

Jody Simpson

From: Dale Fosselman <fossels@me.com>
Sent: Friday, March 16, 2018 2:17 PM
To: Senate Health and Social Services
Subject: Support for HB123

Members of the Senate Health and Social Services Committee

I am writing to urge passage of HB 123. The primary driver of Alaska's egregious cost of healthcare is the underlying cost of care. Today, it is nearly impossible to be an informed consumer because, at the most fundamental level, providers and facilities do not readily provide cost estimates to their current patients. Prospective patients comparing costs face even greater challenges.

Recently I researched costs for the ACA Silver Plan on the Kaiser Family Foundation website to find an apples to apples comparison of costs and benefits. The annual cost is \$15,499 in Seattle and \$34,027 in Wasilla. According to the website, my out of pocket maximum is \$14,700 so we are by no means looking at a lucrative plan on the benefits side of the equation. The \$18,528 annual cost differential has real consequences for Alaska businesses and families.

Alaska firms are at cost disadvantage to competitors in the Lower 48 and the high cost of health insurance is an all too real impediment to hiring new employees.

For families, the impact can also be disruptive. I have several retired or semi-retired friends who have established residency in the Lower 48 simply because of the differential in the cost of healthcare. This outmigration has a multiplier effect on the Alaska economy as their spending moves south with them.

Passage of HB 123 will help address the issue of unsustainable healthcare costs in Alaska, but it is only a first step. It is an important step, however, and I urge the Committee to pass HB 123

Thank you

Dale Fosselman

Wasilla