

From: [judy bogard](#)
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Subject: Support Alaska WWAMI medical education program
Date: Monday, March 23, 2015 1:40:11 AM

Dear Committee Finance,

WWAMI is a collaborative medical school among universities in five NW states. Operating for over 44 years, the program has consistently provided some of the best and brightest Alaskans access to the medical education and training necessary for them to return home and serve their communities, helping to address our state's shortage of physicians. The intent language included in the House budget will eliminate the program.

The elimination of this program could have long term impacts for Alaska's health care system. Physician shortages could worsen and recruitment challenges may increase. The result could be a decrease in health care quality as we are no longer able to "grow our own" physicians. The WWAMI program is currently a success and an important part of the state education and health care infrastructure.

Although budgets need to be reviewed and tightened I ask for your careful and informed consideration of the WWAMI program. It is serving Alaska well at this time and the consequences should be fully considered prior to the elimination of such a program. Other, less productive programming may be more appropriate to eliminate at this time. This program represents one of the most efficient and cost-effective tools Alaska has available to invest in our health delivery system and the health of our people.

Please review and carefully consider the benefits of the WWAMI program in comparison to other state programming. If you deem it more worthy then please ensure the funding for the WWAMI program will continue.

Sincerely,

Judy Bogard
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