

**From:** [Priyanka Pillai](#)  
**To:** [Senate Finance Committee](#)  
**Subject:** Support for Alaska WWAMI Program  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 24, 2015 6:47:56 PM

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Dear Senate Finance Committee,

My name is Priyanka Pillai and I will be starting medical school through the WWAMI program this year. I would first like to thank you for your time in reading this email, I understand you are busy.

Although I am yet to start this program, I am confident that there are numerous benefits to its existence in our state. This program is the only in-state option for Alaskan students applying to medical school. Eliminating this program would put Alaskan students at a major disadvantage in pursuing a medical degree. Without an in-state option, many Alaskan students will be forced to leave the state. This will create a shortage of physicians in our state. This will happen at a critical time, as more physicians are needed to serve Medicaid and Medicare patients in Alaska.

Additionally, the loan repayment option of serving Alaskans through medical practice is unique to the WWAMI program. As a result, many Alaskan students make the WWAMI program their top choice, not solely for the unique educational opportunities, but for the opportunity for loan forgiveness through service to the state of Alaska.

Please ensure funding for the WWAMI program continues. It is an investment with many returns.

I sincerely appreciate your time and hope you will consider the many benefits of the WWAMI program to the state when making your decision.

Respectfully,

Priyanka Pillai

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-Priyanka Pillai