

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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SJR 15: OPPOSE MEDICAID CUTS **Sponsor Statement** **Version I 34-LS0631/I**

Senate Joint Resolution 15 calls on Alaska’s congressional delegation to oppose proposed federal cuts to Medicaid. More than 250,000 Alaskans—including children, seniors, people with disabilities, and low-income adults—rely on Medicaid and the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) for essential health services. These cuts would be devastating to our families, communities, and economy.

Rural and remote communities depend on Medicaid at higher rates due to a shortage of providers, expensive travel, and limited access to employer-sponsored insurance. Medicaid is also a cornerstone of Alaska’s Tribal health system and supports nearly 100,000 children and covers almost 40 percent of births annually.

Federal Medicaid funding represents more than \$2 billion each year—78 percent of the program’s cost in our state. Slashing this funding would force Alaska to consider drastic reductions in coverage, benefits, or provider payments, putting lives and livelihoods at risk. Beyond direct health care impacts, Medicaid sustains a vital segment of Alaska’s economy. It supports high-quality union jobs, strengthens small businesses by providing health care coverage to workers, and ensures that seniors and individuals with disabilities can remain in their homes and communities with dignity.

Proposed federal cuts—nearly \$880 billion over 10 years—would endanger these benefits. SJR 15 urges our congressional delegation to protect the health and economic security of Alaskans by rejecting these cuts.