



Supporters of Medicaid Reform & Expansion

AARP Alaska

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

Ahtna, Incorporated

AK Child & Family

Alaska AIDS Assistance Association

Alaska Association on Developmental Disabilities

Alaska Brain Injury Network

Alaska Chamber of Commerce

Alaska Federation of Natives

Alaska Geriatric Exchange Network

Alaska Injury Prevention Center

Alaska Legal Services Corp.

Alaska Literacy Program

Alaska Mental Health Board and Advisory Board on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse

Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority

Alaska Municipal League

Alaska Native Brotherhood and Alaska Native Sisterhood Camp 70

Alaska Native Health Board

Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium

Alaska Physicians & Surgeons

Alaska Primary Care Association

Alaska State Hospital & Nursing Home Association

Alaska Women's Lobby

Updated April 6, 2015



Aleutian Housing Authority

Aleutian Probilof Island Association

American Cancer Society

American Diabetes Association

American Heart Association

American Lung Association in Alaska

Anchorage Coalition to End Homelessness

Anchorage Community Mental Health Services

Anchorage Human and Social Services Executive Directors

Anchorage Municipal Assembly

Anchorage Neighborhood Health Center

Anchorage Youth Development Coalition (AYDC)

ANCSA Regional Association

Bartlett Regional Hospital

Bering Straits Native Corporation

Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation

Bristol Bay Native Association

Bristol Bay Native Corporation

Camp Fire USA Alaska Council

Cancer Action Network

Catholic Social Services

CCS Early Learning

City of Barrow



Congregation Sukkat Shalom

Cook Inlet Region Inc.

Covenant House Alaska

Curyung Tribal Council

Doyon Limited

Effective Health Design

Enroll Alaska

Fairbanks Community Mental Health Services

Fairbanks Economic Development Corporation

Food Bank of Alaska

Foraker Group

Governor's Council on Disabilities & Special Education

Greater Fairbanks Community Hospital Foundation

Identity Inc.

Iliuliuk Family and Health Services

Juneau City & Borough Assembly

Juneau Economic Development Council

Juneau Tlingit & Haida Community Council

Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly

Kenaitze Indian Tribe

Kodiak Area Native Association

League of Women Voters of Alaska

March of Dimes Foundation Alaska Chapter



Mat-Su Health Foundation

Mountain-Pacific Quality Health Foundation

Municipality of Skagway

NAMI

NANA Regional Corporation

NEA Alaska

New Koliganek Village Council

Nine Star Education and Employment Services

Nondalton Tribal Council

Planned Parenthood of the Great Northwest

Professional Nursing Consultants

RurAL CAP

Sitka Borough Assembly

Southeast Alaska Independent Living, Inc.

Statewide Independent Living Council of Alaska

Tanana Chiefs Conference

Tangirnaq Native Village/ Woody Island Tribal Council

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United Way of Anchorage

Valley Medical Care

Volunteers of America Alaska

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.

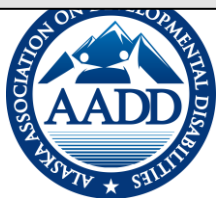
Ahtna, Incorporated endorses Medicaid expansion, recognizing we all have an interest in ensuring that Alaskans are as productive as possible so they can contribute to our communities and economy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michelle Anderson", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Michelle Anderson
President

To facilitate a united provider voice for best practices, advocacy, partnerships and networking.



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

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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

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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



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

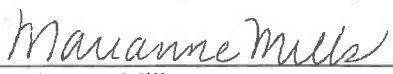
WHEREAS, leveraging the federal resources that come with expansion is the State's biggest opportunity to finance reform efforts; and

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

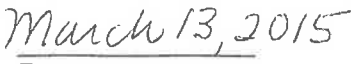
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, AgeNet endorses Medicaid expansion, recognizing we all have an interest in ensuring that Alaskans are as productive as possible so they can contribute to our communities and economy; and

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

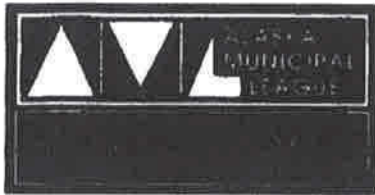
Medicaid expansion may serve as a catalyst for meaningful Medicaid reform and we support these discussions. We are pleased to hear that the Department of Health and Human Services has issued an RFP for technical assistance related to reform efforts. Though reform of the current Medicaid program should 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 "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



RESOLUTION NO. #2015-1

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

FYI HV
LO
OMBS

Please date
Stamp
3/12

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.

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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

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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

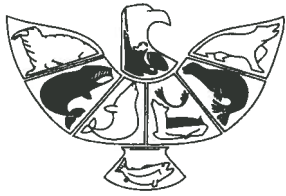
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Alaska Native Brotherhood Glacier Valley Camp 70 and the Alaska Native Sisterhood Glacier Valley Camp 70 strongly urge the Alaska Legislature to expand Medicaid for the benefit of Alaskans and the Alaska economy to take effect in July 2015 and, though reform efforts should 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 that reads "Lincoln A. Bean Sr." The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "L" and a prominent "Sr." at the end.

Lincoln Bean, Sr., Chairman
Alaska Native Health Board



Andy Teuber
ANTHC Chairman and President

Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium
4000 Commercial Drive
Anchorage, Alaska 99508
907.729.1900
anchc@anchc.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



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 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, sweeping horizontal line 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.

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 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 in a cursive style.

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...

Western States Affiliate
3700 Woodland Drive, Suite 700
Anchorage, AK 99517
(907) 865-5300
www.heart.org

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Janice Murphy, CFA
Oakland

President
Robert C. Robbins, M.D.
Houston

Chairman-Elect
Mike Bolen
Newport Beach

President-Elect
Kirk Knowlton, M.D.
La Jolla

Secretary
Deepak Srivastava, M.D.
San Francisco

Treasurer
Pierre P. Habis
Los Angeles

Executive Vice President
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



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

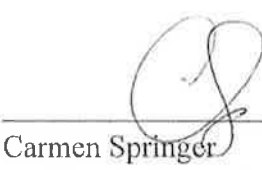
Whereas, the health and wellness of Alaskans is a Constitutional priority and is vital to each individual, family, community and our entire State; and

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

CLERK'S OFFICE

APPROVED

3-3-2015

Date:

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 Zai
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.**

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 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

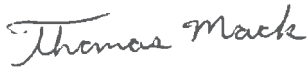
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the ANCSA Regional Association strongly urges the Alaska Legislature to expand Medicaid for the benefit of Alaskans and the Alaska economy to take effect in July 2015 and, though reform efforts should be of utmost importance, this work should not delay health care coverage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



2015-03-03 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



**Bristol Bay Area
Health Corporation**
6000 Kanakanak Road
P.O. Box 130
Dillingham, AK 99578
(907) 842-5201
800-478-5201
FAX (907) 842-9354

*Bristol Bay Area Health
Corporation is a tribal
organization representing
34 villages in Southwest
Alaska:*

Aleknagik
Chignik Bay
Chignik Lagoon
Chignik Lake
Clark's Point
Dillingham
Egegik
Ekwok
Ekwok
Goodnews Bay
Igloodig
Iliamna
Ivanof Bay
Kakanak
King Salmon
Knugank
Kokhanok
Kolliganek
Levelock
Manokotak
Naknek
New Stuyahok
Newhalen
Nondalton
Pedro Bay
Perryville
Pilot Point
Platinum
Port Helden
Portage Creek
South Naknek
Togalak
Twin Hills
Ugashik

*Our mission is to
provide health care
with competence
and sensitivity*

Via email and fax

March 13, 2015

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

Dear Governor Walker,

The Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation a consortium of 34 tribes in southwest Alaska 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.

Bristol Bay Area Health 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,

BRISTOL BAY AREA HEALTH CORPORATION



Robert J. Clark
President/Chief Executive Officer

cc: Commissioner Valerie Davidson
Alaska Native Health Board
BBAHC Executive Committee
BBAHC Division Managers
Representative Bryce Edgmon
Representative Lyman Hoffman
Senator Gary Stevens

BRISTOL BAY NATIVE ASSOCIATION

P.O. BOX 310
 DILLINGHAM, ALASKA 99576
 PHONE (907) 842-5257



Tribal Councils
 Served by BBNA:

Aleknagik

Chignik Bay

Chignik Lagoon

Chignik Lake

Clark Point

Curyung

Egegik

Elk

Elleuk

Igalig

Iliamna

Ivanof Bay

Kamatak

King Salmon

Kokhanok

Koliganuk

Levelock

Manoktok

Naknek

New Smythack

Navalton

Nondaton

Pedro Bay

Perryville

Pilot Point

Port Heiden

Fortage Creek

South Naknek

Togiak

Twin Hills

Ugashik

March 25, 2015

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

Dear Governor Walker:

Via Fax – 465-3532

Enclosed please find resolutions:

• 2015-02 • 2015-03 • 2015-07 • 2015-08 • 2015-11

These resolutions were passed during the Full Board of Directors meeting of the Bristol Bay Native Association, March 18-20, 2015. BBNA, the regional non-profit for the Bristol Bay region, represents 31 tribes.

These resolutions represent a formal statement of considered opinion, intent, and resolve of the Association and its tribes. We have taken this action out of concern for our social, economic, and cultural well-being. We communicate these resolutions to inform you of our position and to earnestly solicit your assistance in our efforts.

Sincerely,

BRISTOL BAY NATIVE ASSOCIATION

Ralph Andersen

Ralph Andersen
 President & CEO

Enclosure(s)

BRISTOL BAY NATIVE ASSOCIATION**P.O. BOX 310****DILLINGHAM, ALASKA 99576****(907) 842-5257****By the Full Board of Directors****Resolution 2015 - 02****A RESOLUTION URGING THE ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE TO ENACT HOUSE BILL 148, GOVERNOR WALKER'S MEDICAID EXPANSION BILL**

WHEREAS: The Bristol Bay Native Association (BBNA) is a regional Alaska Native non-profit corporation and tribal consortium serving 31 tribal communities in the Bristol Bay Region of Alaska; and

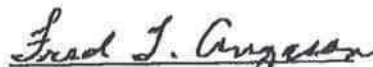
WHEREAS: On March 17, 2015 Governor Bill Walker transmitted to the Alaska State Legislature HB 148, a bill that would expand Medicaid to Alaskans who earn \$20,314 per year or less or married couples who earn \$27,490 or less, and makes various reforms to the Medicaid program in Alaska;

WHEREAS: The expansion of Medicaid would benefit an estimated 42,000 people, while bringing in \$146 million in new federal money in 2016 and subsequent years and generating an estimated 4,000 jobs and \$1.2 billion in wages and salaries, while actually reducing the state's general fund budget by \$6.5 million; and

WHEREAS: Many of the beneficiaries of the Medicaid expansion are Alaska Natives who are otherwise completely dependent on the under-funded Indian Health Service system for health care, and the Medicaid expansion will be a significant source of new third-party revenues for tribal health providers operating IHS programs;

WHEREAS: Although the State of Alaska will have to assume 10% of the cost of the Medicaid expansion beginning in 2020, the additional cost will be more than offset by savings to the state and increased economic activity generated by the expansion;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Bristol Bay Native Association Board of Directors that it urges the Alaska State Legislature to promptly enact House Bill 148, Governor Bill Walker's Medicaid expansion legislation.


Fred T. Angasan, Chairman

CERTIFICATION:

I, the undersigned Secretary of the Bristol Bay Native Association, Inc. do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was passed by the Full Board of Directors of the Bristol Bay Native Association at a duly called and noticed meeting on the 20th day of March, 2015, and that a quorum was present.



Robert Heyano, Secretary



Enriching Our Native Way of Life

February 24, 2015

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

Dear Governor Walker:

Bristol Bay Native Corporation (BBNC) supports Medicaid expansion. Medicaid expansion is critical to improving access to health care for thousands of Alaskans. Expansion will also bring the state close to a billion dollars in new federal spending over the short-term and will support programmatic reforms that will save the state additional Medicaid dollars over the long-term. Accordingly, BBNC encourages you to expand the Medicaid program.

Studies suggest that expanding Medicaid will greatly reduce the number of uninsured Alaskans and will save lives - by some estimates 30 lives a year. Without insurance many individuals are forced to ignore health issues until they become unbearable and they are forced to seek care in an emergency room. Medicaid expansion will allow these individuals to seek medical attention much earlier and in a primary care setting.

Expansion will also increase the level of substance abuse treatment and care available to many Alaskans. A disproportionate number of Alaska Natives are incarcerated for offenses that are more often than not either directly or indirectly related to alcohol and substance abuse. While incarcerated individuals can often receive substance abuse treatment while they are in state custody, there is no continuing treatment available once these individuals are released. Medicaid expansion will increase the amount of drug and alcohol counseling available outside of incarceration and should reduce recidivism rates. This is of critical importance to rural Alaska.

Medicaid expansion also makes sense from a finance perspective. In 2011, Alaska hospitals provided 90 million dollars in uncompensated emergency room care. These are costs that the state's health care system had to absorb and spread to other patients (and their insurers) through higher health care rates. Other states that have expanded Medicaid have seen their uncompensated hospital costs fall by as much as 30%. Should Alaska hospitals see a similar reduction in uninsured costs, more than 10 million dollars per year in uninsured costs could be avoided.

Alaska currently faces numerous social and fiscal challenges. Medicaid expansion offers a rare opportunity to address one of the social challenges while also bringing new federal funding to the state. From this perspective, the decision to expand the state's Medicaid program should be any easy one. We encourage your administration to work with the legislature to get this important task completed. Alaska and Alaskans stand to benefit greatly.

Regards,



Jason Metrokin
President & CEO



February 17, 2015

Governor Walker:

Cancer is the leading cause of death in Alaska, but there is good news: knowing what we know today, we could prevent half of all cancer deaths, saving over 300,000 lives annually in the US. Success on this scale will require the commitment of all levels of government and strong community and private sector support.

The American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN) is the nonprofit, nonpartisan advocacy affiliate of the American Cancer Society. ACS CAN supports evidence-based policy and legislative solutions designed to eliminate cancer as a major health problem. We need your help.

We would like to draw your attention to two priority areas on the ACS CAN agenda this session:

- **100% Smoke-free Indoor Workplaces** ACS CAN strongly supports SB 1, protecting Alaskans from secondhand smoke in the workplace. Only half the state's population is currently protected by a smoke-free workplace ordinance. It is time for the legislature to act protect workers and patrons across the state from secondhand smoke and electronic cigarette aerosol.
- **Expanding Medicaid in Alaska** - ACS CAN supports the expansion of Medicaid eligibility in order to provide access to care that otherwise might not be accessible or affordable. Options like this increase the likelihood that cancers and other chronic diseases will be found at their earliest stages where treatment can be less costly and health outcomes greatly improved.

As these measures come before you in the Alaska Legislature, please consider our positions. We are always available as a resource to you and your constituents. Your vote can reduce the burden of cancer across our state. Together, we can and will save lives.

Sincerely,

Johna Beech
Volunteer State Lead Ambassador

American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
3851 Piper Street, Suite U240, Anchorage, AK 99508
www.acscan.org/alaska



Catholic Social Services

3710 East 20th Avenue, Anchorage, AK 99508 • (907) 222-7300 • Fax (907) 258-1091 • www.cssalaska.org

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
JAN 22 2015

3-9-15

Brother Francis Shelter

Charlie Elder House

Clare House

Family Disability Services

Homeless Family Services

Pregnancy Support &
Adoption Services

Refugee Assistance &
Immigration Services

St. Francis House

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

Dear Governor Walker,

Catholic Social Services supports efforts to expand Medicaid in July 2015 for the benefit of Alaskans, in particular for the vulnerable Alaskans who we serve.

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 is expected to 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.

Federal funds will pay for 100% of services provided to the expansion population through 2016 and will transition to 90% in 2020 and beyond. Medicaid expansion will serve as a catalyst for meaningful Medicaid reform.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration on this issue. The mission of Catholic Social Services is to compassionately serve the poor and those in need; strengthen individuals and families; and advocate for social justice. We believe our support of Medicaid expansion speaks to every element of our mission.

Sincerely,

Lisa D.H. Aquino, MHS
Executive Director

*Providing Help
Creating Hope*





CITY OF BARROW

"Farthest North Incorporated City"

Fax Received
MAR 28 2015
Office of the Governor

PRIORITY IMPORTANCE

28 March 2015

Governor Bill Walker
State Capitol
PO Box 110001
Juneau, AK 99811-0001

Via FAX 907-465-8582

SUBJECT: City of Barrow Resolution in Support of Medicaid Expansion

Good afternoon, Governor Walker

Attached is a copy of City of Barrow Resolution 15-2015, "A Resolution of the Barrow City Council Encouraging and Supporting the State Legislature to Expand Medicaid Coverage to Improve the Health of Alaskans and to Improve the Alaskan Economy". The resolution was thoroughly discussed and vetted with community members prior to its adoption. All were completely in support of the resolution with not one dissenting voice being heard.

It was unanimously adopted by the City Council this past Thursday evening. I apologize for sending this to you just prior to the House Health and Social Services Committee hearing on HB 149 this afternoon. Even though the resolution was passed this past Thursday evening, I was unable to have the resolution formally attested to and stamped until about ten minutes ago. I have been unexpectedly and ridiculously short staffed for the past few weeks for a variety of reasons.

I hope that it arrives in sufficient time for your staff to distribute it prior to the meeting of the House Health and Social Services Committee. I may and may not be able to personally call in for the meeting depending on the resolution of some tenuous issues.

Sincerely,

Bob Harcharek
Mayor

Cc: Barrow City Council
files



CITY OF BARROW

"Farthest North Incorporated City"

RESOLUTION 15-2015

A RESOLUTION OF THE BARROW CITY COUNCIL ENCOURAGING AND SUPPORTING THE ALASKA LEGISLATURE TO EXPAND MEDICAID COVERAGE TO IMPROVE THE HEALTH OF ALASKANS AND TO IMPROVE THE ALASKAN ECONOMY

WHEREAS, nearly forty one thousand Alaskans - our family members, friends and neighbors currently without health insurance have the opportunity to obtain health care coverage through the expansion of Medicaid; and

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

WHEREAS, Medicaid expansion will bring more than One Billion Dollars in new federal revenue into Alaska over the first five years of its implementation; and

WHEREAS, economic analyses suggest that expansion will yield approximately 4,000 new jobs in Alaska, an increase of more than One Million Dollars in wages and salaries paid to Alaskans, and Two and One-Half Billion Dollars in increased economic activity throughout the State; and

WHEREAS, in this period of reduced and declining oil generated revenues, expansion of Medicaid would save the State approximately Six Million Dollars in FY2016 by using federal funds to pay for health services currently being paid with state general funds; and

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

WHEREAS, Medicaid expansion will significantly reduce the burden to the State of paying for the uncompensated care rendered at non-native Alaska hospitals, which in 2013 exceeded \$90 million; and

WHEREAS, implementing Medicaid expansion throughout Alaska in the next fiscal year will serve as a catalyst for meaningful Medicaid reform; and

WHEREAS, leveraging the federal resources that come with expansion is one of the State's greatest opportunity to facilitate its finance reformation efforts; and

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

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Barrow City Council endorses Medicaid expansion, recognizing that we all have a vested interest in ensuring that Alaskans are as healthy and as productive as possible so they can all contribute to our communities and to the economy of the State of Alaska; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Barrow City Council, through a unanimous vote, hereby formally requests the Alaska State 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.

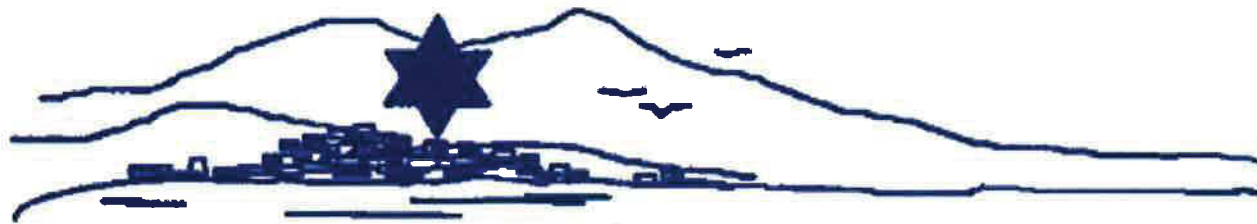
PASSED AND APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY BY THE BARROW CITY COUNCIL THIS 26th DAY OF MARCH 2015.

Attest:



Bob Harcharek, Mayor

Aolele Poe, City Clerk



Congregation Sukkat Shalom "Shelter of Peace"

A RESOLUTION URGING THE ALASKA LEGISLATURE TO IMPROVE THE HEALTH AND WELL BEING OF ALASKANS, ALLOWING THEM BENEFITS SHARED BY OUR MEMBERSHIP AND THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE ALASKA LEGISLATURE BY EXPANDING MEDICAID

WHEREAS the Jewish virtue of "tikkun olam", repairing our world, calls upon us to fix the injustice of inequality and suffering; and

WHEREAS, the Jewish tradition of "tzedakah", giving to others less fortunate, is not considered charity but "the right thing to do"; and

WHEREAS, the majority of the membership of our congregation and the entire membership of our State Legislature are blessed with the benefit of insurance coverage so that we have access to preventive and healing health care for our families and our children; and

WHEREAS, we have knowledge that tens of thousands of Alaskans do not share our same access to health care; and

WHEREAS, nearly 42,000 other Alaskans would have the opportunity to gain health care coverage under Medicaid expansion; and

WHEREAS, Medicaid expansion will improve health outcomes by reducing the numbers 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 would help Alaska economically by bringing in over \$1 billion in new federal revenue over the first five years; and

WHEREAS, the State would save \$6.1 million in 2016 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;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, as an act of "tikkun olam", healing the world, Congregation Sukkat Shalom urges Medicaid expansion in Alaska and deems it imperative that the Alaska Legislature expands Medicaid to take effect in July, 2015.

3/16/15

211 Cordova St. ☆ PO Box 22071 ☆ Juneau, AK 99802



March 9, 2015

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

RE: CIRI Support for Medicaid Expansion

Dear Governor Walker,

I am writing on behalf of Cook Inlet Region, Inc. (CIRI) to express support for your efforts to expand Medicaid in July 2015. CIRI believes Medicaid expansion provides an important opportunity to invest in the health of Alaskans and the health of our state's economy.

Medicaid expansion will give nearly 42,000 of our fellow Alaskans access to health care coverage that is otherwise unavailable to them. Expansion will improve health outcomes by reducing the number of uninsured Alaskans by half, increase preventative and primary care access and provide substance abuse treatment and mental health counseling.

There are significant economic benefits associated with Medicaid expansion that will positively impact our state's economy, at a time we are faced with declining oil prices and the resulting budget challenges. It is estimated that Medicaid expansion will bring in more than \$1 billion in new federal revenue to our state, driving some 4,000 new jobs, \$1.2 billion in wages and salaries and \$2.49 billion in increased economic activity over the first five years. In addition to new revenue, the state budget will realize significant savings as well.

Medicaid expansion also will serve as a catalyst for meaningful Medicaid reform. We recognize that the state must do things differently to make Medicaid sustainable and are pleased to hear that the Department of Health & Human Services has issued an RFP for technical assistance related to reform efforts. However, reform of the current program should not delay access to health care coverage for those Alaskans who would be eligible under Medicaid expansion.

CIRI endorses Medicaid expansion and believes that healthy Alaskans are productive Alaskans who will, in turn, contribute to the health of our communities and economy as a whole.

Sincerely,

Cook Inlet Region, Inc.

Sophie Minich
President and Chief Executive Officer

FYI to
HV
Becca
Grace
Kate M

P.O. Box 218
Dillingham, AK 99576
Phone: (907) 842-2384/4508/2544/3363/1751
Fax: (907) 842-4510

Curyung Tribal
Council

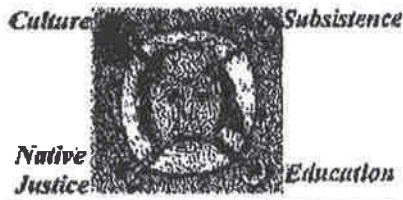
Fax

To: Office of the Governor	From: CM
Fax: 907-269-7461	Pages: 3
Phone:	Date: 3/19/15
Re: Resolution of Support	CC:
<input type="checkbox"/> Urgent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> For Review <input type="checkbox"/> Please Comment <input type="checkbox"/> Please Reply <input type="checkbox"/> Please Recycle	
● Comments	

____ The original of this fax will be mailed on ____/____/____.

____ The original of this fax will not be mailed (unless specifically requested).

1003 214 2015



Curyung Tribal Council
PO Box 216 • 531 D Street
Dillingham, Alaska 99576
Phone: (907) 842-2384
Fax: (907) 842-4510

Curyung Tribal Council
Resolution 2015-09

**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 Curyung Tribal Council is the federally recognized Alaska Native tribe serving its tribal members and the community of Dillingham; and

WHEREAS: Curyung Tribal Council, acting as the duly recognized governing body pursuant to the Constitution of Curyung, has the authority of establishing relationships and entering into contracts for the benefit and well-being of the Tribe; and

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, Curyung Tribal Council 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 Curyung Tribal Council 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.

CERTIFICATION:

This resolution was duly considered and adopted by the Curyung Tribal Council in Dillingham, Alaska on March 18, 2015 at which a quorum of Council members were in attendance.

For <u>7</u>	Against <u>0</u>	Abstain <u>0</u>
Present <u>7</u>	Absent <u>0</u>	


Thomas Tilden, 1st Chief

ATTEST:


Gayla Hoseth, 3rd Chief



March 6, 2015

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

Dear Governor Walker,

This letter is written on behalf of Doyon, Limited as a statement of support for your efforts to expand Medicaid for the benefit of Alaskans and the Alaska economy.

Doyon's mission is to continually enhance its position as a financially strong Native corporation in order to promote the economic and social well-being of its shareholders and future shareholders, to strengthen its Native way of life, and to protect and enhance its land and resources.

Through Medicaid Expansion, over 40,000 of our fellow Alaskans will be eligible for health coverage. This improves health outcomes by reducing the number of uninsured, improves preventative and primary care access, and provides substance abuse treatment and mental health counseling.

Medicaid expansion also provides significant associated economic benefits, including but not limited to 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.

Doyon, Limited 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. Again, thank you for the work you are doing on behalf of all Alaskans. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please do not hesitate to contact me at (907) 459-2000.

Sincerely,

Aaron M. Schutt
President and CEO

April 3, 2015

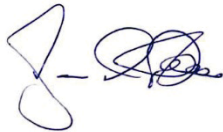
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol Building
Juneau AK 99801

Dear Legislators,

As the President/CEO of Fairbanks Economic Development Corporation (FEDC) I am writing you in support of HB 148 and SB 78. Alaska, and particularly Alaskans, is in troubling economic times and all reasonable measures should and must be taken to assure our citizens' continued economic and personal well-being. Expansion of Medicaid can immediately extend access to health insurance for an estimated 42,000 low-income Alaskans. Support of Medicaid Expansion not only provides a safety net to our most economically vulnerable Alaskans, it also provides Alaska with an estimated additional \$1.1 billion in Federal Revenue.

That additional Federal Revenue will create approximately 4,000 jobs and help reduce the State budget by \$6 million. Support of this legislation is a win for Alaskans and a win for Alaska. On behalf of the FEDC staff and our Board of Directors, I am asking for your support for HB 148 and SB 78.

Thank you for your consideration,



Jim Dodson
President & CEO
Fairbanks Economic Development Corporation



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

**Department of
Health and Social Services**

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DISABILITIES
& SPECIAL EDUCATION
Patrick Reinhart, Executive Director

3601 C Street, Suite 740
Anchorage, Alaska 99503-5924
Main: 907.269.8990
Toll Free: 1.888.269.8990
Fax: 907.269.8995

Resolution 101

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 Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education 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 Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education 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.

RESOLUTION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

OF THE

**THE GREATER FAIRBANKS COMMUNITY HOSPITAL FOUNDATION,
INCORPORATED**

RESOLUTION 2013-5

WHEREAS The Greater Fairbanks Community Hospital Foundation, Incorporated ("Fairbanks Hospital Foundation") is the owner of Fairbanks Memorial Hospital, which is operated by Banner Health.


WHEREAS the Fairbanks Hospital Foundation was established to ensure that Fairbanks never again face the prospect of a community without health care by providing outstanding medical facilities and technology; overseeing an excellent operator; creating an environment that attracts quality, caring physicians who wish to be part of the community and; creating partnerships to deliver quality patient care.

WHEREAS it is the belief of the Fairbanks Hospital Foundation that the Medicaid Expansion would provide underserved patients access to healthcare, thereby increasing the quality of care to the Fairbanks community and Interior Alaska.

WHEREAS the Fairbanks Hospital Foundation recognizes the complexities of the Affordable Care Act and the challenges the Governor and State of Alaska Legislature face in navigating what is best for Alaska, but they also believe that the Governor and the State of Alaska Legislature can and will accomplish a solution.

THEREFORE the Executive Committee of the Fairbanks Hospital Foundation requests that the Governor and State of Alaska Legislature consider adopting a Medicaid Expansion plan using tailored approaches that they feel best meet the needs of the Alaskan people, thereby providing underserved patients access to healthcare.

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the Executive Committee at a regularly scheduled meeting on October 10, 2013.


Jeffrey J. Cook
President


Michael Kelly
1st Vice-President

Presented by: The Manager
Introduced: 03/16/2015
Drafted by: A. G. Mead

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA

Serial No. 2724

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 statewide have the opportunity to gain health care coverage under Medicaid expansion; and

WHEREAS, approximately 2,400 Juneau residents are eligible for coverage under Medicaid expansion, and 1,140 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 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, Medicaid expansion will significantly reduce the burden of uncompensated care, which was over \$90 million at non-tribal Alaska hospitals in 2013; 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.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA:

Section 1. The City and Borough of Juneau 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.

Section 2. The City and Borough of Juneau strongly urges the Alaska Legislature to expand Medicaid for the benefit of Alaskans and the Alaska economy to take effect in July 2015 and, while reform efforts are of tremendous 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 16th day of March, 2015.



Merrill Sanford, Mayor

Attest:



Elizabeth J. McEwen, Acting Clerk





JEDC.org

612 West Willoughby Ave. Suite A

Juneau, AK 99801

Phone 907-523-2300

Fax 907-463-3929

April 6, 2015

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

Dear Governor Walker:

The Juneau Economic Development Council Board of Directors strongly urges support for legislation 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. According to data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, healthcare and social assistance jobs grew over 30% faster between December 2013 and December 2014 for 24 states that implemented Affordable Care Act expansion on Jan. 1, 2014 than those that did not. Fitch Ratings says "...it could support a broader economic and tax base for state budgets and improve nonprofit hospital finances in those states."

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%.



JEDC.org

612 West Willoughby Ave. Suite A

Juneau, AK 99801

Phone 907-523-2300

Fax 907-463-3929

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.

Juneau Economic Development Council Board of Directors recognizes the economic benefits associated with the Medicaid expansion in Alaska and thanks you for your efforts on behalf of Alaskans and our economy.

Sincerely,

Brian Holst
Executive Director
Juneau Economic Development Council



Juneau Tlingit & Haida Community Council
P.O. Box 020770, Juneau, Alaska 99802
Physically located at: 3235 Hospital Drive, Juneau, AK 99801

A T & H Community of the Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska



Resolution 02-2015

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

WHEREAS, Central Council Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska (Central Council) is a federally recognized tribe of more than 28,000 tribal citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Juneau Tlingit & Haida Community Council (JTHCC) is a federally recognized tribal political subdivision and subordinate entity of Central Council Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska. The JTHCC tribal member enrollment as of January 2015 is 6,746;

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

WHEREAS, Medicaid reform and expansion will provide for underserved tribal members: children in need of aid, pregnancies and birthing, people in prisons, mentally ill persons and veterans; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Juneau Tlingit & Haida Community Council 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 Juneau Tlingit & Haida Community Council 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.

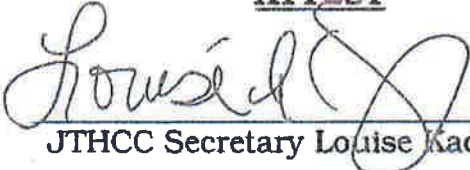
Passed and approved this 12th day of March 2015, at Juneau, Alaska.


X APPROVED DISAPPROVED TABLED

26 AYES NAYS 19 ABSENT

CERTIFY

ATTEST


JTHCC Secretary Louise Kadinger


JTHCC President Janice L Hotch

Introduced by:	Smith, Mayor
Date:	02/05/13
Action:	Adopted
Vote:	8 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent

**KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH
RESOLUTION 2013-014**

**A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE STATE OF ALASKA ADMINISTRATION AND
ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE FULLY CONSIDER THE BENEFITS TO THE
RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH WHEN
CONSIDERING THE EXPANSION OF MEDICAID UNDER THE AFFORDABLE
CARE ACT**

WHEREAS, the Affordable Care Act provides for expansion of Medicaid benefits by increasing the eligibility income level; and

WHEREAS, significant numbers of Kenai Peninsula Borough residents would become newly eligible for benefits if the State opted to agree to the Medicaid expansion; and

WHEREAS, the increase in eligible beneficiaries would provide increased care and improved health for many borough residents; and

WHEREAS, borough hospitals would see an increase in reimbursed care and a decrease in charity care; and

WHEREAS, other health care providers would see a similar benefit; and

WHEREAS, the increase in Medicaid funding would provide better health for our residents and an economic boost to the borough; and

WHEREAS, a preliminary evaluation by Northern Economics predicts for each \$1 in State funding related to Medicaid expansion, \$15.5 in new federal funds will be generated; and

WHEREAS, the evaluation also finds a net reduction of State costs because increased Medicaid eligibility will displace other costs borne by the State;

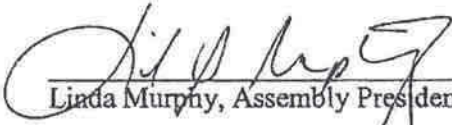
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH:

SECTION 1. That the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly requests the State of Alaska Administration and the State Legislature to weigh heavily the great benefits that would accrue to the residents of the borough and to the borough economy while deciding whether to expand our Medicaid program.

SECTION 2. That copies of this Resolution be provided to Governor Sean Parnell and all members of the Legislature representing the Kenai Peninsula Borough.

SECTION 3. That this resolution takes effect immediately upon its adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH THIS 5TH DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2013.


Liada Murphy, Assembly President

ATTEST:


John Blankenship, MMC, Borough Clerk



Yes: Haggerty, Johnson, McClure, Pierce, Smith, Tauriainen, Wolf, Murphy
No: None
Absent: Smalley



**KENAITZE
INDIAN
TRIBE**

WWW.KENAITZE.ORG

PHONE: (907) 335-7200 • FAX: (907) 335-7239

P.O. Box 988 • KENAI, AK 99611

March 13, 2015

The Honorable Bill Walker
Governor of Alaska
P.O. Box 110001
Juneau, AK 99811-001

Dear Governor Walker;

The Kenaitze Indian Tribe 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 preventive 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 Kenaitze Indian Tribe 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,

Rosalie Tepp
Chairperson



HU
OMB

3449 Rezanof Drive East
Kodiak, Alaska 99615
Phone 907.486.9800
www.kanaweb.org

RECEIVED
JAN 15 2015

March 11, 2015

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

Dear Governor Walker,

Kodiak Area Native Association (KANA) 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 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.

Kodiak Area Native 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 "Andy Teuber", with a stylized flourish at the end.

**Andy Teuber
President and CEO**

**Cc: Commissioner Valerie Davidson, Alaska DHSS
Monique Martin, Alaska DHSS**



The League of Women Voters

A Voice For Citizens, A Force For Change

P.O. Box 90079, Anchorage, AK 99509-0079

March 9, 2015

OFFICERS

Dear State of Alaska Legislators:

President

Pat Redmond

Vice-President

Carol Dickason

Past President

Linda Witt

Treasurer

Shari George

Secretary

Hetty Barthel

DIRECTORS

Judy Andree

Gail Knopf

Diane Mathisen

Marianne Mills

Lois Pillifant

The League of Women Voters of Alaska fully supports the expansion of Medicaid. The League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS) has long fought for basic health care for all citizens, stating the following in their Position Statement on Health Care: "Every U. S. resident should have access to a basic level of care that includes the prevention of disease, health promotion and education, primary care (including prenatal and reproductive health), acute care, long-term care and mental health care." The League also supports cost control efforts for health care that would go hand-in-hand with universal coverage as well as equity in the allocation of health care resources.

The State of Alaska has an opportunity to expand Medicaid at no immediate cost to the State through the federal Affordable Care Act. Reports from Alaska's own Department of Health and Social Services state 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. All of these projections bring positive results to the citizens of Alaska. Expanding Medicaid seems like a wise choice for the entire State.

In addition, expansion of Medicaid would help up to 42,000 of the State's most vulnerable citizens. There is no more honorable cause for a free and democratic government than to assist the most vulnerable of its citizens. We urge all Senators and Representatives to expand access to quality health care for all Alaskans through Medicaid expansion. We are attaching the full LWVUS Position Statement for your reference.

Thank you for your service to Alaska.

Sincerely,

Pat Redmond
Pat Redmond, President

League of Women Voters of Alaska

Judy Andree
Judy Andree, Chair

LWVAK Legislative Action

cc: Governor Bill Walker, Lt. Governor Byron Mallott, DHSS Commissioner Valerie Davidson

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

The League of Women Voters of the United States: Position on Health Care

GOALS: The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that a basic level of quality health care at an affordable cost should be available to all U.S. residents. Other U.S. health care policy goals should include the equitable distribution of services, efficient and economical delivery of care, advancement of medical research and technology, and a reasonable total national expenditure level for health care.

BASIC LEVEL OF QUALITY CARE: Every U.S. resident should have access to a basic level of care that includes the prevention of disease, health promotion and education, primary care (including prenatal and reproductive health), acute care, long-term care and mental health care. Dental, vision and hearing care also are important but lower in priority. The League believes that under any system of health care reform, consumers/patients should be permitted to purchase services or insurance coverage beyond the basic level.

FINANCING AND ADMINISTRATION: The League favors a national health insurance plan financed through general taxes in place of individual insurance premiums. As the United States moves toward a national health insurance plan, an employer-based system of health care reform that provides universal access is acceptable to the League. The League supports administration of the U.S. health care system either by a combination of the private and public sectors or by a combination of federal, state and/or regional government agencies. The League is opposed to a strictly private market-based model of financing the health care system. The League also is opposed to the administration of the health care system solely by the private sector or the states.

TAXES: The League supports increased taxes to finance a basic level of health care for all U.S. residents, provided health care reforms contain effective cost control strategies.

COST CONTROL: The League believes that efficient and economical delivery of care can be enhanced by such cost control methods as:

- ▲ the reduction of administrative costs,
- ▲ regional planning for the allocation of personnel, facilities and equipment,
- ▲ the establishment of maximum levels of public reimbursement to providers,
- ▲ malpractice reform,
- ▲ the use of managed care,
- ▲ utilization review of treatment,
- ▲ mandatory second opinions before surgery or extensive treatment,
- ▲ consumer accountability through deductibles and copayments.

EQUITY ISSUES: The League believes that health care services could be more equitably distributed by:

- ▲ allocating medical resources to underserved areas,
- ▲ providing for training health care professionals in needed fields of care,
- ▲ standardizing basic levels of service for publicly funded health care programs,
- ▲ requiring insurance plans to use community rating instead of experience rating,
- ▲ establishing insurance pools for small businesses and organizations.

ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES TO INDIVIDUALS: The League believes that the ability of a patient to pay for services should not be a consideration in the allocation of health care resources. Limited resources should be allocated based on the following criteria considered together: the urgency of the medical condition, the life expectancy of the patient, the expected outcome of the treatment, the cost of the procedure, the duration of care, the quality of life of the patient after treatment, and the wishes of the patient and the family.

(Source: League of Women Voters of the United States. Impact on Issues: 2012-2014. Online.
<http://lwv.org/content/health-care>)

HV

RECEIVED
GOVERNOR
2001

DEC 9 2014

March of Dimes Foundation

Alaska Chapter
3209 Denali Street, Suite 200
Anchorage, AK 99503
Telephone (907) 276-4111
Fax (907) 276-3375
dgolden@marchofdimes.com

marchofdimes.com/alaska

Debbie Golden
Director of Program Services

December 29th, 2014

The Honorable Bill Walker
Office of the Governor
PO Box 110001
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0001

Dear Governor Walker:

On behalf of the Alaska Chapter March of Dimes, I would like to thank you for making Medicaid expansion a priority for your administration. The mission of the March of Dimes is to improve the health of all children by preventing birth defects, preterm birth and infant mortality. We are thankful for this and other opportunities to improve the health of pregnant women and babies.

Another important aspect of our work is newborn screening. During the 2003 and 2004 legislative session, Alaska March of Dimes led the effort – with technical assistance from the Alaska Division of Public Health (ADPH) – that resulted in mandatory newborn hearing screening for all Alaska babies. In the spring of 2015, I have been told the ADPH will add screening for an important condition called Severe Combined Immunodeficiency (SCID) to the newborn metabolic screening panel. SCID is a term used to describe a group of rare inherited disorders which makes affected infants more susceptible to infection. With newborn screening, SCID can be identified early, and infants can be treated and survive. We commend ADPH for taking steps to implement this important addition to newborn screening.

In November, March of Dimes released the annual Premature Birth Report Card. The early birth of a baby has huge human and financial costs. We are disheartened to see that Alaska's grade went from an A in 2012 to a B in 2013. March of Dimes and ADPH staff are in regular communication and will continue to partner to address the problem of premature birth.

Again, thank you for already setting things in motion to improve the health of Alaska's babies and families! I look forward to continuing the strong partnership between State of Alaska and March of Dimes. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Debbie Golden, RN, MS
Director of Program Services



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Medicaid Expansion and Reform: Impact on the Mat-Su

The Mat-Su Health Foundation Board supports:

- Using Medicaid expansion dollars as a catalyst to reform Medicaid to control costs and make the program more sustainable.
- Designing Alaska's Medicaid expansion as a path to self-sufficiency for individuals to ensure they enter or remain in the workforce.
- Building an "opt out" provision into State statute if the federal government reneges on its obligations.
- Expanding Medicaid to cover more Mat-Su residents so they can access care in more cost-effective ways to lead more productive lives.

The Mat-Su economy will benefit greatly from Medicaid expansion:

- Medicaid expansion will bring \$20 million in new federal revenue annually to Mat-Su.
- Medicaid expansion will lead to 72 new jobs and \$1.3 million more in wages and salaries.

The health insurance coverage gap affects Mat-Su disproportionately:

- 20% Mat-Su residents do not have health insurance, as compared to 15% of Anchorage residents and 17% of people statewide.

Mat-Su residents are more likely to be uninsured if they:

- Are white;
- Under the age of 45;
- Have a low income;
- Have not gone to college; and,
- Live in a rural part of the Borough.

Of Mat-Su residents eligible under expanded Medicaid:

- About 2000 Mat-Su residents are employed
- About 1000 Mat-Su residents are "not in the workforce," meaning they may be in school, raising a family, or retired
- Approximately 250 Mat-Su residents are unable to work
- Around 1,400 Mat-Su residents are in the labor force looking for work or seasonally employed

As many as 4,800 Mat-Su residents will be eligible for basic health care coverage if Medicaid is expanded:

- About 1,400 are between the ages of 55 and 64.
- About 1,100 age 45-54.
- About 500 age 35-44.
- About 1,500 age 19-34.

Both men and women fall in the coverage gap:

- 54% are men.

- 46% are women.

Faces of the Uninsured in Mat-Su:

John Doe: He is one of our neighbors who works several part-time jobs, none of which offer health insurance. His wages are less than 138% of the Federal Poverty Level, so he does not qualify for a subsidy to purchase insurance at healthcare.gov but is still legally required to have it or pay the penalty.

Jane Smith: She is a senior citizen who is not yet old enough to qualify for Medicare and Social Security benefits. She works at Mat-Su Senior Services, which does not provide health insurance. Like John, her wages are too low to get help buying an affordable plan in the insurance marketplace.

Jill Jones: She is a Mat-Su College student who has a part time job who is eligible to be on her parents' health insurance until age 26 – except that her parents have a small family construction business and they don't have insurance either.

Dave Green: He has worked in construction for 20 years, mostly for small firms. Last year, he fell off a roof and became critically injured. He didn't qualify for charity care at Mat-Su Regional because his income was too high the previous year. Now, he's try to get strong again so that he can work to pay back his hospital bill. With no current income, he does not qualify for a subsidy and cannot purchase insurance on the exchange.

All of these individuals will face a penalty for not having health insurance, yet none can afford to buy it. When they have a health crisis, they will either leave it untreated, or, when it gets bad enough, visit an emergency room. There, the cost of treatment will be much higher than it would have been if problems could have been addressed before they reached the crisis stage.

These stories can change with Medicaid expansion and reform.

- 4,800 Mat-Su residents will be eligible for basic health care coverage if Medicaid is expanded (40,000 statewide).

Sources: Mat-Su estimates for employment, age, and gender of potential new Medicaid enrollees were created using statewide data from the Evergreen Economic and the Department of Health and Social Services Healthy Alaska Plan and House Finance Budget Subcommittee FY2016 Division Overview report applied to the Mat-Su population. Data about how many Mat-Su residents have insurance and the characteristics of the uninsured if from the Behavioral Health Surveillance System State of Alaska, Division of Public Health.



Municipality of Skagway

GATEWAY TO THE KLONDIKE

P.O. BOX 415 SKAGWAY, ALASKA 99840

(PHONE) 907-983-2297 – Fax 907-983-2151

WWW.SKAGWAY.ORG

SENT VIA EMAIL

March 10, 2015

The Honorable Dennis Egan
Alaska State Senate
State Capitol Room 417
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
Senator.Dennis.Egan@akleg.gov

Dear Senator Egan:

The Municipality of Skagway 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 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 will serve as a catalyst for meaningful Medicaid reform. We are pleased to hear that the Department of Health and Human Services as 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 Municipality of Skagway 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 'Mark Schaefer', written over a faint, larger version of the same signature.

Mark Schaefer
Borough Mayor



**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, NAMI JUNEAU, the local affiliate of the National Alliance on Mental Illness, 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 NAMI JUNEAU 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.

Crystal Bourland, Executive Director

Telephone: (907) 463-4251 Fax: (907) 500-9914 Email: namijuneau@gmail.com

Address: 9000 Glacier Highway, Suite 201, Juneau, AK 99801-8032

March 6, 2015

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

Dear Governor Walker,

NANA Regional 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.

NANA Regional 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,



Wayne Westlake
President/CEO



NEA-ALASKA

Affiliated with the National Education Association

March 16, 2015

Honorable Bill Walker
Governor, State of Alaska
PO Box 110001
Juneau, AK 99511-0001

Dear Governor Walker,

On behalf of Alaska's 13,000 education support professionals and teachers, in order to improve the health, safety, and well-being of our 130,000 public school students, I am writing to affirm NEA-Alaska's support of Medicaid expansion in Alaska.

Some may not see Medicaid expansion as an education issue. As someone who taught in our schools for over 30 years with some of Anchorage's most at-risk students, including at Clark Middle School and the McLaughlin Youth Center, I can tell you that the lack of access to quality, affordable healthcare in our communities directly impacts too many Alaskan children. When I taught at Clark and McLaughlin, I went to work every day to help as many of my students as possible to succeed and turn their lives around. I wish I could tell you that all of them did, but that is not the world we live in.

In 2014, NEA-Alaska partnered with the Anchorage Chamber of Commerce, Alaska PTA, United Way of Anchorage, Citizens for the Educational Advancement of Alaska's Children, and a number of other partners to commission a statewide study by Northern Economics on the social and environmental issues that are impacting student learning and achievement in Alaska. The results were clear: parents and teachers alike found that student learning was severely impacted by a number of issues outside the classroom, such as poverty, drug and alcohol abuse, and domestic violence. These issues leave children without safe and supportive home environments, which can lead to chronic absence, a lack of academic preparation, and low levels of student achievement.

Too many of my students had the deck stacked against them by these social and economic factors. Would Medicaid expansion solve all these issues? No, but it would surely help some of our most disadvantaged students. Medicaid expansion is no silver bullet, but it would reduce the number of uninsured Alaskans by half – extending health coverage to more than 40,000 low-income Alaskans. Many of these new enrollees will *not* have dependent children (some will, but many low-income children are already covered by Medicaid and Denali KidCare), but expanding health coverage in low-income communities and neighborhoods will improve the quality of life for all the children who live in them.

By most estimates, Medicaid expansion will bring \$1.1 billion in new federal revenue into Alaska. It will create 4,000 new jobs, \$1.2 billion more in wages and salaries, and \$2.49 billion in increased economic activity across Alaska. In addition, Medicaid expansion will create millions in cost savings for the state of Alaska at a time when we are searching for ways to close a projected \$3.5 billion budget deficit.

Honorable Bill Walker
March 16, 2015
Page 2

As educators, we are deeply committed to the success of every one of our students. Medicaid expansion will be good for the state, it will be good for the economy, but for us this issue comes down to one simple statement: Medicaid expansion will be good for our students.

Thank you for taking action on one of the most important public policy issues that will affect Alaska's students this legislative session.

Sincerely,



Ron Fuhrer
President

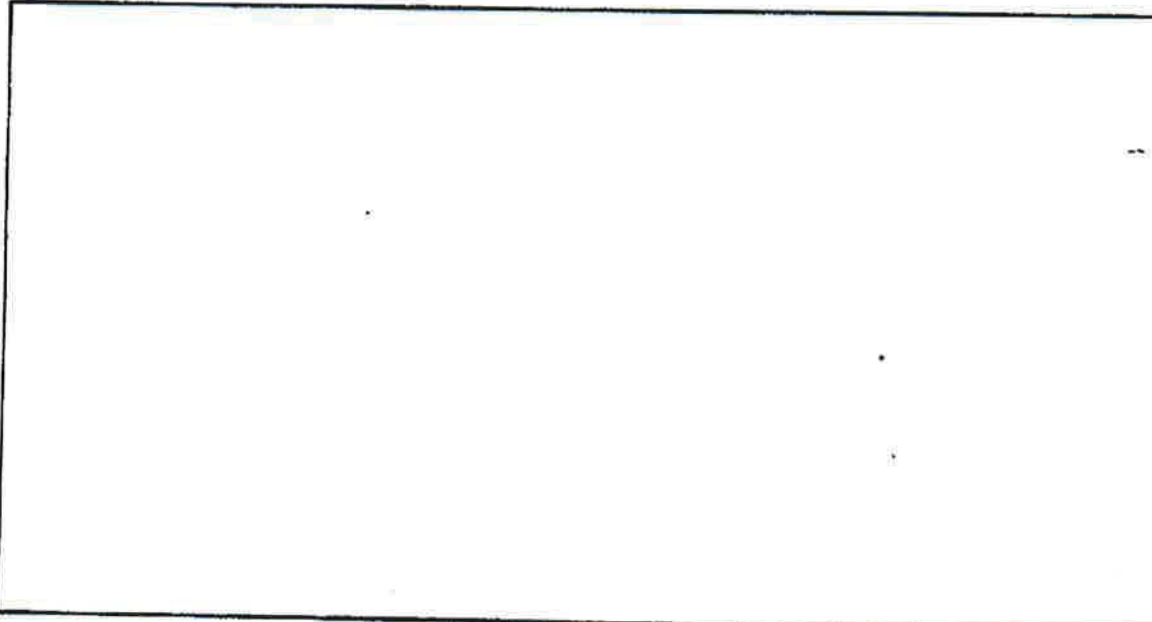
cc: Alaska Legislature

e-mail: newkgkvc@hotmail.com

FYI HU
LO
Becca
Grace
Hatic
Pamela

Send To: Paulette	From: NKUC
Attention:	Date: 3/20/15
Office Location:	Office Location:
Fax Number: 465-3532	Phone Number:

3

Comments:

Resolution 2015- 02

**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, New Koliganek Village Council 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 New Koliganek Village Council 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.

Passed and approved on the 19 day of March 2015.


Tribal Council President

Nondalton Tribal Council
P.O. Box 49
Nondalton, A.K. 99640
Ph. (907) 294-2257
Fax (907) 294-2271
nondaltontribe@yahoo.com

Resolution 03-05-15-1

**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, Nondalton Tribal Council 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 Nondalton Tribal Council 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.

CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the Nondalton Tribal Council at a duly called regular meeting of the Nondalton Tribal Council and was adopted by a vote of 7 for, and 0 against with 0 abstention 0 absent, this 1st day of March, 2015.

William Evanoff
William Evanoff,
President

Kristy Jeffries
Kristy Jeffries,
Secretary

**Nondalton Tribal Council
P.O. Box 49
Nondalton, A.K. 99640
Ph. (907) 294-2257
Fax (907) 294-2271
nondaltontribe@yahoo.com**

March 3, 2015

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
State Senate
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Murkowski,

Nondalton Tribal Council 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.

Nondalton Tribal Council 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,



William Evanoff,
President



Planned Parenthood Votes Northwest

Governor Bill Walker
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: Medicaid Expansion

March 18, 2015

Dear Governor Walker,

On behalf of Planned Parenthood Votes Northwest, I write today to thank you for your leadership and for introducing legislation to expand Medicaid in Alaska. As a healthcare provider that serves thousands of low-income women and men every year, we are keenly aware of the needs of vulnerable adults in Alaska.

Today, a childless adult without a disability making less than \$20,000 has no affordable health care coverage available. This has to change. We cannot continue to abandon our most vulnerable Alaskans. Expansion would bring nearly 42,000 people onto Medicaid, finally giving them access to preventive coverage like vaccinations, cancer screenings, and mental health services. What's more, the increase in healthcare usage will be an economic driver, creating thousands of jobs and generating billions in new wages and economic activity.

Medicaid expansion also gives Alaskans the opportunity to take entrepreneurial risks without the fear of losing insurance coverage. Expansion would ensure coverage for working adults while they look for work, start a business, or seek an education. Instead of worrying about how—or if—they can get health care, Alaskans can focus on building businesses, bettering themselves, and growing our economy.

With expansion, Alaskans who have been foregoing care to manage their high blood pressure so they can pay rent will no longer have to make that decision. Women who have put off their annual visits for years so they can afford bus fare can finally get cancer screenings. Our neighbors will no longer see the emergency room as their only health care option. Expansion gives us the opportunity to do what is right for all Alaskans.

We appreciate your leadership and hard work on bringing change to Alaska. We look forward to supporting your efforts to bring Medicaid to our most vulnerable Alaskans.

Sincerely,

Jessica Cler
Alaska Public Affairs Manager

Planned Parenthood Votes Northwest
4050 Lake Otis Parkway Suite 205 Anchorage, AK 99516
907.770.9705 | jessica.cler@ppvvotesnorthwest.org

RESOLUTION 2015-10**A RESOLUTION OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA
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 Assembly of the City and Borough of Sitka 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

Resolution 2015-10**Page 2.**

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Assembly of the City and Borough of Sitka 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.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED by the assembly of the City and Borough of Sitka, Alaska on this 10th day of March 2015.


Matt Hunter, Deputy Mayor**ATTEST:**
Colleen Ingman, MMC
Municipal Clerk



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, Southeast Alaska Independent Living, Inc. (SAIL) 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 SAIL 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.


Robert J. Purvis, Board Chair

Southeast Alaska Independent Living, Inc. (SAIL)

03-13-15

Date

STATEWIDE INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL of ALASKA



Resolution

WHEREAS, with Medicaid expansion, over 40,000 Alaskans between the ages of 19 and 64 will have access to healthcare, and

WHEREAS, the Medicaid expansion would cut in half the number of uninsured Alaskan, and, at least 4,000 jobs will be generated, and more than a billion new federal dollars will be infused into the Alaska economy over the next five years, and

WHEREAS, the Medicaid expansion program will improve the numbers of Alaskans who have access to preventative and primary care; and

WHEREAS, the revamped system will ensure these individuals have access to appropriate levels of healthcare services in the most cost effective settings, to not only improve the quality of life for their families, but also reduce costs to the system, and

WHEREAS, studies show Medicaid expansion would result in a \$2.5 billion increase in economic activity throughout the state, and

WHEREAS, the same studies show there will be fewer lost work days and less employee turnover, 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, Statewide Independent Living Council of Alaska (SILC) 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 SILC 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.

Joan O'Keefe, Chair
Statewide Independent Living Council of Alaska

03-13-15
Date



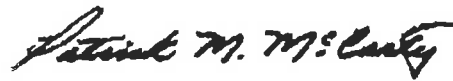
SUPPORTING MEDICAID EXPANSION IN ALASKA
RESOLUTION NO. 2015-10

- WHEREAS,** the Affordable Care Act (ACA) provides states with additional funding to expand their Medicaid program to cover adults under the age of 65 and children under the age of 18 who live slightly above the federal poverty level; and
- WHEREAS,** the State of Alaska has chosen not to participate in Medicaid expansion; however, Governor Walker is seriously considering it; and
- WHEREAS,** Alaska's Medicaid program is unsustainable as currently designed and needs reform in order to best serve the health of Medicaid beneficiaries, operate more efficiently for providers, and improve value; and
- WHEREAS,** nearly 42,000 Alaskans, including almost 6,000 in the Interior, would be eligible for health coverage under Medicaid expansion in Alaska; and
- WHEREAS,** studies have shown that Medicaid 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; and
- WHEREAS,** studies have also shown that 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; and
- WHEREAS,** Other benefits of Medicaid Expansion include bringing Alaska tax dollars back to Alaska and potentially stabilizing rising insurance premiums and medical prices by reducing uncompensated care that health providers currently provide to Alaskans with no insurance coverage.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Tanana Chiefs Conference Full Board of Directors supports Medicaid expansion for Alaska.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that this resolution was duly passed by the Tanana Chiefs Conference Full Board of Directors on March ~~19~~¹², 2015 at Fairbanks, Alaska and a quorum was duly established.



Pat McCarty
Secretary/Treasurer





RESOLUTION 2015-07

**TITLE: TANGIRNAQ NATIVE VILLAGE aka WOODY ISLAND TRIBAL COUNCIL
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

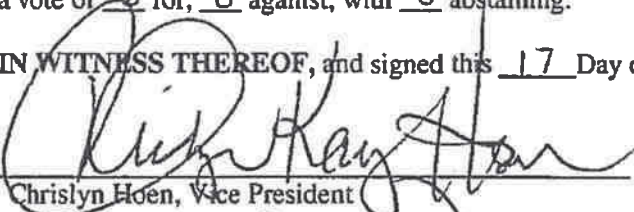
WHEREAS, the State has the option of various Medicaid expansion demonstration projects it may also consider as part of reform; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, TANGIRNAQ NATIVE VILLAGE 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

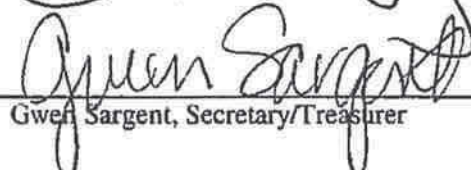
CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly adopted at a meeting of the Tangirnaq Native Village, aka Woody Island Tribal Council at which time a quorum of Council members were in attendance. This resolution was adopted by a vote of 6 for, 0 against, with 0 abstaining.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, and signed this 17 Day of March, 2015.



Chrislyn Hoen, Vice President



Gwen Sargent, Secretary/Treasurer



March 13, 2015

Office of Governor Bill Walker
Alaska State Capitol
PO box 110001
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Governor Walker,

Tangirnaq Native Village, aka Woody Island Tribal Council, 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.

Tangirnaq Native Village, aka Woody Island Tribal Council 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 dark ink, appearing to read 'R. Stauffer', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Robert Stauffer
Tribal Administrator
On behalf of Tribal Council
Resolution 2015-07

701 West 8th Avenue, Suite 230
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
tel 907.263.3800
fax 907.263.3801
www.unitedwayofanchorage.org

HV

UNITED WAY OF ANCHORAGE
FEB 23 2015



February 17, 2015

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

Dear Governor Walker,

Thank you for your efforts to expand Medicaid in Alaska under the Affordable Care Act.

United Way of Anchorage has consistently supported Medicaid expansion. Access to health care is a core goal for us, and access to insurance coverage is a critical aspect of all Alaskans planning for and taking care of their health needs. To that end, UWA has served for two years as a navigator under the Affordable Care Act, and Alaska 2-1-1 has been a focal point for getting Alaskans connected with information and assistance for ACA and other enrollment opportunities.

Going forward, we appreciate that Medicaid expansion is not just a yes/no policy decision. It begins with that, certainly, but it will take a cross-sector, systematic approach to make it happen as smoothly as possible. We stand ready to assist you and the State.

Similarly, we offer you our partnership in helping improve other health and quality of life outcomes for Alaskans. In these tough financial times, we must break down the siloes among the sectors to join forces and resources around a shared vision for Alaskans to lead stable, healthy, and safe lives. Alaska 2-1-1 serves clients statewide, with over 3000 resources in the database, and robust provider partnerships throughout the state. That, coupled with United Way of Anchorage's focus on multi sector, data driven, results-focused collaboration, is a platform for the public private partnerships we all need to measurably improve the lives of Alaskans.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michele Brown".

Michele Brown
President

cc Commissioner Valerie Davidson

LIVE UNITED™



Bob Crata, M.D.
Sharon Fisher, M.D.
Priscilla Valentine, M.D.
Lindy Jones, M.D.
Anyia Maier, M.D.
Richard Welling, M.D.
Joseph Roth, M.D.
Dorothy Hernandez, M.D.
Don Schneider, M.D.
Daniel Kim, M.D.
Taylor Dunn, M.D.
Justine Emerson, E.N.P.
Matthew Jones, E.N.P.
Rebecca Young, E.N.P.
Kim Gardner, E.N.P.
Tina Pleasants, E.N.P.
Rachel Gladhart, C.N.M.

Valley Medical Care Medicaid Expansion

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

WHEREAS, Valley Medical Care is the largest primary care provider in Juneau, Alaska, comprised of 11 board certified Family Physicians and 6 advanced nurse practitioners; and

WHEREAS, On a daily basis we see the adverse health consequences Alaskans suffer from the lack of health care coverage; and

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, Valley Medical Care 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 Valley Medical Care 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.

Don Schneider, MD
Valley Medical Care PC President

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'Don Schneider', written in a cursive style.

Declaration of Agreement

The undersigned, representing health and social service industries and key stakeholders in Alaska present this unified position regarding the goal of Coverage for All Alaskans. We agree to the purpose and principles declared herein, and will support each other as we work to achieve them through educational advocacy efforts.

We concur that the purpose of agreement is to advise and recommend to the Governor and Legislature of the State of Alaska to:

Fully leverage federal Medicaid Expansion dollar to cover uninsured Alaskans and to build a better Alaska health care delivery system.

The parties to this letter of agreement also concur to the following guiding principles on the operation and implementation of the development of the Alaska solution to achieve Coverage for All Alaskans:

1. All Alaskans will have access to basic health care coverage
 - Basic: defined as essential health benefits under the Affordable Care Act (ACA); including for Alaska: vision, dental and medically necessary travel.
2. Health care providers will receive reasonable and sustainable compensation for services provided
 - Providers include: health care professionals, licensed clinicians, health related entities and facilities.
3. Minimize uncompensated care that results in cost shifting
4. We support the Institute for Health Care Improvement's Triple Aim Framework: improve the health of the population served, enhance the patient care experience, affordability measured by the total cost.

The Coverage for All Alaskans Partnership is not a closed group and additional parties are encouraged to join by attesting to agree to the purpose and principles.

This letter of support was agreed by this group:

Alaska Primary Care Association, United Way of Anchorage, Effective Health Design, Catholic Social Services, Mountain-Pacific Quality Health Foundation, Professional Nursing Consultants, American Cancer Society, Alaska Native Health Board, Foraker Group, Alaska State Hospital and Nursing Home Association, Alaska AIDS Assistance Association, Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority, Anchorage Neighborhood Health Center, AARP, American Lung Association in Alaska, Mat-Su Health Foundation, Enroll Alaska, Alaska Physicians & Surgeons, Alaska Legal Services Corp. Identity. Inc., Iliuliuk Family and Health Services