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## Protecting Medicaid: A Lifeline for Rural Alaska

Testimony Before the Alaska State Legislature House HSS Committee April 1, 2025

## Kodiak Community Health Center - Overview

- KCHC has served the Kodiak Island community for 21 years
- 5,000 patients / 14,000 visits annually
- \$8.5M budget
- PCMH offering primary care, OB, integrated behavioral health, MAT & in-patient services
- 10 providers, 75 staff
- Co-located with Providence critical access hospital
- Payer mix 48% Commercial, 28% Medicaid,
   15% Medicare, 9% Self Pay



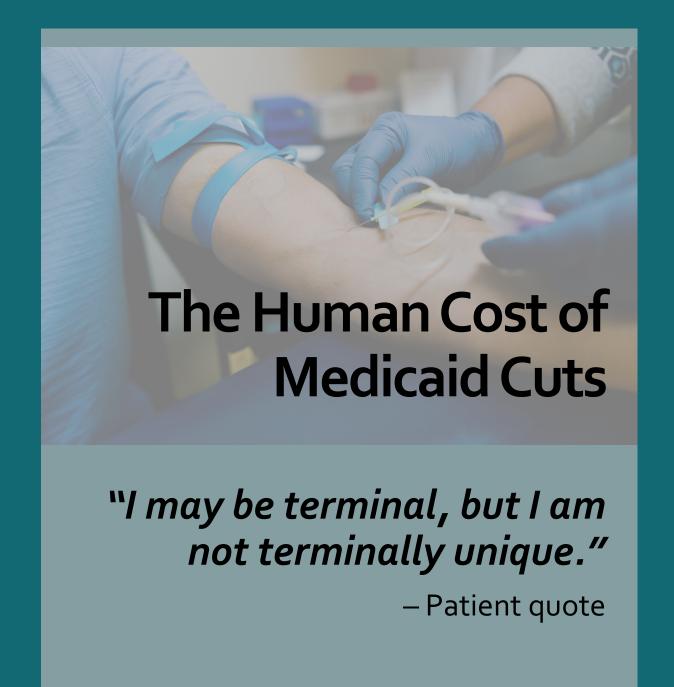
## Medicaid's Role in Rural Healthcare

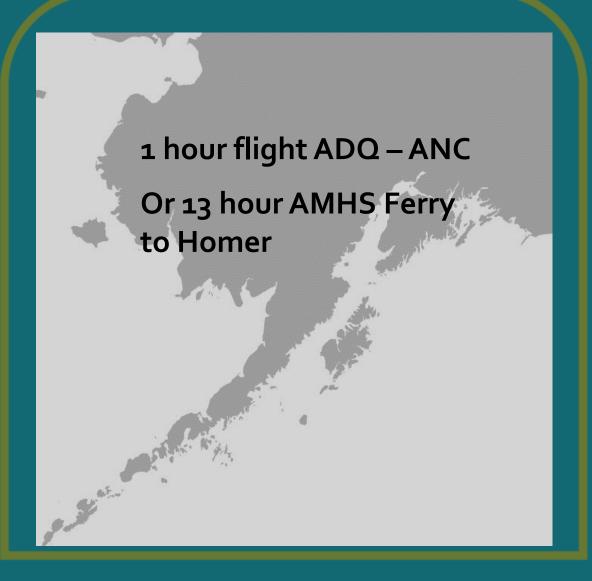
Kodiak's Unique Challenges: Limited local medical services, specialized care requires travel.

Primary Care Saves Money:
Prevents chronic disease complications, reduces ER visits.

Cuts Increase Costs: Delayed care leads to expensive hospitalizations and suffering.

- Rehabilitation & Hope: Partially paralyzed patient—Medicaid funds rehab, chance to walk again.
- **Diabetic Amputation:** Patient facing severe disability—Medicaid provides necessary surgical care.
- Terminal Young Adult: Brain tumor patient—Medicaid ensures dignity, access to care.
- Family Complications: A husband paralyzed, a wife diagnosed with breast cancer—Medicaid allows return to work.
- **Difficult Diagnosis:** 14-year-old with rare disease— DenaliKidCare allows return to school





## Economic & Community Impact

- Medicaid Supports Local Economies: FQHCs rely on Medicaid to keep clinics open.
- Cuts Lead to Higher Overall Costs: Strains emergency rooms, increases hospital costs.
- Call to Action: Save Medicaid

   maintain access to care and eligibility.

