

Emails in Opposition to HB 148- 3-28-2015

Included emails from:

Deborah Hackenberger

Cheryl Seese

Mike coons – Palmer

Greg Stoddard

From: Deborah Hackenberger [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, March 27, 2015 9:42 AM
To: Rep. Paul Seaton
Subject: Medicaid Expansion

Dear Representative Seaton;

I am writing due to my concern about the governors push to expand Medicaid using funds offered by the federal government. At a time when our state budget is already over by \$3.5 billion (or so) and the federal government is in debt by \$16 trillion is expanding Medicaid a wise thing to do? Please do not misunderstand me, I am most likely one of the people expansion would help, but how are we going to pay for this expansion in 6 years, or 2 years if the federal government can no longer keep the promises made to fund the Medicaid expansion.

The price of a barrel of oil does not appear to be significantly increasing and basing our state budget on anything more than \$40 a barrel is fool hardy at best. Is the state legislature going to be so callous as to expand Medicaid, discover that we have just driven over a fiscal cliff, then proceed to cut the program back thereby kicking off the 200,000+ people who basically just qualified for the program?

Before the legislature has a discussion on Medicaid expansion perhaps you should all be very honest and up front with the people of this state and tell them that if Medicaid is expanded the state will have to impose a sales tax of 5%, or perhaps you will vote to create one more incentive NOT to work by imposing an income tax, to insure the costs are covered. If you and your fellow legislatures are going to have discussions about expanding Medicaid, make sure those discussions also include ways to keep the program solvent in the next 20 years.

On a side note (since bring up a problem without a solution is whining) how about creating a sliding "fee" scale for a state run insurance program?

Thanks for your time.

Sincerely

Deborah Hackenberger

From: Cheryl Seese [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, March 27, 2015 11:33 AM
To: Rep. Paul Seaton
Subject: Medicaid Expansion

Dear Sir.

Please do not burden us with more people on government welfare. I am tired and upset that only half the country pays taxes. Please it is so unfair to those of us who work and have seen our incomes come down while the cost of living has risen, groceries especially. I know of people from other countries here who are on SSI and never worked an American day in their lives. We have got to fix this country. I also oppose Obama's immigration plan too. Teach people to stand on their own two feet make them responsible for themselves. I am sick and tired of so much giving and so little getting. And my husband and I work and have our own business. Please help us!

Thank you very much for your support.

Respectfully,
Cheryl
Sent from my iPhone

From: Mike Coons [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, March 28, 2015 9:34 AM
To: Rep. Adam Wool; Rep. David Talerico; Rep. Geran Tarr; Rep. Liz Vazquez; Rep. Louise Stutes; Rep. Neal Foster; Rep. Paul Seaton
Subject: Testimony against HB 148

I have read the text of this bill, comments follow.

Page 1 lines 10-13

(3) the Department of Health and Social Services, after consulting with stakeholders, submit to the legislature not later than January 25, 2016, a proposal to authorize a provider tax up to the maximum extent allowed by federal law to offset some of the cost of the Medicaid program.

So, the projection is 4,000 new medical jobs (per proponents) created by Medicaid Expansion, really? Docs have to take less money for Medicaid, and then on top of that be assessed a tax on top of that? Really?

Then the audit changes. Has anyone here seen what and how the audits from the feds are like? I'm sure the State audits will have to follow the guidelines of the feds so more attacks if a code was not done right. Another reason that Docs do not want to deal with Medicaid or Medicare! Medical coders take away a lot of money that the Docs business generate with regular patients!

Lastly, as to the "projected increase in medical jobs". To even get to the "4,000 new jobs", that would mean another 1,000 new doctors hiring 3 new employees. Or taking those existing doctors who still take Medicaid patients and they have to hire many more Certified Medical Assistants (CMA), Front Desk, Medical Coders, etc., all while being "taxed", having less income for the number of "new patients". I am a retired Paramedic and I worked as a CMA for a short time. Doctors are running away from Medicaid and Medicare and with what little they get paid, no way is there going to be a hiring increase, in point of fact, as Doctors leave, jobs will be lost!

I have read the text of this bill, vote NO!

Mike Coons
[REDACTED]

Palmer, AK 99645

From: Greg Stoddard [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, March 28, 2015 10:46 AM
To: GOV.AllLegislators@alaska.gov
Subject: NO to Medicaid expansion!!

All Representatives,

No doubt you've seen this letter before. We can't afford to keep driving toward the cliff. Your vote must be based upon logic and not emotion.

Thank you.....Greg Stoddard