

From: [Tom Hepler](#)
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Subject: Support Alaska WWAMI medical education program
Date: Tuesday, March 24, 2015 11:00:14 AM

Dear Committee Finance,

Just writing in support of the wami program .

We need the doctors and training facilities here in alaska.

It is very difficult to get into other state medical schools as an alaska resident. Other states are facing the same issues and cutting back on their admissions nonresidents.

Many of us who were born and raised in alaska have come through this program. We are already seeing the physician shortage in our office . 7 of our 16 providers are over age 60.

We need this for our college kids who want to go into healthcare .

Thanks for listening.

The elimination of this program will have long term impacts for Alaska's health care system. Without the program, physician shortages will worsen and recruitment challenges will increase. The result will be an increase in health care costs and a decrease in health care quality 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 health care 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.

Sincerely,

Tom Hepler
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