

**From:** [Motonaga, Gregg MD](#)  
**To:** [Senate Finance Committee](#)  
**Subject:** WWAMI  
**Date:** Thursday, March 19, 2015 4:34:31 PM

---

Dear Senate Finance Committee Members:

With a payback requirement for WWAMI students who do not return to Alaska to practice, the State's investment in education for Alaska's future physicians carries very little risk and tremendous upside. There is value in tapping into the cohort of students from Alaska who want to return as the next generation of care providers.

Eliminating the program has potential negative long-term effects when the influx of physicians ceases and there are not enough people to care for our population. If health care continues to move away from a fee-for-service model and toward a population health management scheme attempting to achieve the triple-aim set forth by the Institute for Healthcare Improvement, then the base of primary-care of physicians you will need to successfully implement this strategy throughout the state will simply not be available.

I ask that you consider removing from the budget the intent language to eliminate the WWAMI program. If that is not possible, I am sure that you have considered reducing the size from 20 students back to 10 students, as this would be an obvious compromise.

Sincerely,

Gregg Motonaga, MD

Medical Director, Anesthesia Services

Central Peninsula Hospital, Soldotna, AK

Alaska WWAMI, E-96

---

This email has been scanned for email related threats and delivered safely by Mimecast.  
For more information please visit <http://www.mimecast.com>

---