



**REPRESENTATIVE CATHY MUÑOZ**

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: Representatives Hawker and Stoltze  
Co-Chairs, House Finance

CC: Juli Lucky, Committee Aide to Rep. Hawker  
Ben Mulligan, Committee Aide to Rep. Stoltze

FROM: Representative Cathy Muñoz

DATE: February 10, 2010

RE: Explanation of Changes

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The House Education Committee adopted a committee substitute to HB 235 which included clarification language that sights a definition for the medical assistance program, AS 47.07, and clarification language which puts the WICHE program's interest rate on par with the current WWAMI program for medical students, AS 14.43.510.

In addition, the Department of Law issued an opinion sighting a funding concern with the mandatory language for funding the WICHE program. Language was added in section 4 which would allow the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education to issue loans through the WICHE program even without the loan forgiveness benefit should the legislature decide not to fund the program.