

From: [Jeffrey Penman, MD](#)
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Subject: Support Alaska WWAMI medical education program
Date: Wednesday, March 25, 2015 1:40:20 AM

Dear Committee Finance,

The continued health care of all Alaskans, is paramount. Life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, is what this great nation was founded upon. To maintain life, through health care to Alaskans is what the WWAMI program is ensuring. This is not a subsidy for doctors to to earn more income. This is a program to ensure that physicians from Alaska, and with strong ties to Alaska, can attend a top medical school and then come back to Alaska and practice here.

Simply, I'm a native to Alaska, born and raised. I did my undergraduate work here at UAA, and I am a WWAMI graduate. I have practiced in primary care pediatrics, for thirteen years, as have eight other physicians out of the ten of our original entering class of 1995.

The WWAMI program is essential to fill the many empty positions of physicians who will be retiring in the next 5-10 years. These physicians should come from Alaska and be trained in Alaska, and ultimately practice here, in Alaska.

Anyone, with an iota of forethought will, line item, remove the WWAMI program from any budget cuts. In addition, the Alaska legislature should be working with the University of Washington, or the current Family Practice Residency Program to ensure more funding for resident education.

Feel free to contact me at any time regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Allen Penman, MD
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Sincerely,

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