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Governor Bill Walker
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March 17, 2015

The Honorable Mike Chenault
Speaker of the House
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 208
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Speaker Chenault:

Under the authority of Article III, Section 18, of the Alaska Constitution, I am transmitting a bill relating to eligibility for medical assistance.

The bill would make technical amendments to AS 47.07.020 related to Medicaid eligibility and would authorize Medicaid expansion as permitted under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

The bill also would provide express authority for the Department of Health and Social Services to engage in various Medicaid cost containment and reform measures, including expanding the use of waivers, using demonstration projects to engage in innovative practices, and expanding telemedicine capability and reimbursement to incentivize innovative service delivery models.

Finally, the bill would amend a number of existing statutes that are designed to assist the Department of Health and Social Services in its oversight of Medicaid providers.

Medicaid expansion and Medicaid reform are in the best interest of the state, and I urge your prompt and favorable action on this measure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bill Walker".

Bill Walker
Governor

Enclosure