



CITY OF BARROW

"Farthest North Incorporated City"

PRIORITY IMPORTANCE

28 March 2015

Representative Paul Seaton
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99811-001

Via FAX 907-465-8472

SUBJECT: City of Barrow Resolution in Support of Medicaid Expansion

Good afternoon, Representative Seaton:

Attached is a copy of City of Barrow Resolution 15-2015, "*A Resolution of the Barrow City Council Encouraging and Supporting the State Legislature to Expand Medicaid Coverage to Improve the Health of Alaskans and to Improve the Alaskan Economy*". The resolution was thoroughly discussed and vetted with community members prior to its adoption. All were completely in support of the resolution with not one dissenting voice being heard.

It was unanimously adopted by the City Council this past Thursday evening. I apologize for sending this to you just prior to the House Health and Social Services Committee hearing on HB 148 this afternoon. Even though the resolution was passed this past Thursday evening, I was unable to have the resolution formally attested to and stamped until about ten minutes ago. I have been unexpectedly and ridiculously short staffed for the past few weeks for a variety of reason.

I hope that it arrives in sufficient time for your staff to distribute it prior to the meeting of the House Health and Social Services Committee. I may and may not be able to personally call in for the meeting depending on the resolution of some tenuous issues.

Sincerely,

Bob Harcharek
Mayor

Cc: Barrow City Council
files



CITY OF BARROW

"Farthest North Incorporated City"

RESOLUTION 15-2015

A RESOLUTION OF THE BARROW CITY COUNCIL ENCOURAGING AND SUPPORTING THE ALASKA LEGISLATURE TO EXPAND MEDICAID COVERAGE TO IMPROVE THE HEALTH OF ALASKANS AND TO IMPROVE THE ALASKAN ECONOMY

WHEREAS, nearly forty one thousand Alaskans - our family members, friends and neighbors currently without health insurance have the opportunity to obtain health care coverage through the expansion of Medicaid; and

WHEREAS, Medicaid expansion will improve the overall health of the residents of our State by reducing the number of uninsured Alaskans by half, improving preventive and primary care access, providing substance abuse treatment, mental health counseling, and reducing the mortality rate; and

WHEREAS, Medicaid expansion will bring more than One Billion Dollars in new federal revenue into Alaska over the first five years of its implementation; and

WHEREAS, economic analyses suggest that expansion will yield approximately 4,000 new jobs in Alaska, an increase of more than One Million Dollars in wages and salaries paid to Alaskans, and Two and One-Half Billion Dollars in increased economic activity throughout the State; and

WHEREAS, in this period of reduced and declining oil generated revenues, expansion of Medicaid would save the State approximately Six Million Dollars in FY2016 by using federal funds to pay for health services currently being paid with state general funds; and

WHEREAS, federal funds will pay for 100% of the services provided in the expansion of Medicaid through 2016 and will transition to 90% in 2020 and beyond; and

WHEREAS, Medicaid expansion will significantly reduce the burden to the State of paying for the uncompensated care rendered at non-native Alaska hospitals, which in 2013 exceeded \$90 million; and

WHEREAS, implementing Medicaid expansion throughout Alaska in the next fiscal year will serve as a catalyst for meaningful Medicaid reform; and

WHEREAS, leveraging the federal resources that come with expansion is one of the State's greatest opportunity to facilitate its finance reformation efforts; and

WHEREAS, the State has the option of implementing segments of numerous Medicaid expansion demonstration projects it may also consider as part of reform; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Barrow City Council endorses Medicaid expansion, recognizing that we all have a vested interest in ensuring that Alaskans are as healthy and as productive as possible so they can all contribute to our communities and to the economy of the State of Alaska; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Barrow City Council, through a unanimous vote, hereby formally requests the Alaska State Legislature to expand Medicaid for the benefit of Alaskans and the Alaska economy to take effect in July 2015 and, though reform efforts should be of utmost importance, this work should not delay health care coverage for those Alaskans who would be eligible for Medicaid under expansion.

PASSED AND APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY BY THE BARROW CITY COUNCIL THIS 26th DAY OF MARCH 2015.

Attest:



Bob Harcharek

Bob Harcharek, Mayor

Aolele Poe

Aolele Poe, City Clerk