

STATE CAPITOL
P.O. Box 110001
Juneau, AK 99811-0001
907-465-3500
fax: 907-465-3532



Governor Bill Walker
STATE OF ALASKA

550 West Seventh Avenue, Suite 1700
Anchorage, AK 99501
907-269-7450
fax 907-269-7461
www.Gov.Alaska.Gov
Governor@Alaska.Gov

March 24, 2016

The Honorable Mike Chenault
Speaker of the House
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 208
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Speaker Chenault:

Under the authority of Article III, Section 18 of the Alaska Constitution, I am transmitting a bill relating to residents who are high risk and to the state health insurance plan.

The bill would make changes to the Alaska Insurance Code (code) for assessments made under a reinsurance program established to reinsure "residents who are high risks." As the code is currently written, a member of the reinsurance program may offset 50 percent of the amount of the assessment made under the reinsurance program (and other state health insurance programs) as a premium tax credit. The bill would remove the assessments made in relation to the high risk reinsurance program from the offset provision. The bill also would amend the definition of "residents who are high risks." These changes are intended to provide a mechanism to help insurers spread the risk of high-cost claims in the individual health insurance market.

The bill also would authorize legislation to allow the State to seek a waiver of certain requirements under the Affordable Care Act in order to implement innovations with respect to the provision of health insurance coverage in the state. This would give the State the ability to restructure the approach to health insurance reform by waiving and proposing alternatives to applicable provisions of the Affordable Care Act.

I urge your prompt and favorable action on this measure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bill Walker".

Bill Walker
Governor

Enclosure