

From: [Connor Pihl](#)
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Subject: Support Medical Education in Alaska
Date: Tuesday, March 24, 2015 10:30:07 AM

Dear Committee Finance,

I am writing you in support of the WAMMI program. WWAMI is a collaborative medical school among universities in five NW states. Operating for over 44 years, the program has consistently provided Alaskan students like me access to the medical education and training necessary for us to return home and improve the health of our communities.

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 included in the House budget to eliminate the program. 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,

Connor M. Pihl
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