

Emails in Support of Expansion: 3-25-2015

Included emails from:

Mary Burtness

Margo Waring

Katherine George

Colleen James

Terri Nettles

Donald Robinson

Elizabeth Mensch

Shelly Vendetti

From: Mary Burtness [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 23, 2015 8:42 PM
To: Rep. Paul Seaton
Subject: medicaid expansion

I know one of the members of our legislatures believes that medicaid is a handout and that "these" people should take care of themselves. I want to tell you this story of a person who was on medicaid.

My mother had a stroke at 63 years of age and was never able to live alone. She worked all her life both raising a family and outside the home. She paid taxes all her life. When she had her stroke she was living from paycheck to paycheck. She was not looking for a handout. The Medicaid program helped my mother live and stay healthy. We were not able to financially help out, but she lived with us for 23 years. We kept her out of a nursing home, which would have been much more of an expense to the state. I would hardly call my mother's situation one in which she" should have taken care of herself"

So when you look at the medicaid expansion, think of my mother, who was not a "taker" but someone who needed some help after many years of paying in.

Please support medicaid expansion in Alaska. Take a stand to take care of those who need a bit of help.

Thank you for your time.

Mary C. Burtness

From: Margo Waring [REDACTED]

Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2015 1:52 PM

To: Rep. Liz Vazquez; Rep. Paul Seaton; Rep. Neal Foster; Rep. Louise Stutes; Rep. David Talerico; Rep. Geran Tarr; Rep. Adam Wool

Subject: HB148

Dear House Health and Social Services Committee members,

I urge you to support passage of HB 148, expanding Medicaid in Alaska.

The State of Alaska has an opportunity to expand Medicaid at no immediate cost to the State through the federal Affordable Care Act. The Alaska Department of Health and Social Services states that an expanded Medicaid program would save the State millions of dollars in Medicaid payments, reduce the number of missed work days, and bring 4000 new jobs to the State. These new jobs would come with \$1.2 billion in wages.

In addition, expansion of Medicaid would help up to 42,000 of the State's most vulnerable citizens. Hundreds of people annually will be spared disability or death and the loss that this means for their families and communities. If one of these was a member of your family, I am sure you would want to be among those who see great benefits to all Alaskans in the expansion of Medicaid.

Please support HB 148.

Sincerely,
Margo Waring
11380 N. Douglas Hwy.
Juneau, AK 99801

From: Katherine George [REDACTED]

Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2015 11:17 AM

To: Rep. Paul Seaton

Subject: HB 148

Hello Representative Seaton,

Thank you for supporting Medicaid expansion and reform.

Katherine George
542 Mountain View Drive
Homer AK 99603

From: Colleen James [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 25, 2015 1:33 PM
To: Rep. Paul Seaton
Subject: Our state needs expanded coverage

Dear Representative Seaton,

I am writing to urge you to support Medicaid expansion in Alaska because it is good for our local economy. Medicaid expansion could bring \$145 million a year of new federal money into our state and create 4,000 jobs.

According to Jonathan King of Northern Economics, the state's economy is headed for recession and federal Medicaid expansion money is one of the few bright spots on the horizon that could help mitigate that recession.

In 2013, Alaska's hospitals had more than \$92 million in uncompensated care costs. This gets passed on to all of us through higher health insurance rates. In other states, Medicaid expansion has resulted in a 20-30% decrease in uncompensated care.

Please help grow Alaska's economy and keep our health care costs under control.

Sincerely,

cjames
40732 Waterman Rd
Homer, AK 99603

From: Terri Nettles [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 25, 2015 12:06 PM
To: Rep. Paul Seaton
Subject: Close the health insurance gap

Dear Representative Seaton,

Please help close the health insurance gap in Alaska.

I support Medicaid expansion - which will provide more Alaskans health care for less state money by maximizing use of available federal dollars. When people have insurance they are able to access primary care, resulting in less expensive emergency room visits. People are also better able to manage chronic diseases, resulting in better health at a lower cost.

Access to health care enables people to stay healthy and join or stay in the workforce. Individual Alaskans who earn \$20,314 (about \$9.76 an hour) a year or less, or married couples earning a combined \$27,490 a year or less qualify for Medicaid expansion. Medicaid gives them the freedom to work for a living without worrying about whether an unpreventable accident or illness will make them bankrupt.

I encourage you to support the governor's proposal to implement Medicaid expansion with smart reforms. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Terri Nettles
46290 Roosevelt Cir
Soldotna, AK 99669

From: Donald Robinson [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 25, 2015 1:23 PM
To: Rep. Paul Seaton
Subject: Close the health insurance gap

Dear Representative Seaton,

Please help close the health insurance gap in Alaska.

I support Medicaid expansion - which will provide more Alaskans health care for less state money by maximizing use of available federal dollars. When people have insurance they are able to access primary care, resulting in less expensive emergency room visits. People are also better able to manage chronic diseases, resulting in better health at a lower cost.

Access to health care enables people to stay healthy and join or stay in the workforce. Individual Alaskans who earn \$20,314 (about \$9.76 an hour) a year or less, or married couples earning a combined \$27,490 a year or less qualify for Medicaid expansion. Medicaid gives them the freedom to work for a living without worrying about whether an unpreventable accident or illness will make them bankrupt.

I encourage you to support the governor's proposal to implement Medicaid expansion with smart reforms. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Donald Robinson
PO Box 149
Kasilof, AK 99610

From: Elizabeth Mensch [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 25, 2015 12:45 PM
To: Rep. Paul Seaton
Subject: Close the health insurance gap

Dear Representative Seaton,

Please help close the health insurance gap in Alaska.

I support Medicaid expansion - which will provide more Alaskans health care for less state money by maximizing use of available federal dollars. When people have insurance they are able to access primary care, resulting in less expensive emergency room visits. People are also better able to manage chronic diseases, resulting in better health at a lower cost.

Access to health care enables people to stay healthy and join or stay in the workforce. Individual Alaskans who earn \$20,314 (about \$9.76 an hour) a year or less, or married couples earning a combined \$27,490 a year or less qualify for Medicaid expansion. Medicaid gives them the freedom to work for a living without worrying about whether an unpreventable accident or illness will make them bankrupt.

I encourage you to support the governor's proposal to implement Medicaid expansion with smart reforms. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Beth Mensch
PO Box 1228
Kasilof, AK 99610

*"How we walk with the broken,
speaks louder than how we sit with the great."*

3/20/2015

Dear Representative Seaton,

I am watching Governor Walker and Val Davidson make history. I am so proud to be part of the Alaskans who support their efforts for Medicaid Reform and Expansion. Senate Bill 78 and House Bill 148 reflect the hard work and integrity of Governor Walker, his administration and the majority of Alaskans.

The current Medicaid system desperately needs reform; there is so much documented waste. Many suggestions regarding ways to save money have been forwarded to previous administrations and have been ignored. Now is the time for everyone to stand up; reform a system that is wasting our tax dollars and implement a system that is more accessible to the working poor and utilize the federal match that our federal tax dollars are already paying for.

There is abuse of any system; whether it is private insurance or the current Medicaid system, Denali Care, Housing assistance; even the credit card expenses for some of those in the Department of Education. This effort doesn't guarantee it will continue, in fact, with the suggestions for reform; the opportunities to abuse the Medicaid system will be less than before.

I am respectfully requesting that you support the Medicaid Reform & Expansion Bill as transmitted by Governor Walker on 3/18/2015; without further delay. There are Alaskan lives and families depending on you to do the right thing.

Sincerely,



Shelly Vendetti-Vuckovich

Proud Alaskan

Advocate for the Special Needs & Disabled Community

8411 Berry Patch Dr.
Anchorage, Alaska 99502
(907)223-4102
vendettis@aol.com