

From: [Alan Craft](#)
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Subject: Support Alaska WWAMI medical education program
Date: Tuesday, March 24, 2015 8:30:11 AM

Dear Committee Finance,

Many of the physicians we work with in the Mat-Su Valley received their medical training through the WWAMI program.

WWAMI is a collaborative medical school among universities in five NW states. This 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 will have long term negative impacts on Alaska's healthcare system. Without the program, physician shortages will worsen and recruitment challenges will increase. The result will be an increase in healthcare costs and a decrease in healthcare quality and access, as we are no longer able to "grow our own" physicians. The WWAMI program is a success and a critical part of the state education and healthcare infrastructure.

To protect the health of all Alaskans, remove the intent language to eliminate the program from the budget. 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 ensure funding for the WWAMI program continues - it is vital to our state's healthcare system and a wise investment.

Sincerely,

Alan Craft
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