

From: [Alyssa Weaver](#)
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Subject: Support for WWAMI - letter from a UAF premed student
Date: Thursday, March 26, 2015 1:40:31 AM

Dear Committee Finance,

My name is Alyssa Weaver. I am a lifelong resident of Fairbanks. I graduated in 2012 from West Valley High School and I am currently a junior studying biology at UAF. I am writing this letter to ask you to please do all you can to keep the WWAMI program funded in Alaska.

As an Alaskan student planning on applying to medical school this year (to matriculate in the fall of 2016), the WWAMI program has been extremely influential in my decision to pursue my dream of becoming a doctor. Events like the Premed Summit, put on by the WWAMI program, have helped me learn how to apply to medical school and have made achieving my dream of being a doctor seem possible. Without a medical school in Alaska, Alaskan students are extremely disadvantaged as many states only accept in-state residents into their medical schools or they increase the tuition for out-of-state applicants. For many Alaskan students, the WWAMI program is the only reason they have been able to attend a good medical school and come back to Alaska to serve their communities. The WWAMI program is essential in keeping good doctors in Alaska.

It took years for the partnership between Alaska and the University of Washington School of Medicine to grow into the successful program it is today and cutting this program would unravel years of hard work. Even once the state budget increases, it will be difficult to simply establish this program again if the ties are severed now. Cutting this program will have repercussions on all Alaskans for decades to come, with fewer Alaskans becoming doctors and fewer doctors returning to Alaska.

I urge you to please support your fellow Alaskans who have grown up here and want to stay here and serve their communities, and also the Alaskans who value quality medical care. Even if it is not possible to entirely fund the WWAMI program, please consider temporarily reducing the number of Alaskan students accepted into the WWAMI program instead of cutting the program completely.

Sincerely,

Alyssa Weaver
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