

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 15

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE SENATE HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Introduced: 3/19/25

Referred: Health and Social Services

A RESOLUTION

1 **Calling on the state's congressional delegation to oppose cuts to federal spending on**
2 **Medicaid.**

3 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

4 **WHEREAS** more than 250,000 state residents rely on Medicaid and the Children's
5 Health Insurance Program for health care and long-term care coverage; and

6 **WHEREAS** Medicaid helps children, seniors, individuals with disabilities, and low-
7 income adults access hospital, physician, prescription, and nursing home services, as well as
8 behavioral health and home and community-based long-term care services throughout the
9 state; and

10 **WHEREAS** state residents living in rural and remote areas of the state are enrolled in
11 Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program at a higher rate than those residents
12 living in population centers; and

13 **WHEREAS** Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program are vital sources
14 of coverage in rural and remote areas where residents face more barriers to accessing care,
15 including chronic provider shortages, limited connectivity, limited health care infrastructure,
16 expensive travel costs to access care, and fewer opportunities for employer-provided health

1 insurance; and

2 **WHEREAS** nearly half of all Medicaid enrollees are under 18 years old, 38 percent of
3 births are covered by Medicaid each year, and Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance
4 Program provide health care coverage to nearly 100,000 children in the state; and

5 **WHEREAS** Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program are critical to
6 maintaining the health and well-being of the state's newborns, new mothers, and children
7 under 18 years old; and

8 **WHEREAS** Medicaid is the main source of funding for long-term services and
9 supports for seniors and individuals with disabilities, and thousands of the state's seniors rely
10 on Medicaid to help cover Medicare premiums and co-payments, allowing those seniors to
11 live with dignity and independence in the seniors' own homes and communities; and

12 **WHEREAS** 36 percent of Medicaid enrollees are Alaska Native, and funding from
13 Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program strengthens the Alaska Native Tribal
14 Health Consortium system, helping to improve access to health care in all areas of the state;
15 and

16 **WHEREAS** Medicaid drives growth in the health care sector, one of the state's most
17 important sectors in terms of employment and wages, and Medicaid is a major source of
18 funding for high quality union nursing and long-term care jobs in the state; and

19 **WHEREAS** Medicaid plays a crucial role in supporting the state's small businesses
20 and entrepreneurs by providing access to affordable health care coverage for employees,
21 which helps prevent illness, reduces absenteeism, and improves productivity; and

22 **WHEREAS**, by ensuring workers have access to necessary medical services,
23 Medicaid enables small businesses to retain a healthier, more reliable workforce, ultimately
24 contributing to economic stability and growth in the state; and

25 **WHEREAS**, each year, the state receives over \$2,000,000,000, approximately 78
26 percent of Medicaid spending in the state, from federal funding, and those funds provide an
27 economic boost throughout the state; and

28 **WHEREAS** the United States Congress is considering cuts of nearly
29 \$2,000,000,000,000 to federal spending on Medicaid to fund tax breaks for the wealthy as
30 part of its budget reconciliation process; and

31 **WHEREAS** spending cuts of this magnitude would force the state to make tough

1 choices about whether to offset reductions with state funding, reduce service levels, cut
2 benefits, or reduce coverage levels, likely leaving tens of thousands of state residents without
3 access to essential health care and long-term services and supports;

4 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature calls on the state's
5 congressional delegation to oppose cuts to federal spending on Medicaid to protect the state's
6 health care system, communities, citizens, and economy.

7 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the
8 Honorable Dan Sullivan, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Nicholas Begich, U.S.
9 Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.