

Emails in Opposition to HB 148 – 3.28-3.30

Included emails from:

Stephanie Taylor – Anchorage

Bonnie Cameron

Lee Ann Kreig – Anchorage

Ray Kreig – Anchorage

Susan Stafford

Linn McCabe – Anchorage

Judy Eledge – Anchorage [Documents included]

From: thetaylors [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 30, 2015 2:23 PM
To: Rep. Paul Seaton; Rep. Liz Vazquez; Rep. Neal Foster; Rep. Louise Stutes; Rep. David Talerico; Rep. Geran Tarr;
Rep. Adam Wool
Subject: Don't expand Medicaid!

Dear Representative,

I am writing to oppose Medicaid expansion. This idea has been floated for some time; it sounds great, affordable, and very compassionate.

Here's the problem: The Medicaid/Medicare system is broken.

Legislators have also been saying this for a very long time, but nothing has been done to address it. It would be unwise, unproductive and very expensive to add more people to the roles of such a flawed system. The money from the Feds sounds great, but in reality it's not real money because the government doesn't really have it. It's only adding to the deficit. Furthermore, the states have no way of knowing what kind of a financial commitment we are really making. To say that we can cut back if it gets too costly is ludicrous and people would never allow it. Once it's expanded, it will only continue to grow.

Fix Medicaid. Make that the priority. Getting rid of all of the fraud and other problems could conceivably avail the money needed to pay for this. People on Medicare and Medicaid have so few available doctors. It's unconscionable to make people believe that expanding Medicaid will give them access to the health care they need. Not only will they not be able to find a doctor willing to see them, it will further limit access to those already on the roles. When are we going to stop looking to the Federal government to pay for everything? That's why our country is in such dire financial straits now. Don't take the bait. Our state has enough fiscal problems to deal with without adding this blank check to the problem.

Please do not expand the Medicaid system.

Sincerely,
Stephanie Taylor
[REDACTED]
Anchorage, AK 99504

From: [rbcameron1997](#) [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, March 28, 2015 4:09 PM

NO to Medicaid Expansion!

Expanding programs like Medicaid only serve to hurt the community and nation. It makes men quit in their natural role of leading their families because the government takes over the husband and father role. It makes more dependents on the system.

If people have to work for their needs and wants we will have a healthier community and economy.

My husband and I will not support anyone who votes for this Medicaid expansion; in fact, we will work to actively unseat anyone who has voted in favor of the welfare expansion. It is wrong economically and it is wrong morally. Simply put (ahem, Governor Walker), "It's the WRONG thing to do!"

Thank you for your time,
Bonnie Cameron

From: Lee Ann Kreig [REDACTED]

Sent: Sunday, March 29, 2015 5:15 PM

To: Rep. Paul Seaton; Rep. Liz Vazquez; Rep. Adam Wool; Rep. David Talerico; Rep. Geran Tarr; Rep. Louise Stutes; Rep. Neal Foster

Subject: Medicaid Expansion (HB148) Testimony

I oppose this bill to expand Medicaid in Alaska.

I agree with the testimony (and hard work and research) of Dr. Ilona Farr which has been submitted at: www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_documents.asp?session=29&docid=4710

Summary of just one of her points:

“The waste, fraud, and abuse in the current system is rampant. From patients trying to take advantage of the system (5400 tickets with no associated appointments — MRAG meetings 2014) to frequent over users who are a drain on the program. There are numerous examples. **One patient cost \$1.2 million for medevacs while another patient had 250 therapy appointments in one year.**”

What more needs to be said?

It should also be more prominently noted that the major beneficiary of this Medicaid expansion is the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium. DHSS Commissioner Valerie Davidson, being a former manager at ANTHC, should NOT be advocating this Medicaid expansion. It's an obvious and flagrant conflict of interest.

Sincerely,

Lee Ann Kreig
Anchorage AK 99517

From: Ray Kreig [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, March 28, 2015 4:40 PM
To: Rep. Paul Seaton; Rep. Liz Vazquez
Cc: Rep. Adam Wool; Rep. David Talerico; Rep. Geran Tarr; Rep. Louise Stutes; Rep. Neal Foster
Subject: Please NO to Medicaid expansion [HB148]

Dear Chairman Seaton and Vice Chair Vazquez,

Please, do not expand Medicaid. Alaska cannot afford this.

Better would be to reform Medicaid and in fact all health delivery to get back to a Medical Savings account approach where the patient is in more control. For those in need, the government would need to pay part or most of the costs but the patient should always pay part.

Also, I have been on Medicare for the past few years and my long time doctor can no longer take Medicare. If you expand Medicaid, then it pays 40% more than federal Medicare for the same doctor visits. It will make it even more difficult for me to find a doctor because I will be crowded out by welfare patients. THAT IS TOTALLY SCREWED UP!

Again, please: No to Medicaid expansion in Alaska.

Sincerely,

Ray Kreig

=====

Ray Kreig
RA Kreig & Associates
201 Barrow #1
Anchorage Alaska 99501-2429

Good Afternoon,

My name is Susan Stafford. My husband, son & I moved to AK in 1990 where my husband and I had accepted jobs as registered nurses at Alaska Regional Hospital. I worked as a neonatal nurse (1990 - 1995) and Tom as an oncology nurse (1990 - 1997). Since then we have worked in a number of medical offices.

We adamantly oppose HB 148 100% since its main purpose is to put private practice medical providers out of business in favor of large institutions. That would severely damage medical care. This bill calls for a healthcare provider tax when providers are already under-compensated by government programs making it difficult for private providers to meet the expenses of maintaining an office. It would increase costs on us private citizens to pay for the additional costs in HB 148. Many of the people to be covered by the "Medicaid Expansion" as it is called are already covered by the Indian Health Service and this would provide double coverage for them. Where/how would that extra money be spent? We understand that large numbers of people are flown from outlying communities to Anchorage for health care, but they never appear for their appointment(s). Some have told me to my face that they use it as a "taxi service" when they want to come to Anchorage so they don't have to pay for the trip. Private practice providers receive as much as 10 times less than large institutions for seeing the same patient for the same reason. This is an unnecessary waste of money we worked so hard to earn. Oppose HB 148 in every way.

Sincerely,

Susan Stafford

From: Linn McCabe [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, March 28, 2015 4:07 PM
To: Rep. Paul Seaton
Subject: Medicaid

Honorable Paul Seaton,

Please DO NOT accept the expansion of Medicaid. There is no such thing as "free money!" We do not need any more federal strings! Accepting this money creates more disincentives for people to look for work. It also causes private insurance rates to be raised because the payouts by Medicaid are too low and somebody has to cover the shortfall.

The Federal government is broke and the money for this program is created through more borrowing, and more national debt...and meeting the Obama administration's goal of transforming America. The cost is far greater than the benefit.

I am currently sitting at the LIO in Anchorage listening to the testimony and hear so many in favor. They are not thinking of the greater good. The big picture says the price is too high!

Again, please say "NO!"
Thank you!

Respectfully,
Linn McCabe
Anchorage, AK

From: Judy Eledge [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, March 28, 2015 6:18 AM
To: Rep. Paul Seaton
Subject: Medicaid expansion

Dear Representative Seaton,

As an Alaskan over the age of 65 I am writing in strong opposition to Medicaid expansion. There are several reasons. One we are in a budgetary crisis and cannot afford to do so. It seems to me the Federal government is trying to lock us into funding Obamacare. It also seems they would very much like to pass on promises they made to AK Natives by having the State fund all of Native Health care.

Though the biggest reason is the fact that it is almost impossible to find a doctor in Alaska that will take Medicare. Many of us have lost our family doctors. Medicaid pays more than either Medicare or Tri-Care (Veterans and families). We have paid into Medicare for years. Do we now go to the back of the line? Adding 50,000 people to the Medicaid rolls will not make care more accessible.

So, I ask that you and others think long and hard before committing this State to expansion while breaking promises to Seniors and Veterans. We won't have just a budget crisis but one in the medical community when unable to support. Testimony from special interest groups and lobbyists on this issue is just that. Testimony that rewards them not the citizens of Alaska. The rest of us can't afford to come to Juneau and live during session. For one I am tired of paying over 30% of my income tax to benefit the 50% that do not, Expanding medicaid to people above the poverty level is not for helping those truly in need.....those below the poverty level, mentally ill, etc.

I appreciate your consideration,
Judy Eledge
Anchorage Alaska

PS: I have tried to testify by phone but extremely difficult to wait hours online to do so. It would be most respectful to hear public testimony before the experts, lobbyists and special interests.

Documents included with Judy Eledge testimony:
Medicaid vs Medicare payment – ISER
Primary Care for Older Alaskans – ISER

Relative Medicare/Medicaid Payments by State*: If Medicaid Pays \$1.00 for Primary Care, How Much Does Medicare Pay?



*Keep in mind that while Medicare pays the same in all states (except for geographic differentials that take into account higher costs), Medicaid payments vary by state, because states have some discretion in setting payment levels.

Source: Medicare to Medicaid Fee Index for Primary Care, Urban Institute, 2008 Medicaid Physician Survey