & Nursing Home Association
34. Alaska State Medical Association
35. Alaska Women's Lobby
36. Alaska Youth & Family Network
37. Aleutian Housing Authority
38. Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association, Inc.
39. American Cancer Society
40. American Diabetes Association
41. American Heart Association/American Stroke Association
42. American Lung Association in Alaska



43. Anchorage Chamber of Commerce
44. Anchorage Coalition to End Homelessness
45. Anchorage Community Mental Health Services
46. Anchorage Faith & Action Congregations Together
47. Anchorage Human and Social Services Executive Directors
48. Anchorage Municipal Assembly
49. Anchorage Neighborhood Health Center
50. Anchorage Youth Development Coalition (AYDC)
51. ANCSA Regional Association
52. The Arc of Anchorage
53. Assets, Inc.
54. Bartlett Regional Hospital
55. Bering Straits Native Corporation
56. Bethel Chamber of Commerce
57. Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation
58. Bristol Bay Native Association
59. Bristol Bay Native Corporation
60. Camp Fire USA Alaska Council
61. Cancer Action Network
62. Catholic Community Services
63. Catholic Social Services



- 64. CCS Early Learning
- 65. Central Peninsula Hospital
- 66. CHOICES
- 67. City of Barrow
- 68. City of Pelican
- 69. City of Valdez
- 70. Community Connections
- 71. Congregation Sukkat Shalom
- 72. Cook Inlet Council on Alcohol & Drug Abuse
- 73. Cook Inlet Region Inc.
- 74. Cook Inlet Tribal Council
- 75. Co-Occurring Disorders Institute
- 76. Cordova Community Medical Center
- 77. Covenant House Alaska
- 78. Curyung Tribal Council
- 79. Denali Family Services
- 80. Doyon Limited
- 81. Effective Health Design
- 82. Enroll Alaska
- 83. Fairbanks Community Mental Health Services
- 84. Fairbanks Economic Development Corporation



- 85. Fairbanks Native Association
- 86. Family Centered Services of Alaska
- 87. Food Bank of Alaska
- 88. Foraker Group
- 89. Frontier Community Services
- 90. Gastineau Human Services Corporation
- 91. Governor's Council on Disabilities & Special Education
- 92. Greater Fairbanks Community Hospital Foundation
- 93. Hope Community Resources, Inc.
- 94. Identity Inc.
- 95. Iliuliuk Family and Health Services
- 96. Interior Aids Association
- 97. Juneau Alliance for Mental Health, Inc.
- 98. Juneau Central Council AFL/ CIO
- 99. Juneau City & Borough Assembly
- 100. Juneau Economic Development Council
- 101. Juneau Tlingit & Haida Community Council
- 102. Juneau Youth Services
- 103. Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly
- 104. Kenaitze Indian Tribe
- 105. Kodiak Area Native Association



106. League of Women Voters of Alaska
107. March of Dimes Foundation Alaska Chapter
108. Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly
109. Mat-Su Health Foundation
110. Mat-Su Health Services, Inc.
111. Mountain-Pacific Quality Health Foundation
112. Municipality of Skagway
113. NAACP
114. NAMI
115. NANA Regional Corporation
116. Narcotic Drug Treatment Center, Inc.
117. National Association of Social Workers – Alaska Chapter
118. National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence Juneau, Alaska
119. Native Village of White Mountain
120. NEA Alaska
121. New Koliganek Village Council
122. Nine Star Education and Employment Services
123. Nondalton Tribal Council
124. North Slope Borough
125. North Star Behavioral Health
126. Norton Sound Health Corporation



127. Peninsula Community Health Services of Alaska
128. Petersburg Mental Health Services, Inc.
129. Planned Parenthood of the Great Northwest
130. Professional Nursing Consultants
131. Railbelt Mental Health & Addictions
132. Rainforest Recovery Center
133. Residential Youth Care, Inc.
134. RurAL CAP
135. SeaView Community Services
136. Sitka Borough Assembly
137. Sitka Counseling & Prevention Services
138. Sitka Tribe of Alaska
139. Southcentral Foundation
140. Southeast Alaska Independent Living, Inc.
141. Southeast Alaska Regional Health Consortium
142. South Peninsula Behavioral Health Services, Inc.
143. Statewide Independent Living Council of Alaska
144. Tanana Chiefs Conference
145. Tanana Valley Clinic
146. Tangirnaq Native Village/ Woody Island Tribal Council
147. thread



- 148. United Way of Anchorage
- 149. Valdez Health Advisory Council
- 150. Valley Medical Care
- 151. Volunteers of America Alaska
- 152. Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation
- 153. YWCA Alaska

A RESOLUTION URGING THE ALASKA LEGISLATURE TO EXPAND MEDICAID COVERAGE TO IMPROVE THE HEALTH OF ALASKANS AND TO IMPROVE THE ALASKAN ECONOMY.

WHEREAS, nearly 42,000 of our family members, friends and neighbors have the opportunity to gain health care coverage under expansion; and

WHEREAS, Medicaid expansion will improve health outcomes by reducing the number of uninsured Alaskans by half, improving preventive and primary care access, providing substance abuse treatment and mental health counseling, and reducing the mortality rate; and

WHEREAS, Medicaid expansion brings over \$1 billion in new federal revenue into Alaska over the first five years; and

WHEREAS, studies project expansion will likely yield 4,000 new jobs, \$1.2 billion more in wages and salaries paid to Alaskans, and \$2.49 billion in increased economic activity throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, with expansion the State would save \$6.1 million in FY2016 by using federal funds to pay for health services currently paid for with state general funds; and,

WHEREAS, federal funds will pay for 100% of services provided to the expansion population through 2016 and will transition to 90% in 2020 and beyond; and

WHEREAS, the State's continued participation is contingent upon maintaining the 90% match; and

WHEREAS, Medicaid expansion will significantly reduce the burden of uncompensated care, which was over \$90 million at non-tribal Alaska hospitals in 2013; and

WHEREAS, Medicaid expansion will serve as a catalyst for meaningful Medicaid reform; and

WHEREAS, leveraging the federal resources that come with expansion is the State's biggest opportunity to finance reform efforts; and

WHEREAS, the State has the option of various Medicaid expansion demonstration projects it may also consider as part of reform; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, AARP ALASKA endorses Medicaid expansion, recognizing we all have an interest in ensuring that Alaskans are as productive as possible so they can contribute to our communities and economy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that AARP ALASKA strongly urges the Alaska Legislature to expand Medicaid for the benefit of Alaskans and the Alaska economy to take effect in July 2015 and, though reform efforts should be of utmost importance, this work should not delay health care coverage for those Alaskans who would be eligible for Medicaid under expansion.



March 6, 2015

Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 110001
Juneau, AK 99811-0001

Dear Governor Walker,

Ahtna, Incorporated supports your efforts to expand Medicaid in July 2015 for the benefit of Alaskans and the Alaska economy.

Nearly 42,000 of our fellow Alaskans will be eligible for health coverage under Medicaid expansion. Expansion improves health outcomes by reducing the number of uninsured Alaskans by half, improving preventative and primary care access, and providing substance abuse treatment and mental health counseling.

There are significant economic benefits associated with Medicaid expansion, which will bring more than \$1 billion in new federal revenue to our state, 4,000 new jobs, \$1.2 billion more in wages and salaries paid to Alaskans, and \$2.49 billion in increased economic activity over the first five years. We should view Medicaid expansion as an economic driver that will positively impact our state's economy as we are faced with declining oil prices and the resulting budget challenges.

In addition to new federal revenue, savings to the state budget have also been identified in the Department of Corrections, the Chronic & Acute Medical Assistance (CAMA) Program and behavioral health grants. In FY2016, the state would realize \$6.1 million in savings. Medicaid expansion is healthy for Alaskans and healthy for the state's budget. We encourage the continued internal evaluation to identify other potential savings and offsets attributable to expansion and reform.

Federal funds will pay for 100% of services provided to the expansion population through 2016 and will transition to 90% in 2020 and beyond. We support Governor

Walker's position that Alaska's participation is contingent on the federal match remaining at 90%.

Medicaid expansion will serve as a catalyst for meaningful Medicaid reform. We are pleased to hear that the Department of Health & Human Services has issued an RFP for technical assistance related to reform efforts. Though reform of the current Medicaid program should be of utmost importance, reform efforts should not delay health care coverage for those Alaskans who would be eligible for Medicaid under expansion.

Ahtna, Incorporated endorses Medicaid expansion, recognizing we all have an interest in ensuring that Alaskans are as productive as possible so they can contribute to our communities and economy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michelle Anderson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "M" and a stylized "A".

Michelle Anderson
President



The Alaska Behavioral Health Association (ABHA), a member-driven organization of mental health and substance abuse treatment centers across the state of Alaska, **STRONGLY SUPPORTS THE EXPANSION OF MEDICAID.**

It is the right thing to do for our clients and community members, their families, and the State.





CICADA



FAIRBANKS NATIVE ASSOCIATION

Family Centered Services of Alaska





Mat-Su Health Services, Inc.
Integrated Medical and Behavioral Health Care



Sitha Counseling & Prevention Services



**NATIONAL COUNCIL
ON ALCOHOLISM AND
DRUG DEPENDENCE**

**NCADD
JUNEAU, ALASKA**

**Railbelt
Mental
Health &
Addictions**



NorthStar
Behavioral Health



**PETERSBURG MENTAL
HEALTH SERVICES, INC.**

PC+HS

**Peninsula Community
Health Services of Alaska**
MEDICAL • DENTAL • BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

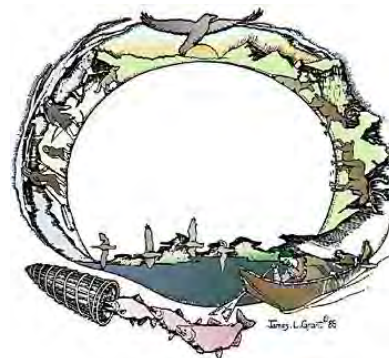
SeaView
Community Services

**Rainforest
Recovery
Center**

**Southcentral
Foundation**



**Volunteers
of America®**
ALASKA



**South Peninsula
Behavioral Health Services, Inc.**

SEARHC
SouthEast Alaska Regional Health Consortium



ALASKA AFL-CIO

3333 Denali Street, Suite 125 · Anchorage, Alaska 99503 · 907-258-6284 · Fax 777-7276

VINCE BELTRAMI
Executive President



JIM DUNCAN
Secretary / Treasurer

March 31, 2015

Representative Paul Seaton
Chairman, HSS Committee
State Capitol Room 102
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: HB 148; MEDICAL ASSISTANCE COVERAGE; REFORM

Dear Representative Seaton,

Please include this correspondence in the bill packet for the referenced bill. Following is an opinion piece that was published in the Alaska Dispatch News on March 23, 2015. I would like to submit this on behalf of the Alaska AFL-CIO and to encourage passage of House Bill 148.

Medicaid expansion: A low-risk boost to Alaska's prosperity

Finally, we are on the precipice of one of the biggest projects since the trans-Alaska pipeline that will create thousands of jobs and give the biggest fiscal boost to our state in a generation.

I'm happy to announce this project will create at least 4,000 permanent jobs all around the state. And by 2020, each \$1 million we spend will generate \$28 million more in the economy. The rate of return on investment is better than anything we could hope to earn on the stock market. This project is responsible and will not damage the environment. No permitting will be required. This project will diversify Alaska's economy and reduce our dependence on oil and gas to fuel our economy. And we can get started right now.

Interested? We certainly are. Today Alaska faces an uncertain future. Foreign governments are manipulating oil prices causing our revenue to fall by more than 50 percent in mere months. When will this madness end? No one really knows. But if it continues, we are going to need every job we can get to keep Alaskans working as we either wait out the storm, or adjust to a new reality.

Every job we have is a mortgage that isn't foreclosed upon or a coffee shop that stays open. This allows people paying property taxes to keep delivering the services we all want and expect.

If I were to tell you there was a pipeline project that would generate 4,000 permanent jobs and have a 28 to 1 return on investment, and that certain elected officials were stopping it, Alaskans might teeter on the verge of riot.

Well, this project isn't a pipeline with all its inherent obstacles to fruition; it is much simpler than that. This project can be done with a simple vote of 21 members of the Alaska State House and 11 members of the Alaska State Senate.

So what is this can't miss project? **Medicaid expansion**. In addition to all the benefits listed above, this bill would allow about 40,000 Alaskans to access badly needed health care.

Gov. Bill Walker is already on board. So are we. And so are lots of groups around the state. Just a few listed in an article from November 2013 are the Anchorage Chamber of Commerce, the State Chamber of Commerce, Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium and Anchorage Faith in Action Together. The Alaska Federation of Natives also resolved to support Medicaid expansion at its 2013 convention. We've also seen many small business owners take it upon themselves to come out in support of the expansion.

The only other somewhat comparable potential project on the horizon is a gas pipeline project. And of course, I support that project wholeheartedly, but let's compare the projects, shall we?

The gas pipeline is a \$65 billion project, maybe more. If it gets the green light, and that's a big if, it won't start for at least three or four years. It's economics are uncertain and the state could be on the hook for billions of dollars. And despite the high risks and high costs associated with this project there are very few Alaskans, and probably no state legislators, who don't support it.

Medicaid expansion, by comparison, is low-risk, and has already been paid for by the collective federal income taxes we all pay. Failure to accept Medicaid expansion in Alaska means other states will gladly take our federal tax dollars for their own expansion.

The federal government will pay all of the cost in the first year, and then will pay the lion's share through 2021. Over a five-year period, the cost to the state would be \$61 million while the federal government would put up the additional \$1.12 billion. This is a smoking deal that will generate an estimated additional \$457 million dollars in economic activity in 2020 alone.

Oh, and about 40,000 Alaskans will also have health care and create the added benefit of driving down premiums for everyone else's health care plans, because folks with insurance won't be getting hit by the impact the uninsured have on those already paying insurance premiums.

At the Alaska AFL-CIO we are all about putting Alaskans to work. This expansion will create 4,000 jobs when we really need them to get through the tough times ahead.

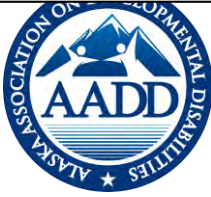
If this were a pipeline, it would be a no-brainer. It still is.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Vince Beltrami
President



AADD
ALASKA ASSOCIATION ON
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
P.O. Box 241742
Anchorage, Alaska 99524

A RESOLUTION URGING THE ALASKA LEGISLATURE TO EXPAND MEDICAID COVERAGE TO IMPROVE THE HEALTH OF ALASKANS AND TO IMPROVE THE ALASKAN ECONOMY.

WHEREAS, nearly 42,000 of our family members, friends and neighbors have the opportunity to gain health care coverage under expansion; and

WHEREAS, Medicaid expansion will improve health outcomes by reducing the number of uninsured Alaskans by half, improving preventive and primary care access, providing substance abuse treatment and mental health counseling, and reducing the mortality rate; and

WHEREAS, Medicaid expansion brings over \$1 billion in new federal revenue into Alaska over the first five years; and

WHEREAS, studies project expansion will likely yield 4,000 new jobs, \$1.2 billion more in wages and salaries paid to Alaskans, and \$2.49 billion in increased economic activity throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, with expansion the State would save \$6.1 million in FY2016 by using federal funds to pay for health services currently paid for with state general funds; and,

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WHEREAS, the State's continued participation is contingent upon maintaining the 90% match; and

WHEREAS, Medicaid expansion will significantly reduce the burden of uncompensated care, which was over \$90 million at non-tribal Alaska hospitals in 2013; and

WHEREAS, leveraging the federal resources that come with expansion is the State's biggest opportunity to finance reform efforts; and

WHEREAS, Medicaid expansion will serve as a catalyst for meaningful Medicaid reform; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, AADD (Alaska Association on Developmental Disabilities) endorses Medicaid expansion, recognizing we all have an interest in ensuring that Alaskans are as productive as possible so they can contribute to our communities and economy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that AADD (Alaska Association on Developmental Disabilities) strongly urges the Alaska Legislature to expand Medicaid for the benefit of Alaskans and the Alaska economy to take effect in July 2015 and, though reform efforts should be of utmost importance, this work should not delay health care coverage for those Alaskans who would be eligible for Medicaid under expansion.



March 25, 2015

Office of the Governor
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol Building
Juneau, AK 99811-0001

Dear Governor Walker and the Alaska State Legislature,

The Alaska Brain Injury Network supports Medicaid expansion and reform. These efforts will allow more low-income Alaskans, seniors, and people with disabilities to receive basic health insurance, while improving the efficiency and effectiveness of Alaska's Medicaid health care service system.

The State of Alaska will benefit from Medicaid expansion and reform in many ways. \$1.1 billion in federal dollars will become available to support expansion; 4,000 new jobs are predicted; \$1.2 billion more in wages and salaries to Alaskans; 40,000 uninsured Alaskans will be eligible for basic health care coverage.

Medicaid expansion is the catalyst for Medicaid reform. Both efforts will improve the efficiency and effectiveness of Alaska's current Medicaid health care service system and make it sustainable. Innovative models of care and other reforms can create efficiencies that can save money, reduce fraud and waste, remove ineffective services, and reduce unnecessary spending.

We support reforms that would include payment reform, patient centered medical/health homes, care management, expanded telemedicine to improve access to care and reduce travel costs, reduced overutilization of emergency room services, increased fraud prevention and waste reduction efforts, coordination with the Alaska tribal health system, interagency and interdepartmental collaborations to leverage human and financial resources, improved use of patient health information to achieve positive health outcomes, increased access to preventative services and incentives for healthy behaviors, cost-sharing requirements for certain enrollees and certain services, increased access to supportive services to reduce emergency, institutional, and acute care costs

The Alaska Brain Injury Networks supports the 1915(i) Home and Community-Based Services State Plan Option. A person qualifying for 1915(i) state plan option will have access to home and community based services that help him or her maintain a healthy, stable life through supported housing, employment/training, and appropriate health care services. The 1915(i) state plan option opens eligibility for home and community-based services, that were previously not open — including



services for people with behavioral health and other brain-based disorders. The 1915(i) state plan option has been used by other states to reduce recidivism by providing appropriate services to people cycling through the correctional system, and by increasing access to trauma-informed care, peer support, supported housing, supported employment, and recovery services. Eligibility requirements for the 1915(i) state plan option will incorporate needs-based criteria that look at medical risk factors and cognitive and adaptive function. Adopting the 1915(i) state plan option, will allow for the state to receive a federal Medicaid match for lower-cost community services and supports which can reduce the utilization of higher-cost emergency and institutional services.

The Alaska Brain Injury Network supports community-based services that include case management, in-home assistance with activities of daily living, psycho-social rehabilitation services, pre-vocational supports, education and training, supported employment, assistance with getting and maintaining housing, peer support, mobile crisis intervention, intensive crisis respite and short term crisis respite support, family and caregiver training and supports, transitional services for individuals returning from foster care, juvenile justice, residential treatment, or incarceration

Thank you for your consideration of this issue, which is very critical to all Alaskans.

Sincerely,

Tawny Buck
Executive Director

Dr. Adam Grove
Board Chair

Medicaid Expansion – It's *Your* Business

The issue of Medicaid expansion in Alaska is finally garnering the attention of Alaska businesses. After all, the new federal health care law makes health care everyone's business. This issue is not alone in affecting the business environment in Alaska.

Alaska Chamber members recently met and adopted 40 policy positions. When asked to prioritize these policies, members selected opposition to the referendum to repeal oil tax reform, support for comprehensive workers' compensation reform, and support for Medicaid expansion as priorities.

The Alaska Chamber Board ratified these priorities and decided to also keep the high cost of energy, permitting efficiencies and access to resources as priorities. While each of these top priorities is distinct, the fundamental underlying issue is the same – the cost of doing business in Alaska.

The Alaska Chamber's core mission is to make Alaska the best place to do business. It's about making Alaska competitive and there are many factors businesses consider when deciding how much and where to invest.

The decision of the Alaska Chamber to support Medicaid expansion is a pragmatic one. Like it, love it, or hate it, the Affordable Care Act is the law of the land and businesses have no choice but to deal with it. Most importantly, Alaska businesses are looking for ways to stay in Alaska and grow our economy. To stay in the competitive game, Alaska businesses are looking to reduce and contain costs.

Given the federal fiscal situation, and the track record the feds have with keeping commitments, Alaska Chamber members support Medicaid expansion with caveats. Those caveats include support for a fail-safe provision and/or supporting an alternative to Medicaid expansion. A fail-safe provision means that if the feds renege on their funding commitment, Alaska will opt out of the expansion. Alaska Chamber members are also open to finding a private sector alternative to address Alaska's uninsured under the new federal law.

As taxpayers, all Alaskans are subject to the increased federal taxes established to fund the Affordable Care Act. If Alaska does not expand Medicaid, Alaskan's taxes will pay for the uninsured in other states. Alaska businesses and all insured Alaskans will bear even higher insurance premiums and health care costs to cover those uninsured.



Currently, the cost of care for uninsured Alaskans who are unable to pay for their care are covered by those who are insured. In the health care industry it is called uncompensated care. Employers providing insurance to their employees and individuals buying health insurance pay for this uncompensated care in the form of increased premiums costs.

If Alaska does not expand Medicaid, we will continue to pay these increased premiums as well as pay the new federal taxes. If Alaska expands Medicaid, a portion of the federal taxes Alaskans pay will return to the state and uncompensated care losses will decrease. Alaska Chamber members believe this will result in lower or slower growth of health care premiums.

It's worth noting that the Alaska Chamber also supports a reduction in the State of Alaska's spending levels to a more sustainable level of \$5.5 billion in total general fund spending. Current state spending levels are unsustainably high and are damaging to Alaska's competitiveness and our economic future.

Make no mistake, even with expected cost offsets, expanding Medicaid increases costs for the State of Alaska. How then can the Alaska Chamber support Medicaid expansion? It's simple. Alaska businesses, which fund the state's coffers, simply can not afford to pay once, much less twice, to provide health care for Alaska's uninsured.

To compete, to grow, and to secure a future for our state, Alaska businesses know that costs must be controlled. This means the Alaska Chamber promotes policies that create a good business environment. We support reasonable tax structures, sustainable state budgets, efficient permitting systems, increased access to resources, meaningful changes to workers' comp and taking a pragmatic approach in response to the Affordable Care Act. That's our business, and it's your business too.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading 'Rachael Petro'.

Rachael Petro
President & CEO
Alaska Chamber of Commerce



**TITLE: A RESOLUTION URGING THE ALASKA LEGISLATURE TO
EXPAND MEDICAID COVERAGE TO IMPROVE THE HEALTH OF
ALASKANS AND TO IMPROVE THE ALASKAN ECONOMY.**

WHEREAS, nearly 42,000 of our family members, friends and neighbors have the opportunity to gain health care coverage under expansion; and

WHEREAS, Medicaid expansion will improve health outcomes by reducing the number of uninsured Alaskans by half, improving preventive and primary care access, providing substance abuse treatment and mental health counseling, and reducing the mortality rate; and

WHEREAS, access to medical insurance has a direct impact on maintaining housing for the working poor in Alaska; and

WHEREAS, Medicaid expansion brings over \$1 billion in new federal revenue into Alaska over the first five years; and

WHEREAS, studies project expansion will likely yield 4,000 new jobs, \$1.2 billion more in wages and salaries paid to Alaskans, and \$2.49 billion in increased economic activity throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, with expansion the State would save \$6.1 million in FY2016 by using federal funds to pay for health services currently paid for with state general funds; and,

WHEREAS, federal funds will pay for 100% of services provided to the expansion population through 2016 and will transition to 90% in 2020 and beyond; and

WHEREAS, the State's continued participation is contingent upon maintaining the 90% match; and

WHEREAS, Medicaid expansion will significantly reduce the burden of uncompensated care, which was over \$90 million at non-tribal Alaska hospitals in 2013; and

WHEREAS, Medicaid expansion will serve as a catalyst for meaningful Medicaid reform; and

WHEREAS, leveraging the federal resources that come with expansion is the State's biggest opportunity to finance reform efforts; and

WHEREAS, the State has the option of various Medicaid expansion demonstration projects it may also consider as part of reform; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that The Alaska Coalition on Housing and Homelessness endorses Medicaid expansion, recognizing we all have an interest in ensuring that Alaskans are as productive as possible so they can contribute to our communities and economy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Alaska Coalition on Housing and Homelessness strongly urges the Alaska Legislature to expand Medicaid for the benefit of Alaskans and the Alaska economy to take effect in July 2015 and, though reform efforts should be of utmost importance, this work should not delay health care coverage for those Alaskans who would be eligible for Medicaid under expansion.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott Ciambor".

Scott Ciambor, Board Chair
April 8, 2015

April 10, 2015

The Honorable Governor Walker
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Governor Walker

The Alaska Early Childhood Advocacy Group recognizes and supports Medicaid Reform and Expansion. Our group represents Alaska AEYC, Alaska Head Start Association, Alaska Infant Learning Program Association, Best Beginnings, Parents as Teachers State Office and thread. AECAG strongly urges the Alaska Legislature to expand Medicaid in July 2015 for the benefit of Alaskans and the Alaska economy. As Early Childhood Advocates, we understand that “This is the Right Thing To Do!”

Nearly 42,000 of our fellow Alaskans will be eligible for health coverage under Medicaid expansion. Expansion improves health outcomes by reducing the number of uninsured Alaskans by half, improving preventative and primary care access, and providing substance abuse treatment and mental health counseling.

Medicaid expansion will serve as a catalyst for meaningful Medicaid reform. We are pleased to hear that the Department of Health & Human Services has issued an RFP for technical assistance related to reform efforts. Though reform of the current Medicaid program should be of utmost importance, reform efforts should not delay health care coverage for those Alaskans who would be eligible for Medicaid under expansion.

Alaska Early Childhood Advocacy Group endorses Medicaid expansion, recognizing we all have an interest in ensuring that Alaskans are as productive as possible so they can contribute to our communities and economy.

Sincerely,

Margaret Bauer
Chair, AECAG





ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES, INC.
2013 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 13-18

- TITLE:** A RESOLUTION URGING THE GOVERNOR AND THE ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE TO ENSURE THAT THE FULL IMPACT OF POTENTIAL MEDICAID EXPANSION IS CONSIDERED AND TO TAKE COMPLETE ADVANTAGE OF FEDERAL RESOURCES TO EXPAND MEDICAID COVERAGE TO IMPROVE THE HEALTH OF ALASKANS AND TO IMPROVE THE ALASKAN ECONOMY
- WHEREAS:** The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska and its membership includes 118 federally-recognized tribes, 133 village corporations, 13 regional corporations, and 11 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and run federal and state programs; and
- WHEREAS:** The mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and
- WHEREAS:** Alaska has the option to expand Medicaid benefits by increasing the income eligibility level to 138% of the federal poverty level; and
- WHEREAS:** Independent analyses indicate significant benefits to individual Alaskans and to the Alaskan economy; and
- WHEREAS:** Approximately 40,000 more Alaskans (including 16,000 Alaska Natives and American Indians) would be covered by Medicaid; and
- WHEREAS:** The increase in eligible beneficiaries would provide increased access to care, patient travel and services that individuals are not able to afford, such as glasses, certain dental and other procedures; and
- WHEREAS:** Increasing access to care leads to healthier Alaskans; and
- WHEREAS:** The State would receive \$1.1 billion in federal revenues for the first seven years of implementation (2014-2020) for a net state contribution of \$23.4 million (\$90.7 million minus \$67.3 in offsets); and
- WHEREAS:** 4,000 new jobs would be created with \$1.2 billion in Alaskan wages and salaries throughout Alaska (2014-2020); and

WHEREAS: The multiplier effect of additional resources will benefit the State economy and all Alaskans by an estimated \$2.49 billion in increased economic activity throughout Alaska (2014-2020); and

WHEREAS: Medicaid expansion would benefit health care providers and payers, who are effectively required to subsidize care for uninsured and underinsured patients as well as businesses and other patients who support those subsidies through higher premiums, deductibles and copays. The uninsured and underinsured patients now seek care in the most expensive settings, often after their condition has become more serious and complicated than it would have been if they had access to primary care; and

WHEREAS: The federal match to the State of Alaska would be 100% for 2014-2016, then gradually transition to 90% by 2020 and beyond; and

WHEREAS: This federal match is consistent with the federal match for other programs (roads at 9%; runways at 5%); and

WHEREAS: The State has the option of Medicaid Expansion authorization contingent upon receiving a federal match rate of at least 90%; and

WHEREAS: The State has the option of various Medicaid Expansion demonstration projects it may also consider

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates to the 2013 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives Inc., that that the Alaska Federation of Natives urges the Governor and the Alaska Legislature to continue their efforts to conduct responsible, thorough analyses of potential models for implementing Medicaid expansion to determine their full potential impact on Alaska, including potential improvement to the health status of Alaskans who currently lack sufficient health coverage, enhanced support to businesses involved in the health care industry, the multiplier effect on Alaska's economy, the potential ability to reduce or eliminate cross-subsidies for health care now provided to the uninsured and underinsured and financing models for Alaska

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska Federation of Natives urges the Governor and the Alaska State Legislature to adopt Medicaid expansion effective January 1, 2014 so that so that Alaska residents can benefit from the services at the earliest opportunity.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall be the policy of AFN until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.

SUBMITTED BY: COUNCIL FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF ALASKA NATIVES

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION:





Alaska Geriatric Exchange Network

An Association of Advocates and Service Providers for Older Alaskans

Resolution

TITLE: A RESOLUTION URGING THE ALASKA LEGISLATURE TO EXPAND MEDICAID COVERAGE TO IMPROVE THE HEALTH OF ALASKANS AND TO IMPROVE THE ALASKAN ECONOMY.

WHEREAS, nearly 42,000 of our family members, friends and neighbors have the opportunity to gain health care coverage under expansion; and

WHEREAS, Medicaid expansion will improve health outcomes by reducing the number of uninsured Alaskans by half, improving preventive and primary care access, providing substance abuse treatment and mental health counseling, and reducing the mortality rate; and

WHEREAS, Medicaid expansion brings over \$1 billion in new federal revenue into Alaska over the first five years; and

WHEREAS, studies project expansion will likely yield 4,000 new jobs, \$1.2 billion more in wages and salaries paid to Alaskans, and \$2.49 billion in increased economic activity throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, with expansion the State would save \$6.1 million in FY2016 by using federal funds to pay for health services currently paid for with state general funds; and,

WHEREAS, federal funds will pay for 100% of services provided to the expansion population through 2016 and will transition to 90% in 2020 and beyond; and

WHEREAS, the State's continued participation is contingent upon maintaining the 90% match; and

WHEREAS, Medicaid expansion will significantly reduce the burden of uncompensated care, which was over \$90 million at non-tribal Alaska hospitals in 2013; and

WHEREAS, Medicaid expansion will serve as a catalyst for meaningful Medicaid reform; and

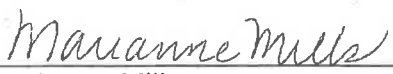
WHEREAS, leveraging the federal resources that come with expansion is the State's biggest opportunity to finance reform efforts; and

WHEREAS, the State has the option of various Medicaid expansion demonstration projects it may also consider as part of reform; and

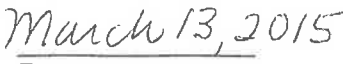
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, AgeNet endorses Medicaid expansion, recognizing we all have an interest in ensuring that Alaskans are as productive as possible so they can contribute to our communities and economy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that AgeNet strongly urges the Alaska Legislature to expand Medicaid for the benefit of Alaskans and the Alaska economy to take effect in July 2015 and, though reform efforts should be of utmost importance, this work should not delay health care coverage for those Alaskans who would be eligible for Medicaid under expansion.

The undersigned President of AgeNet hereby certifies that the Members of Agenet duly adopted this resolution on March 12, 2015.



Marianne Mills
President
AgeNet



Date

**Advisory Board on Alcoholism
and Drug Abuse**



Alaska Mental Health Board

ALASKA MENTAL HEALTH BOARD
ADVISORY BOARD ON ALCOHOLISM AND DRUG ABUSE
431 NORTH FRANKLIN STREET, SUITE 200
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801
(907) 465-8920

March 19, 2015

Governor Bill Walker
State Capitol, 3rd Floor
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Governor Walker,

The Alaska Mental Health Board and Advisory Board on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse support Medicaid Expansion and Reform so that more low-income Alaskans (earning less than \$9.76/hour) who experience a behavioral health disorder (mental illness and/or substance use disorders) can receive basic health insurance.

The State of Alaska currently spends millions of dollars for uninsured, low-income and disabled citizens using emergency levels of care. Alaskans living without adequate health care are more likely to use these expensive acute care services, like hospital emergency rooms, psychiatric hospitals, and nursing homes. They are also more likely to end up in prison or jail as a result of un-treated behavioral health conditions. State and local governments will always pay — either in the end for more costly acute care, or up front for less costly preventative services.

Alaskans with behavioral health disorders are at higher risk for being uninsured. The services available under Medicaid Expansion will offer more effective and less expensive solutions. A person with a disability is more likely to hold down a job, maintain a stable household, and contribute positively to his or her community when basic health care needs are met.

The Boards also support Reform efforts that will improve the efficiency and effectiveness of Alaska's current Medicaid health care service system and make it sustainable. We support measures designed to create efficiencies in the Medicaid health care delivery system that will save the state money, reduce fraud and waste, remove ineffective services, and reduce unnecessary spending.

Thank you for your leadership and efforts to support the health of all Alaskans.

Sincerely

J. Kate Burkhart
Executive Director

Medicaid expansion may serve as a catalyst for meaningful Medicaid reform and we support these discussions. We are pleased to hear that the Department of Health and Human Services has issued an RFP for technical assistance related to reform efforts. Though reform of the current Medicaid program should be of utmost importance, reform efforts should not delay health care coverage for those Alaskans who would be eligible for Medicaid under expansion.

The Aleutian Housing Authority endorses Medicaid expansion, recognizing that we all have an interest in ensuring that Alaskans are as productive as possible so they can contribute to our communities and economy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dan Duame', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Dan Duame
Executive Director



217 Second Street, Suite 200 • Juneau, Alaska 99801
Tel (907) 588-1325 • Fax (907) 463-5480 • www.akml.org

**ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS RESOLUTION #2015-01

**A RESOLUTION URGING THE ALASKA LEGISLATURE TO EXPAND MEDICAID
COVERAGE TO IMPROVE THE HEALTH OF ALASKANS AND TO IMPROVE THE
ALASKAN ECONOMY**

WHEREAS, nearly 42,000 of our family members, friends and neighbors have the opportunity to gain health care coverage under expansion; and

WHEREAS, Medicaid expansion will improve health outcomes by reducing the number of uninsured Alaskans by half, improving preventive and primary care access, providing substance abuse treatment and mental health counseling, and reducing the mortality rate; and

WHEREAS, Medicaid expansion brings over \$1 billion in new federal revenue into Alaska over the first five years; and

WHEREAS, studies project expansion will likely yield 4,000 new jobs, \$1.2 billion more in wages and salaries paid to Alaskans, and \$2.49 billion in new federal economic activity throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, with expansion, the State would save \$8.1 million in FY2016 by using federal funds to pay for health services currently paid for with state general funds; and

WHEREAS, federal funds will pay for 100% of services provided to the expansion population through 2016 and will transition to 90% in 2020 and beyond; and

WHEREAS, Medicaid expansion must absolutely only move forward side-by-side with Medicaid reform, as the current system is known to have many substantial problems; and

WHEREAS, the State's continued participation is contingent upon maintaining the 90% match; and

WHEREAS, Medicaid expansion will significantly reduce the burden of uncompensated care, which was over \$90 million at non-tribal Alaska hospitals in 2013; and

WHEREAS, Medicaid expansion will serve as a catalyst for meaningful Medicaid reform; and

WHEREAS, leveraging the federal resources that come with expansion is the State's biggest opportunity to finance reform efforts; and

WHEREAS, the State has the option of various Medicaid expansion demonstration projects it may also consider as part of reform.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League Board of Directors endorses Medicaid expansion, recognizing we all have an interest in ensuring that Alaskans are as productive as possible, so they can contribute to our communities and economy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League strongly urges the Alaska Legislature to expand Medicaid for the benefit of Alaskans and the Alaska economy to take effect in July 2015 and, though reform efforts should be of utmost importance, this work should not delay health care coverage for those Alaskans who would be eligible for Medicaid under expansion.

Signed: _____


Linda Murphy, President, Alaska Municipal League

Attest: _____


Kathie Wasserman, Executive Director, Alaska Municipal League



FYI HV
LO
OHB

Please date
Simp
3/12

RESOLUTION NO. #2015-1

Sponsored by: Alaska Native Brotherhood and Alaska Native Sisterhood
Glacier Valley

TITLE: A RESOLUTION URGING THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF ALASKA AND THE ALASKA LEGISLATURE TO EXPAND MEDICAID COVERAGE TO IMPROVE THE HEALTH OF ALASKANS AND TO IMPROVE THE ALASKAN ECONOMY.

WHEREAS, nearly 42,000 of our family members, friends and neighbors have the opportunity to gain health care coverage under expansion; and

WHEREAS, Medicaid expansion will improve health outcomes by reducing the number of uninsured Alaskans by half, improving preventive and primary care access, providing substance abuse treatment and mental health counseling, and reducing the mortality rate; and

WHEREAS, Medicaid expansion brings over \$1 billion in new federal revenue into Alaska over the first five years which will substantially improve the State's fiscal position; and

WHEREAS, studies project expansion will likely yield 4,000 new jobs, \$1.2 billion more in wages and salaries paid to Alaskans, and \$2.49 billion in increased economic activity throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, with expansion the State would save \$6.1 million in FY2016 by using federal funds to pay for health services currently paid for with state general funds; and,

WHEREAS, federal funds will pay for 100% of services provided to the expansion population through 2016 and will transition to 90% in 2020 and beyond; and

WHEREAS, the State's continued participation is contingent upon maintaining the 90% match; and

WHEREAS, Medicaid expansion will significantly reduce the burden of uncompensated care, which was over \$90 million at non-tribal Alaska hospitals in 2013; and

WHEREAS, Medicaid expansion would benefit health care providers and payers, who are effectively required to subsidize care for uninsured and underinsured patients as well as businesses and other patients who support those subsidies through higher premiums, deductibles and copays; and

WHEREAS, The uninsured and underinsured patients now seek care in the most expensive settings, often after their condition has become more serious and complicated than it would have been if they had access to primary care

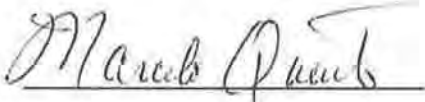
WHEREAS, Medicaid expansion will serve as a catalyst for meaningful Medicaid reform; and

WHEREAS, leveraging the federal resources that come with expansion is the State's biggest opportunity to finance reform efforts; and

WHEREAS, the State has the option of various Medicaid expansion demonstration projects it may also consider as part of reform; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Alaska Native Brotherhood Glacier Valley Camp 70 and the Alaska Native Sisterhood Glacier Valley Camp 70 endorse Medicaid expansion, recognizing we all have an interest in ensuring that Alaskans are as productive as possible so they can contribute to our communities and economy; and

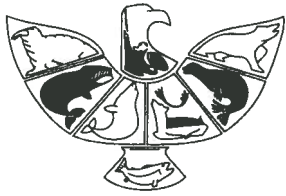
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Alaska Native Brotherhood Glacier Valley Camp 70 and the Alaska Native Sisterhood Glacier Valley Camp 70 strongly urge the Alaska Legislature to expand Medicaid for the benefit of Alaskans and the Alaska economy to take effect in July 2015 and, though reform efforts should be of utmost importance, this work should not delay health care coverage for those Alaskans who would be eligible for Medicaid under expansion.



Marcelo Quinto, President
ANB Glacier Valley Camp 70



Barbara Fujimoto, President
ANS Glacier Valley Camp 70



Alaska Native Health Board

THE VOICE OF ALASKA TRIBAL HEALTH SINCE 1968

■ 907.562.6006 ■ 907.563.2001 · 4000 Ambassador Dr, Suite 101 · Anchorage, Alaska 99508 · www.anhb.org

March 12, 2015

Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 110001
Juneau, AK 99811-0001

Dear Governor Walker,

On behalf of the Alaska Native Health Board (ANHB), I write to support your efforts to expand Medicaid in July 2015 for the benefit of Alaskans and the Alaska economy.

Established in 1968, ANHB serves as the statewide voice on Alaska Native health issues. ANHB represents 25 tribal health providers operating compact/contracts under public law 93-638. Representing 229 federally-recognized tribes and working on behalf of over 145,000 Alaska Native people, ANHB's purpose is to promote the spiritual, physical, mental, social, and cultural well-being and pride of Alaska Native people.

Nearly 42,000 of our fellow Alaskans will be eligible for health coverage under Medicaid expansion. Expansion improves health outcomes by reducing the number of uninsured Alaskans by half, improving preventative and primary care access, and providing substance abuse treatment and mental health counseling.

There are significant economic benefits associated with Medicaid expansion, which will bring more than \$1 billion in new federal revenue to our state, 4,000 new jobs, \$1.2 billion more in wages and salaries paid to Alaskans, and \$2.49 billion in increased economic activity over the first five years. We should view Medicaid expansion as an economic driver that will positively impact our state's economy as we are faced with declining oil prices and the resulting budget challenges.

In addition to new federal revenue, savings to the state budget have also been identified in the Department of Corrections, the Chronic & Acute Medical Assistance (CAMA) Program and behavioral health grants. In FY2016, the state would realize \$6.1 million in savings. Medicaid expansion is healthy for Alaskans and healthy for the state's budget. We encourage the continued internal evaluation to identify other potential savings and offsets attributable to expansion and reform.

Federal funds will pay for 100% of services provided to the expansion population through 2016 and will transition to 90% in 2020 and beyond. We support Governor Walker's position that Alaska's participation is contingent on the federal match remaining at 90%.

ALASKA NATIVE TRIBAL
HEALTH CONSORTIUM

ALEUTIAN PRIBILOF
ISLANDS ASSOCIATION

ARCTIC SLOPE
NATIVE ASSOCIATION

BRISTOL BAY AREA
HEALTH CORPORATION

CHUGACHMIUT

COPPER RIVER
NATIVE ASSOCIATION

COUNCIL OF
ATHABASCAN
TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS

EASTERN ALEUTIAN
TRIBES

KARLUK IRA
TRIBAL COUNCIL

KENAITZE INDIAN TRIBE

KETCHIKAN
INDIAN COMMUNITY

KODIAK AREA
NATIVE ASSOCIATION

MANILAQ ASSOCIATION

METLAKATLA INDIAN
COMMUNITY

MT. SANFORD
TRIBAL CONSORTIUM

NATIVE VILLAGE
OF EKLUTNA

NATIVE VILLAGE
OF TYONEK

NINILCHIK
TRADITIONAL COUNCIL

NORTON SOUND
HEALTH CORPORATION

SELDOVIA
VILLAGE TRIBE

SOUTHCENTRAL
FOUNDATION

SOUTHEAST ALASKA
REGIONAL HEALTH
CONSORTIUM

TANANA CHIEFS
CONFERENCE

YUKON-KUSKOKWIM
HEALTH CORPORATION

VALDEZ NATIVE TRIBE

Medicaid expansion will serve as a catalyst for meaningful Medicaid reform. We are pleased to hear that the Department of Health & Human Services has issued an RFP for technical assistance related to reform efforts. Though reform of the current Medicaid program should be of utmost importance, reform efforts should not delay health care coverage for those Alaskans who would be eligible for Medicaid under expansion.

The Alaska Native Health Board endorses Medicaid expansion, recognizing we all have an interest in ensuring that Alaskans are as productive as possible so they can contribute to our communities and economy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Lincoln A. Bean Sr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Lincoln Bean, Sr., Chairman
Alaska Native Health Board



Andy Teuber
ANTHC Chairman and President

Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium
4010 Antoniadis Drive
Anchorage, Alaska 99508
(907) 273-1900
anthc@anthc.org

March 12, 2015

The Honorable Bill Walker
Governor of Alaska
Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 110001
Juneau, AK 99811-0001

Dear Governor Walker,

The Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC) fully supports your efforts to expand Medicaid by July 2015 for the benefit of Alaskans and the Alaska economy.

Nearly 42,000 of our fellow Alaskans will be eligible for health coverage under Medicaid expansion. Expansion improves health outcomes by reducing the number of uninsured Alaskans by half, improving preventative and primary care access, and providing substance abuse treatment and mental health counseling.

There are significant economic benefits associated with Medicaid expansion, which will bring more than \$1 billion in new federal revenue to our state, 4,000 new jobs, \$1.2 billion more in wages and salaries paid to Alaskans, and \$2.49 billion in increased economic activity over the first five years. We should view Medicaid expansion as an economic driver that will positively impact our state's economy as we are faced with declining oil prices and the resulting budget challenges.

In addition to new federal revenue, savings to the state budget have also been identified in the Department of Corrections, the Chronic & Acute Medical Assistance (CAMA) Program and behavioral health grants. In FY2016, the state would realize \$6.1 million in savings. Medicaid expansion is healthy for Alaskans and healthy for the state's budget. We encourage the continued internal evaluation to identify other potential savings and offsets attributable to expansion and reform.

Federal funds will pay for 100% of services provided to the expansion population through 2016 and will transition to 90% in 2020 and beyond. We support the administration's position that Alaska's participation is contingent on the federal match remaining at 90%.

Medicaid expansion will serve as a catalyst for meaningful Medicaid reform. We are pleased to hear that the Department of Health & Human Services has issued an RFP for technical assistance related to reform efforts. Though reform of the current Medicaid program should be of utmost importance, reform efforts should not delay health care coverage for those Alaskans who would be eligible for Medicaid under expansion.

ANTHC's endorsement of Medicaid expansion recognizes we all have an interest in ensuring that Alaskans are as productive as possible so they can contribute to our communities and economy.

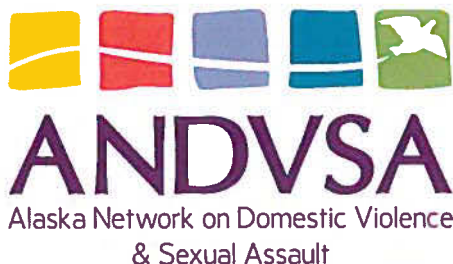
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Andy Teuber", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Andy Teuber
Chairman and President

Main Office

130 Seward St #209
Juneau, Alaska 99801
Phone: (907) 586-3650
Fax: (907) 463-4493
www.andvsa.org



Pro Bono Office

PO Box 6631
Sitka, Alaska 99835
Phone: (907) 747-7545
Fax: (907) 747-7547

December 2, 2014

Governor Bill Walker
State of Alaska
P.O. Box 110001
Juneau, AK 99811-0001

Dear Governor Walker:

Congratulations on being chosen to serve as the 13th Governor of the great State of Alaska. I look forward to working with you and your administration on issues important to victims and survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault and teen dating violence.

This letter is intended to introduce you to our work and to provide you with a perspective from the Alaskans who are doing the work and to inform you as to how a difference is being made in our state. Much has changed and begun changing in Alaska around domestic and sexual violence. Numerous partnerships and collaborations have occurred between state departments, tribes, non-profits and local community organizations and individuals.

The Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (ANDVSA) is a 501(c) (3) membership based non-profit organization comprised of community based direct service domestic violence and sexual assault intervention and prevention programs. The following outlines our plan for moving forward with addressing the epidemic of domestic violence and sexual assault in Alaska and advancing our community-based prevention efforts. We sincerely hope that you and your administration will join us in continuing this endeavor.

I. Alaska National Guard

First, I want to thank you for turning the light on what was occurring within the Alaska National Guard, when first approached by a chaplain last fall; and for speaking out against the retaliation, breaches of confidentiality and privacy that victims endured, while the chain of command turned a blind eye and retaliated against whistleblowers. From what little we have learned from media accounts, heavily redacted public records, and a federal report by an investigatory team with no subpoena power, I fear this is only the tip of the iceberg.

Member Programs

Anchorage AWAIC, STAR Barrow AWIC Bethel TWC Cordova CFRC Dillingham SAFE
Fairbanks IAC Homer SPHH Juneau AWARE Kenai LeeShore Center Ketchikan WISH Kodiak KWRCC
Kotzebue MFCC Nome BSWG Seward SCS Sitka SAFV Unalaska USAFV Valdez AVV

Many of our community-based programs provide direct services to military members, including members of the Alaska National Guard and to civilian sexual assault survivors victimized by Alaska National Guard members. We have seen firsthand the trauma and hopelessness victims feel when reports of sexual assault go unheeded and the chain of command acts more as a facilitator of the abuse than supporting victims and holding perpetrators accountable.

As you begin your first term as Governor, I am writing to ask that you take immediate action to begin implementing the reforms needed to bring transparency, accountability and enhanced protections to victims of sexual assault and whistleblowers who bravely come forward. These include:

1. Establish penalties for those who violate victims' confidentiality;
2. Establish a reporting structure outside of the chain command;
3. Review the relevant whistleblower laws and insure that adequate protections exist against retaliation to protect those brave men and women who come forward;
4. Immediately release the full OCI investigative report, protecting victim's privacy where necessary;
5. Order your attorney general to fully comply with the pending public records requests and personally review the already released heavily redacted documents to determine whether the level and extent of redaction is necessary to protect victim confidentiality or if it is an excess use of executive privilege;
6. Order your attorney general to immediately appoint a special prosecutor with full investigatory and subpoena powers to determine the extent of the problem, the extent that the Administration acted or failed to act on reported sexual assaults in the Alaska National Guard and whether criminal laws or ethical laws were violated; and the extent to which victims' constitutional rights to privacy and due process were violated;

I think we can agree that we owe it to Alaskans to know the true nature of events surrounding the Alaska National Guard. We need to show our brave men and women who have committed to serving Alaskans through their guard service that we are listening to their stories and we will take action so that this will never happen to another Alaskan Guard member.

II. Medicaid expansion

We fully support your pledge to expand Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act. Expansion would reach tens of thousands of Alaskans, many of whom are victims of violence. It is common for instances of abuse to first be detected by medical providers, who then refer women and children to appropriate services in their communities. In this regard, access to regular medical care is one of our first screening and referral tools. But beyond increasing knowledge of and referrals to community resources, an increase in Medicaid eligibility under the Affordable Care Act will allow women to make safe choices. When women know they have resources to adequately provide for their children, they are more likely to take steps to leave abusive situations. Accepting Medicaid expansion will afford such security to scores of working mothers.

According to Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC), approximately 41,000 more low-income uninsured Alaskans will benefit from Medicaid expansion. This will undoubtedly increase Alaska's economy by creating an estimated 4,000 new jobs and increasing economic activity by an estimated \$2.49 billion with minimal implementation costs to the state in the first year. The cost benefit analysis favoring expanding Medicaid access is undeniable.

III. Denali KidCare

In addition to accepting expanding Medicaid funds, we would ask that you consider expanding Denali KidCare to 200% of the federal poverty level. This would further close the gap for uninsured Alaskans with children that will not fall under expanded Medicaid eligibility under the Affordable Care Act. As you may know, former Senator Bettye Davis passed legislation in 2010 to do exactly this. It passed both bodies of the legislature but was later vetoed by Governor Parnell on ideological grounds.

IV. Funding of Community Based Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Agencies

Funding of shelter programs is critical as shelters are the cornerstone of crisis intervention providing supportive counseling, safety planning, assisting victims with getting protective orders, civil legal assistance, housing, and referrals to other community based partners, such as substance abuse treatment and mental health counselling. Programs provide matching funds to leverage both federal and state money and also provide match through the in-kind volunteer services of 3,027 Alaskans, totaling 78,576 of hours service in FY 13 volunteering at the shelters; a true testament to the importance of these facilities in our communities. Alaskans have also been generous in donating foods, supplies and clothing to the shelter programs.

On September 17, 2013, 18 out of 19 domestic violence programs across Alaska participated in the 2013 National Census on Domestic Violence Services. The figures below represent the information provided by the 18 participating programs about services provided during the 24-hour survey period. The results are:

- 618 victims served in one day
 - 268 in shelter
 - 68 in program transitional housing
 - 282 adults and children received non-residential services, including individual counselling, legal advocacy, and children's support groups
- 97 crisis line calls answered
- 51 unmet requests for services due to lack of resources

For FY 2013, a total of 9,330 victims of domestic violence and sexual assault were served at community-based victim service agencies. Shelters throughout the state offered over 99,524 shelter nights. 90% of program participants self-reported learning more about resources and help available to themselves and their families and how to access those resources from the assistance they received and 87% of program participants reporting knowing more or different intervention safety strategies than they did prior to receiving services.

The Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (CDVSA) is the main funder for core services in Alaska. The CDVSA currently funds 20 agencies located throughout regional hubs in Alaska. Although the programs are placed in regional hubs where there is greater access to services, all programs have large service areas that include the villages in their region. For example, the Aiding Women in Rape Emergencies (AWARE) here in Juneau, also provides services to 9 northern southeast communities and villages. Some programs have service areas equivalent to the geographic size of one or more states in the lower 48.

In addition, many programs and villages in their service areas are only accessible via boat or plane. Women and children in these villages are often transported by the DVSA program to the hub community for services, shelter and safety. This can be a significant expense for programs outside of the Anchorage bowl. For example, a child who is sexually abused, who is located in a North Slope Borough village, must be transported first to Barrow, and then to Fairbanks to receive a medical forensic examination and services at the child advocacy center. Arctic Women In Crisis (AWIC), the North Slope Borough shelter, pays the costs for transporting these victims to the closest place for services and safety in Fairbanks at significant cost to the program.

During Governor Parnell's tenure, shelters saw a minimal increase in funding to the CDVSA each year to maintain the prior year's level of service. For FY15, the CDVSA has requested funds in the amount of \$367,200 which is not new money, but rather a fund transfer to replace an expiring alcohol tax appropriation from the Department of Behavioral Health to assist programs in meeting the needs of victims to secure timely and effective mental health and substance abuse counseling, either onsite in the shelter, or through contract with a community provider. If the funds requested are not appropriated, programs throughout the state will take a \$367,200 loss of funding and be unable to continue providing comprehensive crisis intervention to victims in need of substance abuse and mental health counselling and this will have a direct impact on safety for both women and their children. By simply replacing existing funds with a different fund source, the net result will be flat funding for victim service agencies in FY15. Therefore, we ask that you support the CDVSA's transfer request as well as provide a modest 3% cost increase to assist agencies in meeting the ever increasing costs of energy and travel for victims, particularly in rural Alaska and Fairbanks, as well as basic victim needs such as food, diapers, baby formula.

V. Empowering Choice Housing Program (ECHP)

In 2012, the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation proposed to remove its decade long practice of providing preferences for underserved, special needs populations. The result of the preference system was year's long waiting lists for housing in communities throughout Alaska. In place of a preference system, AHFC partnered with various stakeholders to create programs of set-aside vouchers for these special needs populations: veteran's, youth aging out of foster care, prisoner re-entry, victims of domestic violence and sexual assault, people with disabilities.

AHFC and the ANDVSA worked collaboratively to create a set-aside program that would replace the preference system. The Empowering Choice Housing Program was a result of this collaboration. The

ECHP provides housing to victims fleeing violent homes, which would otherwise either be homeless with their children, or have no choice but to return to the abuser.

As of October 31, 2014, the ECHP has assisted 470 Alaskans, 81 percent earn a household income of less than 30 percent of median income; and 72 percent are women head of households. AHFC's data shows that the ECHP has been a success in helping abused women and children most in financial need who would be homeless without the program.

The ECHP is funded through AHFC's Moving to Work federal Block Grant with a match by the state legislature. **The ECHP has been nationally recognized as a model program for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault at the same time benefitting private landlords who rent properties and accept voucher assistance under the program. We request that you continue to fund the ECHP at the requested \$2,000,000 in the capital budget so that we can continue to leverage federal dollars and make sure that no victim is forced to choose between homelessness or continuing physical and sexual abuse at home.**

VI. Governor Parnell's "Choose Respect" Initiative

Governor Parnell's Choose Respect initiative expanded many positive changes to the lives of Alaskans. I would like to highlight several important key components that we know are necessary to continue fighting the epidemic of domestic violence and sexual assaults in our communities. If these components were to end, we will lose the significant ground we have gained over the last 6 years.

A. History and Background

I was honored to be part of Governor's Parnell's transition team and part of the workgroups that formed to vision and develop his "Choose Respect" campaign. In the beginning, the goal of the campaign was heavily criminal justice focused. Through the course of discussions, ANDVSA was able to bring forward ideas for a more comprehensive approach, collaborating with partners such as the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority (AMHTA), and making recommendations surrounding mental health and substance abuse treatment needs of victims, accountability and rehabilitation for abusers and cross-training for system response.

B. ANDVSA Pro Bono Program

ANDVSA's Pro Bono program has been providing comprehensive civil representation to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking for the past 15 years, utilizing a hybrid model of staff attorneys and volunteer attorneys. Attorneys provide legal assistance in a range of civil proceedings including divorce, child custody, employment, housing and protection order cases. Clients are referred from trained legal advocates in member programs statewide, who help to screen cases and provide safety planning and support services as needed throughout the case.

The pro bono program is an excellent example of how funding can be leveraged to maximize benefit. Governor Parnell funded \$60,000 through a \$3 million appropriation that sits in the Governor's office

and this funding combined with our own federal grant and other sources has returned an investment of attorney's donated pro bono legal services to the state of \$1.2 million dollars in FY13. Many of these volunteers have donated over 100 hours to their clients. Client satisfaction evaluations have shown that in every case, victims say they feel safer because of the representation they have received.

In addition to funding, prior Attorney Generals have worked with the ANDVSA to assist in recruiting more pro bono attorneys and recognizing pro bono champions. For example, Attorney General Dan Sullivan sent recruitment letters to the Alaska Bar Association helping us to increase the number of volunteer attorneys and presented awards to the Pro Bono attorney of the year at an annual event celebrating our volunteers. Finally, at our Annual Continuing Legal Education (CLE) conference every year, both Governors and Attorney Generals have attended and provided support and encouragement to the Alaska bar as a whole.

For FY 13, the ANDVSA's Pro Bono program was able to assist a total of 222 cases, due to the assistance of our volunteer attorneys. In FY 14, that number grew to 280. Each year, we turn away more victims than our resources allow us to provide. To meet the growing demand and shortage of resources, this year, in addition to the \$60,000 being provided through the Governor's office, the CDVSA has requested an additional \$100,000 which would allow the ANDVSA to hire a full-time attorney to accept civil legal cases and increase the number of victims served by 50. **We ask that you continue to provide \$60,000 and approve the additional \$100,000 in funding for these efforts.** The return on the state's investment will continue to be realized and grow which benefits victims of violence throughout the state. We would also welcome the opportunity to work with you and your Attorney General on recruitment of new pro bono volunteers.

C. Outreach/Education

Outreach and education is a critical resource to insuring that victims know where and how to access services. The CDVSA has requested \$300,000 to provide resource and referral information to villages in regional service areas and to maintain activities in the schools such as age appropriate safety classes.

We know from recent surveys that many villages are unfamiliar with regional DVSA services and how to access them. This is unacceptable. During FY 15, fourteen of twenty funded programs provided trainings to village participants. However, with stagnant outreach and education funding, many requests for outreach and education in villages could not be met.

While we support village based safe homes and shelters, few exist and therefore it is essential that regional programs remain a strong and viable safety net for everyone. This year, the CDVSA has requested \$300,000 in outreach and education services. **We ask that you support the CDVSA's outreach and education funding request for \$300,000** so that victims in villages are aware of and can access regional services and programs can improve their outreach and education efforts.

D. Community Based Prevention Strategies

In 2010, the Alaska State Legislature strengthened Governor's Parnell proposals to advance community based prevention activities. Simply put, primary prevention is stopping violence before it occurs and working on community based strategies to shift social norms. Violence is so pervasive in Alaskan homes and communities, primary prevention is urgent. Nationally, and in Alaska, studies have shown that primary prevention works when strategically planned, well-coordinated and comprehensive.

All of our programs employ some prevention strategies in their communities as shown in the enclosed Community Prevention Snapshots 2013. However, in addition, the Alaska State Legislature has provided \$1.4 million in community-based prevention funding to look more deeply at effective strategies and several communities have benefitted from this.

For the first three years, this funding allowed two tribal associations; Alaska Village Council of Presidents (AVCP) in Bethel and the Kodiak Area Native Association (KANA) to collaborate with community partners, including the Tundra Women's Coalition in Bethel and the Kodiak Women's Resource Center (KWRCC) in Kodiak to advance different prevention strategies. Similarly, two other DVSA programs: Safe and Fear Free Environment (SAFE) in Dillingham, in collaboration with the Bristol Bay Native Association and other community partners and Sitkans Against Family Violence (SAFV) received grants to promote their prevention strategies. Last year, the communities participating shifted to include Juneau, Homer, Anchorage and continuing funding in Sitka, which has a very strong prevention program.

The funding for these efforts has been included in the Governor's Office budget and sent to the CDVSA through Reimbursable Services Agreement. Each year, Governor Parnell, requested the funds as an INCM to maintain the level of programming. Unfortunately, each year the legislature has changed these funds to one-time increments, although continues to fund them each year as requested. Prevention is truly the way that we will move toward violence free Alaskan communities. We ask that you continue to support these important community-based prevention efforts by continuing to fund the \$1.4 million in the CDVSA's base budget.

E. Universal Education and Marketing

In order to raise public awareness, intervene and prevent sexual violence, domestic violence and teen dating violence in Alaska, the CDVSA through a grant to the ANDVSA uses funds to continue its work to establish campaigns that serve to educate Alaskans on: the impact of violence on themselves and in their communities; services available; and violence prevention.

Over the past 4 years that the universal education and marketing campaign has been in effect, we are seeing some discernable results. For example, several programs report seeing more victims, but at an earlier point in the abuse cycle and with fewer injuries due to, what we believe is an increased public awareness of available assistance and resources. This is a significant point and positively impacts both health care and public safety in all our communities.

In addition, five major collaborative public awareness and prevention campaigns have been funded through the Governor's Office RSA'd to the CDVSA and have been highly successful in reaching different key populations, in particular, men, youth and parents.

1. Alaska Men Choose Respect

Alaska Men Choose Respect (AMCR) is men working to end violence by choosing and teaching respect in their communities. AMCR media messages and opportunities allow men to come together as allies to end violence, promote respect, and strengthen Alaska communities.

History and Background

The Alaska Men Choose Respect campaign began in 2009 as a campaign designed to highlight the work men were doing to end violence and as a call to action for more men to become involved in these efforts. This was done through a series of media, web, and print materials which featured Alaskan men with their friends, families, and communities showcasing the ways in which they choose and teach respect. The web materials, specifically amcr.com, provides men with information about Alaska's violence and connects them to resources where they can learn more about what men can do to help prevent it. Alaska Men Choose Respect is the first Alaskan campaign specifically considering Alaskan men and boys as leaders in ending violence. This project brought attention to the work men were doing in the movement to end violence and encouraged men to find their place and work as allies to create safer communities and end violence in Alaska.

Current and past funding and key partnerships for COMPASS includes the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault's (CDVSA); State of Alaska, Division of Public Health, Section of Women's, Children's and Family Health; CDC DELTA; Office of Violence Against Women Engaging Men and Boys; and Pathways to Prevention Statewide Steering Committee.

2. COMPASS – Men Mentoring Men

COMPASS - A Guide for Men - is a resource for adult male mentors who work with young Alaskan men aged 12 to 18. COMPASS presents mentors with opportunities and activities designed to support young men as they explore and identify their values, goals and unique identities. The activities, teachable moments and discussions described in the guide create a safe atmosphere for men and boys to learn about and practice healthy lifestyles. In addition, these strategies are designed to be easily incorporated into the day-to-day interactions that already exist between mentors and youth in team sports, camping, hiking, fishing, hunting and other activities. Ultimately the guide promotes meaningful conversations between men and male youth that promote healthy identities, build positive relationships, and strengthen communities. Please see the project description for more in-depth information.

3. Lead On! – Engaging Youth in Leadership

Lead On! For Peace and Equality is an annual statewide youth leadership conference. At Lead On!, youth leaders from all over the state come together to gain leadership skills, plan positive change in their home communities, as well as connect with likeminded peers to end violence. Lead On!, youth bring change back to their communities by creating and carrying out projects among their peers. **In 2013**

over 120 youth and supporting adults attend Lead On!, with the ultimate goal of learning and implementing skills around the prevention of violence in local communities.

Lead On! reaches youth from across Alaska with a high representation of native youth from villages. The 2013 LeadOn! Conference saw youth and community members participating from the communities of Anchorage, Angoon, Atmautluak, Bethel, Cordova, Deering, Dillingham, Dutch Harbor, Eyak, Hooper Bay, Homer, Juneau, Ketchikan, Kiana, Kipnuk, Kodiak, Kotlik, Kotzebue, Kwethluk, Napaskiak, Nenana, Noatak, Nome, New Stuyahok, Old Harbor, Sandpoint, Scammon Bay, Sitka, St. Michael, St. Paul and Togiak.

Examples of Lead On! community-based youth projects include:

Anchorage: Lead On youth participants hosted a community dinner featuring a round table for businesses and organizations to provide resources for volunteer youth opportunities.

Cordova: youth helped accomplish their goal of bringing together Cordova youth leaders and adults in the community to create a youth leadership group in their community and helped create goals and objectives for the coming year.

Kwethluk: Youth and supporting adults in this community to bring a Lead On speaker to their community. Youth raised money and helped find donated miles to bring Lakota Harden to their community to hold relationships workshops with youth and adults.

Lead On! founding sponsors have included the Alaska Department of Public Safety- Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault; Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault; Alaska Department of Health and Social Services: Division of Public Health- Women's, Children's and Family Health; Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion; Alaska Department of Health and Social Services: Division of Behavioral Health; Association of Village Council Presidents; The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention- DELTA Project, Rape Prevention Education; Mat-Su Health Foundation; Alaskan Children's Trust; Alaskan Native Medical Center; Alaska Native Heritage Center.

4. Stand Up! Speak Up!

Stand Up Speak Up Alaska is a youth-led campaign focused on promoting healthy relationships, engaging youth leaders, and developing healthy relationship skills for both youth and their peers. The Stand Up Speak Up campaign not only engages youth to work to end violence through media, but provides opportunities for youth to build the skills they need to be effective leaders in their communities. The Stand Up Speak Up mini-grant program gives up to \$2000 to projects planned and implemented by youth around promoting respect and healthy relationships. Projects that have taken place in the past include community potlucks, the creation of a video on healthy relationships and a cultural camp where elders and youth connected.

In 2011, an evaluation was completed to help us determine recognition of the Stand Up Speak Up campaign and to see what youth were taking away from the messages. Initial quantitative and qualitative data indicated youth exposed to Stand Up Speak Up messaging recognized the campaign and

understood the messages. Each year the Stand Up Speak Up media campaign is measured by keeping track the reach and scope of the campaign. Below are some of the findings.

Between 2012-2014

- Printed materials (SUSU posters, Healthy Relationship cards, stickers) distributed to all Alaskan high schools, elementary schools and public health clinics.
- Reached 435,529 viewers with PSAs online and on television
- Awarded 23 mini-grant projects for a total of \$32,000
- 470 youth directly involved in community project planning
- Another 2,500 individuals were reached through SUSU youth led community events

History and Background: The Stand Up Speak Up media campaign was started in 2008 in collaboration with the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault and the Department of Health and Social Services with youth input and direction. Since then it has grown to include communities and youth from nearly all communities around the state.

Funding sources: In the past Stand Up Speak Up has been funded by sponsors including the Alaska Department of Public Safety- Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault; Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault; Alaska Department of Health and Social Services: Division of Public Health.

F. Unmet Training Needs

Alaska is very strong on criminal laws regarding domestic violence and sexual abuse. However, for the laws to be effective there must be systems that are highly functioning and meet the safety needs of victims. To be highly functioning, it is imperative that there is adequate training resources to systems that interact with victims with a preferred provider trainer list that all partners agree upon to provide consistent training to prosecution, state, tribal, municipal law enforcement, advocacy, health providers, tribal and state courts. Several state agencies currently receive some form of training funds related to domestic violence and sexual assault issues. However, a comprehensive training plan has not yet been adopted to best meet the needs of Alaskans victimization by violence. Some examples of what such a plan would entail:

- Successful professionals in their fields, known for working across systems, train their peers (law enforcement, prosecution)
- Consider the issue of increasing safety for victims through coordinated training for municipal police departments
- Consider the issue of increasing safety for victims through consistent training and mentoring for prosecutors
- Consider the issue of increasing safety for victims through judicial education and monitoring.

IV. Communication between Federal, Tribes and State

Communication between the federal government, tribes and the State of Alaska occurs on several fronts. The CDVSA is the administrator of several federal grants that go to DVSA programs and tribes also receive federal funds that are only available to tribal entities. The CDVSA works with the tribes to insure that programming is not duplicative and that funds are used in the most efficient manner.

Second, the CDVSA Board is comprised of several members of the administration that decides programming needs for the state. The board membership includes: the Commissioners from the Department of Health and Social Services, the Department of Public Safety, the Department of Corrections, the Department of Education and Early Development, and the Department of Law. Also included on the Council are four public members, appointed by the Governor, one of which represents rural Alaska and are often tribal members.

Since 2009, with passage of the Tribal Law and Order Act, the ANDVSA has worked diligently with our Congressional delegation to push for inclusion of Alaska's tribes in tribal funding opportunities within the Bureau of Justice Programs for law enforcement and court resources, and Indian Health Services for funding of village clinics that would improve response to victims. We have also been involved in seeing that Alaska Native women have the same rights as native women in the lower 48 and that tribal courts receive rightful recognition and access to tribal court grants, something that is not currently available.

ANDVSA and our programs welcome all opportunities to collaborate and work with tribes and tribal courts. We have invited tribal judges to our Board meetings to speak with program representatives, include tribal programs in our training opportunities and most recently, are hosting a tribal panel at our upcoming yearly advocacy training in Anchorage.

In addition, some of our programs are either tribally based, such as AWIC in Barrow or Manillaq in Kotzebue, while others are led by native women, such as Tundra Women's Coalition (TWC) in Bethel and SAFE in Dillingham, and Bering Sea Women's Group (BSWG) in Nome, who work to provide culturally relevant services to victims in their community and villages in their service areas. Much more must be done, but the progress we have seen over the last several years gives us hope that more opportunities for collaboration will arise and someday Alaska Native women will have the same access to services and the same rights as native women in the Lower 48. This will take diligence on behalf of our Congressional delegation to amend the relevant laws that are creating barriers for our tribes and tribal partners. We are committed to continue fighting for these much needed changes.

Reduced Funding Impact Statement

We understand that the State of Alaska is facing severe budget times with plummeting oil prices and a \$3 billion deficit looming. However, we think it is important for you to know the impact of not continuing to fund or reducing funding for domestic violence and sexual assault programs.

Governor Walker, in the nearly 20 years that I have been doing this work, I can definitely say that change is happening. I have witnessed the changes that occur almost daily in our communities. There is still

much to be accomplished and we look forward to working with you and your administration to continue changing our communities' beliefs, attitudes and social norms surrounding violence. To do so, we must continue the awareness, education, outreach, providing safe places for women and children to go, both in shelter and safe affordable housing opportunities and make sure that comprehensive services are available to victims who have the courage to leave their abusers and begin a life of hope and healing for them and their children free from violence.

Not continuing to fund or reducing funding would do a great disservice to all of Alaska. Programs serve the entire region in their respective hubs. If programs were to lose ground, the first cuts would come in staffing which directly impacts education and outreach efforts in schools, prevention activities in communities, and outreach and education in villages. Core services, such as shelter, legal advocacy, medical accompaniment and safety planning would be protected at all costs, but the number of advocates available to provide these services will decrease, leaving programs with less organizational capacity to serve the same number of victims. The collateral financial impact of this will fall on everyone whose public safety would be compromised when law enforcement is not able to bring victims to safety at the shelter or call upon an advocate 24/7 to accompany a victim for a medical forensic exam to preserve evidence of a sexual assault.

Currently, many smaller programs already operate with only a limited staff and one advocate available per shift. This advocate is tasked with crisis intervention, shelter security and the business line. In addition, they are assisting clients with intake, protective orders, and legal advocacy. They are constantly and consistently interrupted from crisis intervention by having to perform all the other duties that a household of women and children in crisis require, as well as seemingly trivial things like unlocking bedroom doors, serving food program meals and responding to housekeeping issues such as clogged toilets. In these programs, cuts to funding would be devastating.

Our shelter programs are vital organizations within our communities. Community partnerships and collaboration are key to our success and the programs work closely with not only providing referrals to community partners but also accepting referrals from them. We have found that often program referrals are made from other community partners due to our expertise in working with women in trauma from violence and children that have been exposed to violence in their homes. If our programs were forced to cut services or serve fewer families, all of the work we have advanced over the couple of years would halt, not only leaving an absence of support in the community but also breaking trust. The impact would ripple through local communities at an alarming rate.

Governor Walker we would welcome the opportunity to discuss this plan with you and your administration at your convenience.

Sincerely,



Peggy Brown, Executive Director



Alaska Nurses Association

3701 E. Tudor Road, Suite 208

Anchorage, Alaska 99507

(907) 274-0827

www.aknurse.org

March 16, 2015

Governor Bill Walker
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Governor Walker,

The Alaska Nurses Association strongly urges the Alaska Legislature to expand Medicaid in July 2015 for the benefit of Alaskans and the Alaska economy.

Nearly 42,000 of our fellow Alaskans will be eligible for health coverage under Medicaid expansion. Expansion improves health outcomes by reducing the number of uninsured Alaskans by half, improving preventative and primary care access, and providing substance abuse treatment and mental health counseling.

There are significant economic benefits associated with Medicaid expansion, bringing more than \$1 billion in new federal revenue to our state, 4,000 new jobs, \$1.2 billion more in wages and salaries paid to Alaskans, and \$2.49 billion in increased economic activity over the first five years. We should view Medicaid expansion as an economic driver that will positively impact our state's economy as we are faced with declining oil prices and the resulting budget challenges.

In addition to new federal revenue, savings to the state budget have also been identified in the Department of Corrections, the Chronic & Acute Medical Assistance (CAMA) Program and behavioral health grants. In FY2016, the state would realize \$6.1 million in savings. Medicaid expansion is healthy for Alaskans and healthy for the state's budget. We encourage the continued internal evaluation to identify other potential savings and offsets attributable to expansion and reform.

Federal funds will pay for 100% of services provided to the expansion population through 2016 and will transition to 90% in 2020 and beyond. We support your position that Alaska's participation is contingent on the federal match remaining at 90%.

Medicaid expansion will serve as a catalyst for meaningful Medicaid reform. We are pleased to hear that the Department of Health & Human Services has issued an RFP for technical assistance related to reform efforts. Though reform of the current Medicaid program should be of utmost importance, reform efforts should not delay health care coverage for those Alaskans who would be eligible for Medicaid under expansion.

The Alaska Nurses Association endorses Medicaid expansion, recognizing we all have an interest in ensuring that Alaskans are as productive as possible so they can contribute to our communities and economy.

Sincerely,

Donna Phillips, BSN, RN
Labor Council Chair
Alaska Nurses Association

Jane Erickson, RN, CCRN
Vice President, Board of Directors
Alaska Nurses Association

Arlene Briscoe, RN-BC
Legislative Chair
Alaska Nurses Association



Alaska Nurses Association Resolutions Supporting Medicaid Expansion

Resolution 2014-1: Be it resolved that the following are priorities for the Alaska Nurses Association's education and advocacy activities for October 2014 to October 2015:

Working to ensure that all Alaskans have access to affordable health insurance, including expanding Medicaid and Denali KidCare financial eligibility criteria.

Resolution 2014-3: Whereas 53% of pregnancies in Alaska are unintended, and over 64% of the births resulting from those pregnancies are paid by Denali Kid Care. This resulted in state costs of \$29 million in 2006.

Furthermore, 26% of these unintended pregnancies result in abortions.

Whereas, supporting low-income Alaskans' access to birth control, a Medicaid family planning program could prevent unintended pregnancies, saving the state of Alaska millions of dollars.

Whereas, Medicaid family planning program provides family planning services – including pap smears, some STD screening, and birth control – to every woman whose pregnancy or abortion care would otherwise be paid by the state through Denali Kid Care if they were to get pregnant.

Whereas a Medicaid family planning program could be funded 90% federally with a 10% state match, and the federal-state partnership prohibits providing any abortion coverage.

Whereas, in states as diverse as Alabama, Arkansas, California, Oregon and South Carolina, successful programs have each saved over \$15 million in a single year by implementing a Medicaid family planning program.

Whereas, on average, for every \$1 spent on birth control services, \$5.68 is saved in pregnancy care costs.

Whereas, the program would cost about \$1 million in state funds the first year, it could potentially save over \$9.9 million in state Denali Kid Care unintended pregnancy care costs during the same year, resulting in a net savings to the state budget of \$8.9 million per year.

Therefore be it resolved that the Alaska Nurses Association advocates for the Governor or Legislature to apply for a State Plan Amendment (SPA) to bring needed access to family planning services.

Therefore be it further resolved that the Alaska Nurses Association advocates for legislation and funding to increase this program to families at 200% of poverty income level.

The Alaska Nurses Association strongly endorses Medicaid expansion and a Medicaid State Plan Amendment for family planning services, for the benefit of Alaskans and the Alaskan economy, recognizing we all have an interest in ensuring that Alaskans are as productive as possible so they can contribute to our communities and economy.



Alaska Pharmacists Association

April 8, 2015

Alaska State Senate and House of Representatives
State Capitol Room
Juneau, AK 99801

On behalf of the Alaska Pharmacists Association (AKPhA), I would like to weigh in on the subject of Medicaid expansion in Alaska.

There have been several large financial analyses of this issue. A majority of these analyses have shown a significant POSITIVE FINANCIAL IMPACT for both the private sector and for the State of Alaska. For example, if Medicaid expansion were enacted in Alaska it, has been projected that we will see an increase of approximately 4,000 new jobs, \$2.5 billion in economic activity, \$1.2 billion in salaries and wages, and an increase in medical care for over 40,000 lower income residents. Despite these staggeringly positive economic and social impacts, the actual increase in Medicaid expenditures by the State of Alaska have been projected at only a 1.4% increase of total Medicaid costs.

Besides the positive financial impact of Medicaid expansion for the State of Alaska, there is a strong argument that can be made from a social welfare perspective. Many religious, social advocacy, medical and other groups, both liberal and conservative, have advocated for Medicaid expansion from this perspective alone. The AKPhA joins in the argument that Medicaid expansion is the right thing to do socially.

The 200 members of the AKPhA have discussed the issue of Medicaid expansion at length at our recent annual AKPhA Convention in February, 2015. An overwhelming majority of the members of the AKPhA voiced strong support in favor of Medicaid expansion in Alaska.

The Pharmacists of the Alaska Pharmacists Association are dedicated to providing safe and appropriate medication treatment for the residents of our great state. Medicaid expansion provides a venue to increase medication access to those in needs while also improving our economy in a way that won't negatively impact the state government's budget. Please consider the many positive aspects of Medicaid expansion during your deliberations and votes on this critical matter to the future of the State of Alaska.

Thank you for your time,

Dan Nelson, PharmD.
President
Alaska Pharmacists Association

E-mail: akphrmy@alaska.net



ALASKA PHYSICAL THERAPY ASSOCIATION, INC.

A CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN PHYSICAL THERAPY ASSOCIATION
PO BOX 140351 ANCHORAGE, AK 99514-0351
PHONE (907) 566-3749

The Honorable Bill Walker
Alaska State Capitol, 3rd Floor
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0001

Dear Governor Walker:

The Alaska Physical Therapy Association is in strong support of Medicaid expansion. Access to healthcare is critical for our citizens to stay safe, well, and functioning effectively in their homes and communities. We believe that the proposed expansion in concert with reform measures currently being considered in the Legislature will not only improve the health of Alaskans but will also be good for the Alaskan economy.

Members of our community need to be able to access care at the right place, at the right time, and from the right provider at the right price. When people lack access to health insurance they delay treatment and end up receiving care in the most expensive locations - the emergency room and in hospitals. Early access to health care services will enable Alaskans to stay healthier for longer in their homes and communities. Individuals frequently delay receiving adequate medical care because it is too expensive or too difficult to access. Medicaid expansion will also allow health conditions to be treated at a time when care is relatively less expensive. Early intervention can improve health outcomes, save money and more importantly contribute significantly to quality of life. Nearly 42,000 of our fellow Alaskans will be eligible for health coverage under Medicaid expansion. Access to care will improve health outcomes by reducing the number of uninsured Alaskans by half, improve preventive and primary care access, and provide substance abuse treatment and mental health counseling. As you are aware, Alaska has higher incidence of conditions like sexually transmitted infections, diabetes, depression, substance abuse and suicide. All of the above conditions can either be prevented or effectively managed by accessing appropriate primary care. Improved access to affordable healthcare is a critical step if we want to address these serious health concerns in our state.

There are significant economic benefits associated with Medicaid expansion, which will bring more than \$1 billion in new federal revenue to our state, 4,000 new jobs, \$1.2 billion more in wages and salaries paid to Alaskans, and \$2.49 billion in increased economic activity over the first five years. We should view Medicaid expansion as an economic driver that will positively impact our state's economy as we are faced with declining oil prices and the resulting budget challenges. We don't turn down federal money for education, transportation, and the military, and we shouldn't turn it down for health care.

Medicaid expansion is healthy for Alaskans and healthy for the state's budget. Federal funds will pay for 100% of services provided to the expansion population through 2016 and will transition to 90% in 2020 and beyond. Alaska's participation can be contingent on the federal match remaining at 90%.

Medicaid expansion will serve as a catalyst for meaningful Medicaid reform. Though reform of the current Medicaid program should be of utmost importance, reform efforts should not delay health care coverage for those Alaskans who would be eligible for Medicaid under expansion.

Thank you for your leadership in spearheading this critical process for a healthier Alaska.

Respectfully,

LeeAnne Carrothers, PT, PhD
President, Alaska Physical Therapy Association



American Physical Therapy Association



Resolution 2012 #2

A resolution of support by the Executive Committee of the Alaska State Hospital and Nursing Home Association on behalf of its membership concerning the expansion of the Medicaid Program in Alaska.

WHEREAS: Affordability and accessibility of health care is an important issue for all Alaskans;

WHEREAS: On June 28, 2012 the Supreme Court of the United States ruled on certain aspects of the Affordable Care Act and its constitutionality;

WHEREAS: As part of this ruling the Supreme Court allows, without penalty, states to either expand their Medicaid program to serve certain recipients up to 138% of FPL or decline to expand their Medicaid program to serve these recipients;

WHEREAS: Governor Parnell must now determine if Alaska will expand their Medicaid coverage in accordance with these provisions;

WHEREAS: Approximately 35,000-55,000 uninsured or underinsured Alaskans will be eligible for Medicaid under this expansion;

WHEREAS: Expanding this coverage will lessen the financial impact to the state's employers, increase access for needy and uninsured Alaskans and alleviate the uncompensated care burden with Alaska hospitals and providers;

WHEREAS: The federal government will fund the first three years of the expansion at 100% federal funding for programmatic services and then stepping down funding to 90% in 2019 and beyond resulting in approximately \$2 billion in new health care funding over the next five years;

WHEREAS: The ACA and other Congressional actions will reduce or *likely* will reduce Medicare payments to hospitals over a similar period;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, THAT:

The Executive Committee of the Association, on behalf of its members, formally supports the expansion of Medicaid recipients to 138% FPL,

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, THAT:

The Association pledges to support Governor Parnell and his Administration in any way feasible to provide information, resources and support to gain the information necessary to fully evaluate the benefits and the costs of such an expansion.

Passed by the majority of the Executive Committee this 16th day of August, 2012

ATTEST:

Signature to follow
Bruce Lamoureux
Chair

Alaska State Medical Association

4107 Laurel Street • Anchorage, Alaska 99508 • (907) 562-0304 • (907) 561-2063 (fax)

April 2, 2015

The Honorable Steve Thompson
Alaska House of Representatives
State Capital Room 515
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: House Bill 178

Dear Representative Thompson:

The Alaska State Medical Association (ASMA) represents physicians statewide and is primarily concerned with the health of all Alaskans.

As the Legislature debates Medicaid reform and expansion measures this Session we would like to make you aware of our current policy position on access to healthcare in Alaska. ASMA strongly supports access to healthcare for all Alaskans, and in that context supports robust and sustainable payment mechanisms for the Alaska healthcare industry. ASMA supports expansion of coverage of the approximately 30,000 currently uninsured Alaskans.

Improved access to healthcare in Alaska and improving the efficiency and effectiveness of Alaska's current Medicaid health care service system are important to improving the health outcomes of Alaskans.

Please let us know if there is anything we can do to further support passage of this legislation.

Sincerely,



Michael Haugen
Executive Director: The Alaska State Medical Association

Alaska Women's Lobby

P.O. Box 20891, Juneau, AK 99802-0891
AWL@akwomenslobby.org ~ www.akwomenslobby.org
Like us on Facebook at AK Women's Lobby

ALASKA WOMEN'S LOBBY

Resolution

Adopted March 13, 2015

TITLE: A RESOLUTION URGING THE ALASKA LEGISLATURE TO EXPAND MEDICAID COVERAGE TO IMPROVE THE HEALTH OF ALASKANS AND TO IMPROVE THE ALASKAN ECONOMY.

WHEREAS, the current threshold for Medicaid eligibility in Alaska is 81 percent of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) for working parents and 77 percent of the FPL for jobless parents, while there is currently no income eligibility threshold for adults who are not parentsⁱ; and

WHEREAS, the current expansion to Medicaid will increase eligibility of both parents and non-parent adults up to 138 percent of the FPLⁱⁱ; and

WHEREAS, women represented 47.9% of the Alaska workforce, but only earned 38.2% of the total earnings for 2010, averaging \$.67 for every \$1 earned by their male counterpartsⁱⁱⁱ; and

WHEREAS, Medicaid expansion will improve health outcomes by reducing the number of uninsured Alaskans by half, improving preventive and primary care access, providing substance abuse treatment and mental health counseling, and reducing the mortality rate, thereby supporting healthier families; and

WHEREAS, studies project expansion will likely yield 4,000 new jobs, \$1.2 billion more in wages and salaries paid to Alaskans, and \$2.49 billion in increased economic activity throughout the state^{iv}; and

WHEREAS, with expansion the State would save \$6.1 million in FY2016 by using federal funds to pay for health services currently paid for with state general funds; and

WHEREAS, Medicaid expansion will significantly reduce the burden of uncompensated care, which was over \$90 million at non-tribal Alaska hospitals in 2013; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Alaska Women's Lobby endorses Medicaid expansion, recognizing we all have an interest in ensuring that Alaskans are as productive as possible so they can contribute to our communities and economy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Alaska Women's Lobby strongly urges the Alaska Legislature to expand Medicaid for the benefit of Alaskans and the Alaska economy to take effect in July 2015 and, though reform efforts should be of utmost importance, this work should not delay health care coverage for those Alaskans who would be eligible for Medicaid under expansion.

Defending and advancing the rights and needs of women, children, and families in Alaska.

Committee Members: Jayne Andreen, Elizabeth Belknap, Nancy Courtney, Heather Davis, LaRae Jones, Rebecca Madison, Nicole Nelson, Jorden Nigro, Taber Rehbaum, Kari Robinson, Shannon Vargas
Lobbyist: Caren Robinson

ⁱ The Urban Institute, Health Policy Center. Medicaid in Alaska under the Affordable Care Act. 2013.

ⁱⁱ The Urban Institute, Health Policy Center. Medicaid in Alaska under the Affordable Care Act. 2013.

ⁱⁱⁱ Alaska Legislative Research Services. Women in Alaska, LRS Report 13.072. December 2012.

^{iv} The Lewin Group. An Analysis of the Impact of Medicaid Expansion in Alaska. 2013.



March 11, 2015

The Honorable Paul Seaton
House of Representatives
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Representative Seaton:

The Aleutian Housing Authority (AHA) is the Tribally Designated Housing Entity for the Aleutian Pribilof Islands Region of Alaska. Our mission is, in part, to contribute to the building of healthy, stable and sustainable communities throughout our region. AHA strongly urges the Alaska Legislature to expand Medicaid in July 2015, or as soon as possible for the benefit of Alaskans and the Alaska economy.

Nearly 42,000 of our fellow Alaskans will be eligible for health coverage under Medicaid expansion. Expansion improves health outcomes by reducing the number of uninsured Alaskans by half, improving preventative and primary care access, and providing substance abuse treatment and mental health counseling.

There are significant economic benefits associated with Medicaid expansion, which will bring more than \$1 billion in new federal revenue to our state, 4,000 new jobs, \$1.2 billion more in wages and salaries paid to Alaskans, and \$2.49 billion in increased economic activity over the first five years. We should view Medicaid expansion as an economic driver that will positively impact our state's economy as we are faced with declining oil prices and the resulting budget challenges.

In addition to new federal revenue, savings to the state budget have also been identified in the Department of Corrections, the Chronic and Acute Medical Assistance (CAMA) Program and behavioral health grants. In FY2016, the state would realize \$6.1 million in savings. Medicaid expansion is healthy for Alaskans and healthy for the state's budget. We encourage the continued internal evaluation to identify other potential savings and offsets attributable to expansion and reform.

Federal funds will pay for 100% of services provided to the expansion population through 2016 and will transition to 90% in 2020 and beyond. We support Governor Walker's position that Alaska's participation is contingent on the federal match remaining at 90%.

Medicaid expansion may serve as a catalyst for meaningful Medicaid reform and we support these discussions. We are pleased to hear that the Department of Health and Human Services has issued an RFP for technical assistance related to reform efforts. Though reform of the current Medicaid program should be of utmost importance, reform efforts should not delay health care coverage for those Alaskans who would be eligible for Medicaid under expansion.

The Aleutian Housing Authority endorses Medicaid expansion, recognizing that we all have an interest in ensuring that Alaskans are as productive as possible so they can contribute to our communities and economy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Duame", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dan Duame
Executive Director

Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association, Inc.

1131 E. International Airport Rd.
Anchorage, Alaska 99518-1408
Phone (907) 276-2700
Fax (907) 279-4351

March 23, 2015

Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 110001
Juneau, AK 99811-0001

Dear Governor Walker,

The Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association supports your efforts to expand Medicaid in July 2015 for the benefit of Alaskans and the Alaska economy.

Nearly 42,000 of our fellow Alaskans will be eligible for health coverage under Medicaid expansion. Expansion improves health outcomes by reducing the number of uninsured Alaskans by half, improving preventative and primary care access, and providing substance abuse treatment and mental health counseling.

There are significant economic benefits associated with Medicaid expansion, which will bring more than \$1 billion in new federal revenue to our state, 4,000 new jobs, \$1.2 billion more in wages and salaries paid to Alaskans, and \$2.49 billion in increased economic activity over the first five years. We should view Medicaid expansion as an economic driver that will positively impact our state's economy as we are faced with declining oil prices and the resulting budget challenges.

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Medicaid expansion will serve as a catalyst for meaningful Medicaid reform. We are pleased to hear that the Department of Health & Human Services has issued an RFP for technical assistance related to reform efforts. Though reform of the current Medicaid program should be of utmost importance, reform efforts should not delay health care coverage for those Alaskans who would be eligible for Medicaid under expansion.

The Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association endorses Medicaid expansion, recognizing we all have an interest in ensuring that Alaskans are as productive as possible so they can contribute to our communities and economy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dimitri Philemonof", written over a faint, larger blue outline of the same signature.

ALEUTIAN PRIBILOF ISLANDS ASSOCIATION

Dimitri Philemonof
President & CEO

Cc: Charles Fagerstrom, APIA Health Director
Mark Hamm, APIA Chief Financial Officer



American Heart Association® | American Stroke Association®

Learn and Live...

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3700 Woodland Drive, Suite 700
Anchorage, AK 99517
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www.heart.org

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Kathy Rogers

Chief Development Officer
Ginnie Gallin

March 30, 2015

Governor Walker
Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 110001
Juneau, AK 99811-0001

RE: HB 148 – Support

Dear Governor Walker,

The American Heart Association/American Stroke Association (AHA/ASA) supports your HB 148. This bill expands Medicaid in July 2015 for the benefit of Alaskans and the Alaska economy.

Nearly 42,000 Alaskans will be eligible for health coverage under Medicaid expansion. Expansion improves health outcomes by reducing the number of uninsured Alaskans by half and improving preventative and primary care access. Patients with heart disease and stroke with Medicaid coverage are more likely to take their medication appropriately, have their blood pressure controlled, and more likely to have been checked for high cholesterol, compared to the uninsured.

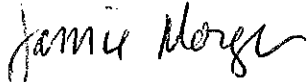
Heart Disease and Stroke combined, are responsible for more deaths in Alaska than any other cause. Medicaid is already an important source of health insurance coverage for patients with heart disease, stroke, and other cardiovascular diseases (CVD), and through Medicaid expansion, it will become an even more important source of coverage for currently uninsured adults with or at-risk for CVD.

There are significant economic benefits associated with Medicaid expansion. Federal funds will pay for 100% of services provided to the expansion population through 2016 and will transition to 90% in 2020 and beyond. More than \$1 billion in new federal revenues to the state will be realized, 4,000 new jobs, \$1.2 billion more in wages and salaries paid to Alaskans, and \$2.49 billion in increased economic activity over the first five years.

In addition to new federal revenue, savings to the state budget have also been identified. In FY2016, the state would realize \$6.1 million in savings. Medicaid expansion is healthy for Alaskans and healthy for the state's budget.

The AHA/ASA supports HB 148 and the positive impact it will have on the health of Alaskans and the economy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jamie Morgan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jamie Morgan
Senior Director of Advocacy and Policy Campaigns



**In Support of the Expansion of Medicaid in Alaska
Resolution 01/11-01**

Whereas in March 2010, the President signed the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (P.L. 111–148) and the Health Care Reconciliation Act (P.L. 111-152) into law, collectively referred to as the Affordable Care Act. The Affordable Care Act has given states the option to expand access to Medicaid for low income adults and families.

Whereas the Affordable Care Act has given states the option to expand access to Medicaid for low income adults and families. The federal government will pay for 100% of the costs of covering newly

Whereas the Anchorage Chamber of Commerce recognizes the concern expressed by its membership of the rising cost of healthcare in Alaska. Further, the employer shared responsibility portion of the ACA which goes into effect January 1, 2015 may adversely affect some members as they will be required to offer health insurance or pay a penalty.

Whereas the expansion of Medicaid in Alaska will help to offset some of the costs to employers both in the provision of health coverage for lower wage employees and the reduction of cost shifting to all insured Alaskans for uncompensated care.

Now therefore be it resolved, that the Anchorage Chamber supports the expansion of Medicaid with the understanding that the Governor and Alaska State legislature reevaluate Alaska's participation in Medicaid Expansion should the federal match fall below 90%.



A Resolution in Support of Medicaid Expansion

March 2015

ACEH Resolution #1501

Whereas, nearly 42,000 of our fellow Alaskans will be eligible for health coverage under Medicaid expansion; and

Whereas, the second highest reason for a crisis leading to homelessness in Alaska last year was an injury, illness or maternity (Homeless and At-Risk Data Report, Alaska Housing Finance Corporation); and

Whereas, Medicaid expansion will significantly reduce the burden of uncompensated care, which was over \$90 million at non-tribal Alaska hospitals in 2013; and

Whereas, expanding Medicaid will improve the access to substance abuse treatment and mental health counseling. Client eligibility for and enrollment in Medicaid will allow community organizations the ability to bill for services they currently provide their clients ensuring sustainability for the safety net services in our communities; and

Whereas, access to Medicaid coverage is already showing a positive difference for people who experience homelessness in other states. A Kaiser Family Foundation report recently showed that Medicaid expansion is contributing to improved access to care as well as broader benefits for homeless individuals, such as the improved capability to gain employment; and

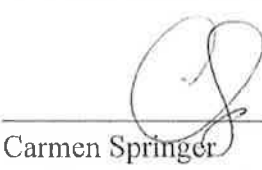
Whereas, the health and wellness of Alaskans is a Constitutional priority and is vital to each individual, family, community and our entire State; and

Therefore be it resolved, the Anchorage Coalition to End Homelessness endorses Medicaid expansion, recognizing we all have an interest in ensuring that Alaskans are as productive as possible so they can contribute to our communities and economy; and

Be it further resolved, that the Anchorage Coalition to End Homelessness strongly urges the Alaska Legislature to expand Medicaid for the benefit of Alaskans and the Alaska economy to take effect in July 2015 and, though reform efforts should be of utmost importance, this work should not delay health care coverage for those Alaskans who would be eligible for Medicaid under expansion.


Dave Mayo-Kiely

ACEH Education and Advocacy Committee


Carmen Springer

ACEH Coalition Director

Whereas, good health and wellness are supporting factors in children staying and succeeding in school; adults getting and keeping a job; and, in healthy, competitive communities;

Whereas, the State of Alaska has an opportunity now to develop an Alaska Medicaid Expansion Program which meets the needs of vulnerable Alaskans, communities and Alaska as well as being an effective component of the Alaska health care system and is funded by the Federal government at least at 90% and has the potential to provide additional offsets to program expansion administration;

Whereas, Medicaid Expansion would provide a revenue stream covering a portion of the health care costs of vulnerable Alaskans and in doing so support financial stability and organization sustainability of the Alaska health safety net: community health centers, community mental health centers, tribal clinics, rural hospitals, urban hospitals;

Whereas, in FY2014, as partners in caring for vulnerable Alaskans, coalition members contributed directly to customer health or provided supports to increase the likelihood of short term and lifelong health and wellness. We

- provided 18,805 customers health care services 26,529 customers health screenings; 68,841 customers health education; \$17,690,505 donated logistical or financial assistance; 14,848 with a patient centered medical home; and, 31,793 or 84% of customers surveyed demonstrated/reported healthy behaviors and 8,073 or 84% met the terms of their health treatment plan; and,
- Served 994,312 meals/snacks/ box lunches; sheltered 17,103 homeless individuals/families; provided 24,695 households prevention services and/or income boosts; distributed 540,037 pounds of food; and 1,484 or 64% of participating customers demonstrating improved coping skills, better ability to return to daily life, *ability to return to work and/or home after completing crime or violence prevention and/or stabilization programs and 1,532 or 70% of participating customers had increased self-sufficiency levels after exiting a program operating in the community; and,*
- 1,037 children 0-5 screenings; 1,684 children provided with quality care and education services; 109,165 free books distributed to children 0-5; and, 2,167 or 89% of participating parents/families had increased knowledge of parenting and child development
- 20,948 of youth participating in activities that promote youth development; 196 or 67% participating youth decreasing substance use; 6,000 or 69% youth more engaged with education, learning and school; and, 10,860 or 74% youth with conflict resolution skills
(*Note: the information above is a sample based on data provided is based on annual reporting by partner agencies to United Way of Anchorage.*); and,
- We, our partners, business people, teachers, students and parents have been working together to increase the Anchorage School District graduation to 90% by the year 2020, and have together increased graduation rates from 59% in 2005 to 74% in 2014 which contributes as a positive determinant in lifelong health.

Therefore, we the undersigned non-profits support the following Medicaid Expansion strategies:

- Approve Medicaid Expansion
- Fix and clear backlogs for
 - the State of Alaska Medicaid eligibility determination system, Alaska's Resource for Integrated Eligibility Services (ARIES), and;
 - the payment system, Medicaid Management Information System (MMIS) prior to Medicaid Expansion
- Accept federal money for Medicaid Expansion
- Approve supplemental funding for Medicaid Expansion administration

And;

Commit to being partners in this effort by continuing to care for vulnerable Alaskans and by working with the Governor, State of Alaska Legislature, the State of Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, the business community and other stakeholders to develop a sustainable Alaska Medicaid Expansion Program.

Hilary A. Morgan, Co-Chair

CEO, YWCA Alaska

Signatories

Abused Women's Aid in Crisis, Inc. (AWAIC)

AK Child & Family

Alaska Injury Prevention Center

Alison Kear, Chief Executive Officer, Covenant House Alaska

American Diabetes Association

Anchorage Neighborhood Health Center

Anchorage Youth Development Coalition (AYDC)

Barbara Dubovich, Chief Executive Officer, Camp Fire USA Alaska Council

CCS Early Learning

Food Bank of Alaska

Jerry A. Jenkins, Chief Executive Officer, Anchorage Community Mental Health Services (and Fairbanks Community Mental Health Services)

Lisa Aquino, Executive Director, Catholic Social Services

Francine Harbor, NAMI

Nine Star Education and Employment Services

Pauline P. Smith, Executive Director, Alaska Literacy Program

RurAL CAP

Stephanie Berglund, CEO, thread

Volunteers of America Alaska

YWCA Alaska

UNDERSTANDING *Medicaid Expansion*



A Guide for People of Faith

Alaska's faith leaders are often the first people to whom families turn in times of need. Clergy know the pain surrounding not only the spiritual needs of their people, but also the physical needs, such as the need for food or rental assistance. Increasingly, more pastors are hearing about the need for health care and the lack of affordable health insurance.

In 2013, Alaskans are asking whether an expansion of access to medical care is in the best interest of the people of the state. In order to answer this question, faith leaders are exploring the economic and moral questions related to expanding

Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act.

Most important is that Alaska's citizens have accurate information about the issue. This booklet provides currently available and relevant information.¹ We begin where people of faith always begin—with our values and our beliefs.



¹ This document is based on information and studies available to the public as of August 2013. An analysis commissioned by the State of Alaska has not been released to the public and is therefore not referenced. A statement issued by the Department of Health and Social Services states, "The Department is withholding the April 12, 2013, document, titled 'An Analysis of the Impact of Medicaid Expansion in Alaska,' as it is exempt from disclosure under the deliberative process privilege."



WHY *does the faith community care about health care?*

When people of faith consider issues in the public square, they care about more than facts and figures, dollars and cents. Alaskans also care about how best to love their neighbor as themselves.² In Jesus' public ministry, Jesus acted with compassion.

Jesus took a good look at all the people and he had compassion for them, so he healed the sick.³ A crowd of people had been following Jesus for three days, to hear his teaching. Jesus knew that the people were hungry and in

need of food. He had compassion on them; he fed them.⁴ Jesus noticed people's needs, hurts, and sufferings. He noticed the widow in Nain who was about to bury her only son. He had compassion for her, and so he gave the breath of life back to her son.⁵ In compassion, Jesus healed a man of leprosy⁶ and two men of their blindness.⁷

Compassion means that Jesus had a deep response to people's needs and sufferings. He was so deeply moved that it hurt, like someone had kicked him in the stomach. He was upset by what he witnessed, and so he did something about it. Jesus asks for the same compassion from us. Thus, we teach: "As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion."⁸

As people of faith, we know that our God of compassion cares deeply for the health of His creation, including the medical health of the people of Alaska. It is good and wise for Alaska to consider the facts and figures, the dollars and cents, about Medicaid expansion. In the final analysis, our state budget becomes an expression of our values.

² Matthew 22:39; Mark 12:31; Luke 10:27

³ Matthew 14:14

⁴ Matthew 15:32; Mark 8:2

⁵ Luke 7:13

⁶ Mark 1:41

⁷ Matthew 20:34

⁸ Colossians 3:12

WHAT *is the status of health care costs and benefits in Alaska?*

Employers are feeling the weight of rapidly rising health care costs in Alaska.⁹ Businesses are paying an average of \$11,926 annually per employee for health benefits. As the price of benefits rises, fewer employers are willing to offer these benefits. Families, too, are feeling the pinch.

A recent article in the Alaska Department of Labor's *Alaska Economic Trends* calls the increase in health care expenses "meteoric."¹⁰ In fact, health care costs in Anchorage grew 70 percent between 2000 and 2013.¹¹ By 2010, the average annual cost of regular health insurance for a family in Alaska was \$14,230.¹²



⁹ Tim Bradner, "Health care costs are biting Alaskans, businesses harder," *Alaska Journal of Commerce*/February-Issue-4 2012.

¹⁰ Neal Fried, "The Cost of Living in Alaska," *Alaska Economic Trends*, July 2013, Alaska Department of Labor, p. 5.

¹¹ See note 10, page 7.

¹² See note 9, Bradner.



HOW *does* *Medicaid help?*

Medicaid is a program of medical aid for those families unable to afford regular medical insurance or services. Medicaid is financed by both state and federal governments. In 2010, more than 135,000 Alaskans were covered by Medicaid, at a state cost of \$1.2 billion.¹³

¹³ "Medicaid in Alaska: The Opportunities and Challenges of Health Reform," Executive Summary, April 2011, AK Health Reform, p. 1.

WHAT *would Medicaid expansion mean for Alaskans?*

Eligibility for Medicaid is based on a percentage of income under the federal poverty level (FPL).¹⁴ For example, in 2013 an individual in Alaska earning \$14,350 falls within the federal poverty guidelines.¹⁵

Based on 2010 census figures, about 17,000 children and 94,000 adults in Alaska have no medical insurance—public or private.¹⁶ The Affordable Care Act fills in current gaps in coverage for the poorest Alaskans by creating a minimum Medicaid income eligibility. Beginning in January 2014, individuals under 65 years of age with incomes below 138 percent of the federal poverty level will be eligible for Medicaid.¹⁷ Each state must decide for itself whether to expand its Medicaid program.

For the first time, low-income adults without children can be guaranteed coverage through Medicaid in every state, and parents of children can be eligible at a uniform income level across all states.¹⁸ The chart below outlines the changes possible in Alaska under the Medicaid expansion.

POPULATION GROUPS	CURRENT ALASKA MEDICAID COVERAGE	MEDICAID EXPANSION OPTION
Working Low-Income Parents	Up to 81% of FPL	Up to 138% of FPL
Non-working Low-Income Parents	Up to 76% of FPL	Up to 138% of FPL
Childless Adults (19-64 years)	None	Up to 138% of FPL

If Alaska chooses to expand Medicaid, nearly 40,000 uninsured Alaskans with incomes below 138% of federal poverty level will become eligible for Medicaid's health insurance coverage.¹⁹ If more people are insured, Alaska could expect more people to receive preventive care, a decrease in the statewide mortality rate, and a healthier Alaska.

¹⁴ See 2013 Federal Poverty Guidelines, <http://www.medicaid.gov/Medicaid-CHIP-Program-Information/By-Topics/Eligibility/Downloads/2013-Federal-Poverty-level-charts.pdf>. See also Alaska Medicaid standards and Alaska's federal poverty guidelines, http://dhss.alaska.gov/dpa/Documents/POLICY/PDF/2013%20Med_standards.pdf.

¹⁵ Children and pregnant women will be largely unaffected by the Medicaid Expansion in Alaska as they are covered by Medicaid/Denali KidCare with incomes up to 175% of the federal poverty guidelines. People over 65 and some disabled persons may also receive medical benefits through Medicare. According to Karen Perdue, CEO of the Alaska State Hospital and Nursing Home Association, hospitals need Medicaid expansion and extra revenue because under the Affordable Care Act, providers in Alaska could lose up to \$25 million dollars per year in Medicare reimbursements. Peter Granitz, "Health Care Providers Push Governor Parnell to Expand Medicaid," Alaska Public Media, November 27, 2012.

¹⁶ Mark Foster and Scott Goldsmith, "Alaska's Health-Care Bill: \$7.5 Billion and Climbing," UA Research Summary No. 18, Institute of Social and Economic Research, University of Alaska Anchorage, August 2011, p. 1.

¹⁷ Federal law provides expansion of Medicaid to all individuals whose income is at or below 133% of FPL. The method of calculating income makes the effective eligibility 138% of FPL.

¹⁸ Affordable Care Act: Eligibility, Medicaid.gov, Keeping America Healthy."

¹⁹ Matthew Buettgens and Christopher Hildebrand, "Medicaid in Alaska Under the ACA," Health Policy Center, The Urban Institute, Feb. 1, 2013, p. 7.



WHAT *is the economic impact of Medicaid expansion?*

The federal government will pay 100% of the cost of Medicaid expansion from 2014 through 2016. The cost will eventually transition to the federal government paying 90% in 2020 and beyond and the state paying 10%. Over the six-year period of 2014 to 2020, Alaska will spend nearly \$90.7 million for the expansion, while receiving \$1.105 billion in new federal funds.²⁰

Medicaid expansion is also expected to produce some economic benefits in Alaska. In 2010, hospitals in Alaska lost \$178 million because people couldn't pay their bills. Those unpaid bills show up in increased costs to those Alaskans who have insurance

and can pay their bills.²¹ Even the state, as an employer, is adversely affected by uncompensated care provided to the uninsured. A legislative report found that the State of Alaska paid an extra \$18.9 million for state employee benefits because of the price increase caused by uncompensated care.²² If more people are insured by Medicaid in Alaska, health care providers could see a dramatic decrease in bad debt and uncompensated health care costs. Employers, such as the state, and individuals could see a decrease in the cost of their insurance.

The state could expect other cost savings as a result of the expansion, which could further offset the cost of Medicaid expansion. For example, beginning in 2014, state prison inmates could be eligible for Medicaid coverage for hospital expenses,²³ providing substantial savings to Alaska's prison budget.

²⁰ See note 19, Buettgens, pp. 13-15.

²¹ Tim Bradner, "Report: Alaska health care industry booming," Alaska Journal of Commerce (AJC), January 2012.

²² Representative Gabrielle LeDoux, "Affordable Health Insurance for All Alaskans, Frequently Asked Questions," Alaska State Legislature, 2007-08. http://www.housemajority.org/ledoux/pdfs/25/hb0242_faq.pdf.

²³ Christine Vestal, Medicaid Expansion Seen Covering Nearly All State Prisoners, The Pew Charitable Trusts, October 18, 2011.

WHAT'S *next* for Alaskans?

The Medicaid expansion option is just that—an option. Each state must choose whether or not to expand Medicaid and provide health insurance to more people. Twenty-six states, as of June 14, 2013, have accepted the Medicaid expansion option.²⁴ If Alaska decides to expand Medicaid eligibility, it could later choose to reduce it if necessary.²⁵

Alaska could also consider other ways to insure those under the 138% of poverty level. The U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius has said she will work with states that wish to pursue alternatives to Medicaid expansion.²⁶ Alaska Health and Social Services Commissioner Bill Streur recently indicated that he was looking at how Alaska might accept the federal Medicaid expansion dollars, but use those dollars to purchase private insurance through the health exchange instead of placing those eligible into the Medicaid program.²⁷

In Alaska, Governor Sean Parnell recently chose not to accept the Medicaid expansion at this time. However, the Governor plans to revisit that decision in December 2013 as part of his annual budget proposal.²⁸ The time for prayer and dialogue by the people of Alaska is now.



²⁴ "Where the States Stand: June 14, 2013" (map), The Advisory Board Company, <http://www.advisory.com/Daily-Briefing/2012/11/09/MedicaidMap#lightbox/1/>.

²⁵ Conversation with Susan Johnson, US Department of Health & Human Services, Region 10 Director, August 15, 2013. See also Dylan Scott, "CMS: States Could Adopt Medicaid Expansion, Then Drop It," 8/6/2012, <http://www.governing.com/news/federal/gov-cms-no-deadline-for-state-decisions-on-medicaid-expansion.html>.

²⁶ "Sebelius Signals Openness to State Alternatives to Medicaid Expansion," Kaiser Health News, August 13, 2013.

²⁷ "Alaska health official eyes Arkansas plan," Anchorage Daily News, August 23, 2013.

²⁸ Alexandra Gutierrez, "Parnell Says No To Medicaid Expansion For Now," Alaska Public Media, February 28, 2013.



Can people of faith **MAKE A DIFFERENCE?**

1. **STUDY** the issues in the light of your faith and your values.
2. **ORGANIZE** discussion groups and create a dialogue in your congregation.
3. **PRAY** for Alaska's decision makers.
4. **SHARE** your views with Governor Parnell and your legislators.

For further information contact AFACT, 907-297-7737.

*The time for prayer and dialogue
by the people of Alaska is*

NOW



AFACT

Anchorage Faith & Action • Congregations Together

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CLERK'S OFFICE

APPROVED

Date:

3-3-2015

Submitted by: ASSEMBLY CHAIR TRAINI,
VICE-CHAIR GRAY-JACKSON, ASSEMBLY
MEMBERS FLYNN, HALL, HONEMAN, PETERSEN,
STARR, STEELE

Prepared by: Office of the Municipal Clerk

For reading: March 3, 2015

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

AR NO. 2015-71

**A RESOLUTION OF THE ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY URGING THE
ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE TO EXPAND MEDICAID COVERAGE TO IMPROVE
THE HEALTH OF ALASKANS AND TO IMPROVE THE ALASKAN ECONOMY.**

WHEREAS, nearly 42,000 of our family members, friends and neighbors have the opportunity to gain health care coverage under expansion; and

WHEREAS, Medicaid expansion will improve health outcomes by reducing the number of uninsured Alaskans by half, improving preventive and primary care access, providing substance abuse treatment and mental health counseling, and reducing the mortality rate; and

WHEREAS, Medicaid expansion brings over \$1 billion in new Federal revenue into Alaska over the first five years; and

WHEREAS, studies project expansion will likely yield 4,000 new jobs, \$1.2 billion more in wages and salaries paid to Alaskans, and \$2.49 billion in increased economic activity throughout the State; and

WHEREAS, with expansion the State would save \$6.1 million in FY2016 by using Federal funds to pay for health services currently paid for with State general funds; and,

WHEREAS, Federal funds will pay for 100% of services provided to the expansion population through 2016 and will transition to 90% in 2020 and beyond; and

WHEREAS, the State's continued participation is contingent upon maintaining the 90% match; and

WHEREAS, Medicaid expansion will significantly reduce the burden of uncompensated care, which was over \$90 million at non-tribal Alaska hospitals in 2013; and

WHEREAS, Medicaid expansion will serve as a catalyst for meaningful Medicaid reform; and

WHEREAS, leveraging the Federal resources that come with expansion is the State's biggest opportunity to finance reform efforts; and

1 WHEREAS, the State has the option of various Medicaid expansion demonstration
2 projects it may also consider as part of reform.

3
4 NOW, THEREFORE, the Anchorage Municipal Assembly resolves:

5
6 That the Alaska State Legislature is urged to expand Medicaid for the benefit of
7 Alaskans and the Alaska economy to take effect in July 2015 and, though reform efforts
8 should be of utmost importance, this work should not delay health care coverage for those
9 Alaskans who would be eligible for Medicaid under expansion, recognizing that we all have
10 an interest in ensuring that Alaskans are as productive as possible so they can contribute
11 to our communities and economy.

12
13 PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Assembly this 3rd day of
14 March, 2015.

15
16 Diak Z...
17
18 Chair of the Assembly

19
20 ATTEST:

21
22 Barbara A. Jones
23
24 Municipal Clerk

Resolution 15-01

**TITLE: A RESOLUTION URGING THE ALASKA LEGISLATURE TO
EXPAND MEDICAID COVERAGE TO IMPROVE THE HEALTH OF
ALASKANS AND TO IMPROVE THE ALASKAN ECONOMY.**

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WHEREAS, Medicaid expansion will improve health outcomes by reducing the number of uninsured Alaskans by half, improving preventive and primary care access, providing substance abuse treatment and mental health counseling, and reducing the mortality rate; and

WHEREAS, Medicaid expansion brings over \$1 billion in new federal revenue into Alaska over the first five years; and

WHEREAS, studies project expansion will likely yield 4,000 new jobs, \$1.2 billion more in wages and salaries paid to Alaskans, and \$2.49 billion in increased economic activity throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, with expansion the State would save \$6.1 million in FY2016 by using federal funds to pay for health services currently paid for with state general funds; and,

WHEREAS, federal funds will pay for 100 percent of services provided to the expansion population through 2016 and will transition to 90 percent in 2020 and beyond; and

WHEREAS, the State's continued participation is contingent upon maintaining the 90 percent match; and

WHEREAS, Medicaid expansion will significantly reduce the burden of uncompensated care, which was over \$90 million at non-tribal Alaska hospitals in 2013; and

WHEREAS, Medicaid expansion will serve as a catalyst for meaningful Medicaid reform; and

WHEREAS, leveraging the federal resources that come with expansion is the State's biggest opportunity to finance reform efforts; and

WHEREAS, the State has the option of various Medicaid expansion demonstration projects it may also consider as part of reform; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, The ANCSA Regional Association endorses Medicaid expansion, recognizing we all have an interest in ensuring that Alaskans are as productive as possible so they can contribute to our communities and economy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the ANCSA Regional Association strongly urges the Alaska Legislature to expand Medicaid for the benefit of Alaskans and the Alaska economy to take effect in July 2015 and, though reform efforts should be of utmost importance, this work should not delay health care coverage for those Alaskans who would be eligible for Medicaid under expansion.

ADOPTED AND DATED THIS 10th DAY OF MARCH, 2015 BY THE ANCSA REGIONAL ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS.



Jason Metrokin, Chairman of the Board

3.10.15

Date

ATTEST:



Thomas Mack, Secretary

3.10.15

Date

Bartlett Regional Hospital

3260 Hospital Drive, Juneau, Alaska 99801

907.796.8900

www.bartletthospital.org

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF BARTLETT REGIONAL HOSPITAL

Serial No. 15-01

A Resolution Urging the Alaska Legislature to Expand Medicaid Coverage to Improve the Health of Alaskans and Alaska's Economy.

WHEREAS, nearly 42,000 of our family members, friends and neighbors have the opportunity to gain health care coverage under expansion; and

WHEREAS, approximately 2400 Juneau residents are eligible for coverage under expansion, and 1140 of those are expected to enroll; and

WHEREAS, Medicaid expansion will improve health outcomes by reducing the number of uninsured Alaskans by half, improving preventive and primary care access, providing substance abuse treatment and mental health counseling, and reducing the mortality rate; and

WHEREAS, Medicaid expansion brings over \$1 billion in new federal revenue into Alaska over the first five years; and

WHEREAS, Juneau enrollees alone bring in \$8.3 million in just the first year; and

WHEREAS, studies project expansion will likely yield 4,000 new jobs, \$1.2 billion more in wages and salaries paid to Alaskans, and \$2.49 billion in increased economic activity throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, Medicaid currently accounts for 23% of Bartlett Regional Hospital's patient mix; and

WHEREAS, with expansion of Medicaid, the State would save \$6.1 million in FY2016 by using federal funds to pay for health services currently paid for with state general funds, reducing the need to cut public services; and

WHEREAS, federal funds will pay for 100% of services provided to the expansion population through 2016 and will transition to 90% in 2020 and beyond; and

WHEREAS, the State's continued participation is contingent upon maintaining the 90% match; and

WHEREAS, Bartlett Regional Hospital suffers charity care and bad debt expenses of \$10-\$13 million per year; and

WHEREAS, Medicaid expansion will serve as a catalyst for meaningful Medicaid reform; and

WHEREAS, leveraging the federal resources that come with expansion is the State's biggest opportunity to finance reform efforts; and

WHEREAS, the State has the option of various Medicaid expansion demonstration projects it may also consider as part of reform; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF BARTLETT REGIONAL HOSPITAL, JUNEAU, ALASKA;

Section 1. Bartlett Regional Hospital endorses Medicaid expansion, recognizing we all have an interest in ensuring that Alaskans are as productive as possible so they can contribute to our communities and economy; and

Section 2. Bartlett Regional Hospital strongly urges the Alaska Legislature to expand Medicaid for the benefit of Alaskans and the Alaska economy to take effect in July 2015 and, though reform efforts should be of utmost importance, this work should not delay health care coverage for those Alaskans who would be eligible for Medicaid under expansion.

Section 3. Effective Date. This resolution shall be effective immediately after its adoption.

Adopted this 24th day of March 2015.



Robert Storck, Board Chair



MAR -3 2015

March 6, 2015

Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 110001
Juneau, AK 99811-0001

Dear Governor Walker,

Bering Straits Native Corporation supports your efforts to expand Medicaid in July 2015 for the benefit of Alaskans and the Alaska economy.

Nearly 42,000 of our fellow Alaskans will be eligible for health coverage under Medicaid expansion. Expansion improves health outcomes by reducing the number of uninsured Alaskans by half, improving preventative and primary care access, and providing substance abuse treatment and mental health counseling.

There are significant economic benefits associated with Medicaid expansion, which will bring more than \$1 billion in new federal revenue to our state, 4,000 new jobs, \$1.2 billion more in wages and salaries paid to Alaskans, and \$2.49 billion in increased economic activity over the first five years. We should view Medicaid expansion as an economic driver that will positively impact our state's economy as we are faced with declining oil prices and the resulting budget challenges.

In addition to new federal revenue, savings to the state budget have also been identified in the Department of Corrections, the Chronic & Acute Medical Assistance (CAMA) Program and behavioral health grants. In FY2016, the state would realize \$6.1 million in savings. Medicaid expansion is healthy for Alaskans and healthy for the state's budget. We encourage the continued internal evaluation to identify other potential savings and offsets attributable to expansion and reform.

Federal funds will pay for 100% of services provided to the expansion population through 2016 and will transition to 90% in 2020 and beyond. We support Governor Walker's position that Alaska's participation is contingent on the federal match remaining at 90%.

Medicaid expansion will serve as a catalyst for meaningful Medicaid reform. We are pleased to hear that the Department of Health & Human Services has issued an RFP for technical assistance related to reform efforts. Though reform of the current Medicaid program should be

of utmost importance, reform efforts should not delay health care coverage for those Alaskans who would be eligible for Medicaid under expansion.

Bering Straits Native Corporation endorses Medicaid expansion, recognizing we all have an interest in ensuring that Alaskans are as productive as possible so they can contribute to our communities and economy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'G. Schubert', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Gail R. Schubert,
President & CEO



April 8, 2015

The Honorable Senator Lyman Hoffman
State Senate
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Senator Hoffman,

The Bethel Chamber of Commerce strongly urges the Alaska Legislature to expand Medicaid in July 2015 for the benefit of Alaskans and the Alaska economy.

Nearly 42,000 of our fellow Alaskans will be eligible for health coverage under Medicaid expansion. Expansion improves health outcomes by reducing the number of uninsured Alaskans by half, improving preventative and primary care access, and providing substance abuse treatment and mental health counseling.

There are significant economic benefits associated with Medicaid expansion, which will bring more than \$1 billion in new federal revenue to our state, 4,000 new jobs, \$1.2 billion more in wages and salaries paid to Alaskans, and \$2.49 billion in increased economic activity over the first five years. We should view Medicaid expansion as an economic driver that will positively impact our state's economy as we are faced with declining oil prices and the resulting budget challenges.

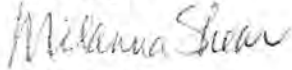
In addition to new federal revenue, savings to the state budget have also been identified in the Department of Corrections, the Chronic & Acute Medical Assistance (CAMA) Program and behavioral health grants. In FY2016, the state would realize \$6.1 million in savings. Medicaid expansion is healthy for Alaskans and healthy for the state's budget. We encourage the continued internal evaluation to identify other potential savings and offsets attributable to expansion and reform.

Federal funds will pay for 100% of services provided to the expansion population through 2016 and will transition to 90% in 2020 and beyond. We support Governor Walker's position that Alaska's participation is contingent on the federal match remaining at 90%.

Medicaid expansion will serve as a catalyst for meaningful Medicaid reform. We are pleased to hear that the Department of Health & Human Services has issued an RFP for technical assistance related to reform efforts. Though reform of the current Medicaid program should be of utmost importance, reform efforts should not delay health care coverage for those Alaskans who would be eligible for Medicaid under expansion.

The Bethel Chamber of Commerce endorses Medicaid expansion, recognizing we all have an interest in ensuring that Alaskans are as productive as possible so they can contribute to our communities and economy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Milanna Shear".

Milanna Shear

President

Bethel Chamber of Commerce



April 8, 2015

The Honorable Rep. Bob Herron
House of Representatives
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Representative Herron,

The Bethel Chamber of Commerce strongly urges the Alaska Legislature to expand Medicaid in July 2015 for the benefit of Alaskans and the Alaska economy.

Nearly 42,000 of our fellow Alaskans will be eligible for health coverage under Medicaid expansion. Expansion improves health outcomes by reducing the number of uninsured Alaskans by half, improving preventative and primary care access, and providing substance abuse treatment and mental health counseling.

There are significant economic benefits associated with Medicaid expansion, which will bring more than \$1 billion in new federal revenue to our state, 4,000 new jobs, \$1.2 billion more in wages and salaries paid to Alaskans, and \$2.49 billion in increased economic activity over the first five years. We should view Medicaid expansion as an economic driver that will positively impact our state's economy as we are faced with declining oil prices and the resulting budget challenges.

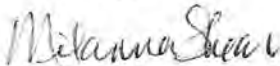
In addition to new federal revenue, savings to the state budget have also been identified in the Department of Corrections, the Chronic & Acute Medical Assistance (CAMA) Program and behavioral health grants. In FY2016, the state would realize \$6.1 million in savings. Medicaid expansion is healthy for Alaskans and healthy for the state's budget. We encourage the continued internal evaluation to identify other potential savings and offsets attributable to expansion and reform.

Federal funds will pay for 100% of services provided to the expansion population through 2016 and will transition to 90% in 2020 and beyond. We support Governor Walker's position that Alaska's participation is contingent on the federal match remaining at 90%.

Medicaid expansion will serve as a catalyst for meaningful Medicaid reform. We are pleased to hear that the Department of Health & Human Services has issued an RFP for technical assistance related to reform efforts. Though reform of the current Medicaid program should be of utmost importance, reform efforts should not delay health care coverage for those Alaskans who would be eligible for Medicaid under expansion.

The Bethel Chamber of Commerce endorses Medicaid expansion, recognizing we all have an interest in ensuring that Alaskans are as productive as possible so they can contribute to our communities and economy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Milanna Shear".

Milanna Shear

President

Bethel Chamber of Commerce



Resolution # 2015-4

TITLE: A RESOLUTION URGING THE ALASKA LEGISLATURE TO EXPAND MEDICAID COVERAGE TO IMPROVE THE HEALTH OF ALASKANS AND TO IMPROVE THE ALASKAN ECONOMY.

WHEREAS, nearly 42,000 of our family members, friends and neighbors have the opportunity to gain health care coverage under expansion; and

WHEREAS, Medicaid expansion will improve health outcomes by reducing the number of uninsured Alaskans by half, improving preventive and primary care access, providing substance abuse treatment and mental health counseling, and reducing the mortality rate; and

WHEREAS, Medicaid expansion brings over \$1 billion in new federal revenue into Alaska over the first five years; and

WHEREAS, studies project expansion will likely yield 4,000 new jobs, \$1.2 billion more in wages and salaries paid to Alaskans, and \$2.49 billion in increased economic activity throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, with expansion the State would save \$6.1 million in FY2016 by using federal funds to pay for health services currently paid for with state general funds; and,

WHEREAS, federal funds will pay for 100% of services provided to the expansion population through 2016 and will transition to 90% in 2020 and beyond; and

WHEREAS, the State's continued participation is contingent upon maintaining the 90% match; and

WHEREAS, Medicaid expansion will significantly reduce the burden of uncompensated care, which was over \$90 million at non-tribal Alaska hospitals in 2013; and

WHEREAS, Medicaid expansion will serve as a catalyst for meaningful Medicaid reform; and

WHEREAS, leveraging the federal resources that come with expansion is the State's biggest opportunity to finance reform efforts; and

WHEREAS, the State has the option of various Medicaid expansion demonstration projects it may also consider as part of reform; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Bethel Chamber of Commerce endorses Medicaid expansion, recognizing we all have an interest in ensuring that Alaskans are as productive as possible so they can contribute to our communities and economy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Bethel Chamber of Commerce strongly urges the Alaska Legislature to expand Medicaid for the benefit of Alaskans and the Alaska economy to take effect in July 2015 and, though reform efforts should be of utmost importance, this work should not delay health care coverage for those Alaskans who would be eligible for Medicaid under expansion.

Milanna Shear, Pres.
4/9/2015