

**From:** [Laura Hudson](#)  
**To:** [Senate Finance Committee](#)  
**Subject:** Support Alaska WWAMI medical education program  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 24, 2015 1:20:06 PM

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Dear Committee Finance,

It's understandable that Alaska legislators are trying to sharply cut the state's budget due to issues from the plunging oil prices and its impact on our budget, but our participation and support of WWAMI is vital to the future of our state's health. This program has been in existence for over 40 years, ending it would be short-sighted given the extreme shortage of physicians we have in Alaska.

This program has a history of success. Historical data show that already half of every Alaska class returns to practice medicine in our state. An enormous percentage of the doctors serving our state are a direct result of our involvement with this program. Cutting this program would be crippling to the already underserved health care system in Alaska. This deserves more than a few seconds of thought.

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,

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