

Written Testimony in Support –Received 3-28-2015

Included Testimony:

Annette Alfonsi

John and Judi Morack – Anchorage

David Devlin

Andrea Stalden

Joanne Rousculp- Palmer

Christel Petty – Mat-Su

Karen Murdock, Judy Winn, Lisa Whip, Bill Marshall, Marcia Honea, Mary Frueis, Lyn Maslow, & Barb Veeck- Homer

AFACT: Anchorage Faith & Action – Congregations Together

Chad Saitre

Laura Valinske

Peter Reidland

Dear Representative Seaton,

March 10, 2015

Please expand Medicaid during the 2015 legislative session.

In 2012 I was a passenger in a severe rollover car accident as a result of a reckless driver. I sustained multiple injuries. Up to that point, I was employed in a corporate office which afforded me a good income as well as excellent health benefits, which I didn't have to use because I was perfectly healthy. Within months of injuries sustained during this accident, I was without a job.

Currently my mother graciously allows me to live with her and I am paying for private insurance out of my savings. My medical bills are getting paid and I am not using state-funded services. However my mother is a senior citizen and my insurance company is dissolving and will cease to exist at the end of this year, while my savings will be depleted. My current situation is not realistically sustainable.

Before the car accident, I lived an independent and productive life, contributing to this community, this state and this country. I fully intend to return to an independent life with a job that includes a livable wage and private insurance. In order to be able to do this, I currently require medical maintenance for my chronic but manageable condition, the same way people with diabetes require management and maintenance of their condition in order to function.

Because I did not receive appropriate medical care for over two years despite my efforts, my condition worsened and I am currently unable to work full time. But I've recovered more in the last six months by finally seeing the right medical specialist than in the previous two and a half years. I am looking forward to increasing my currently low volunteer hours and eagerly anticipate rejoining the workforce when I can consistently and responsibly maintain employment. However I may still continue to need medical management for a time.

When my insurance company dissolves, I will not qualify for Medicaid under the current system. If I do not yet have private insurance through employment, my manageable condition will spiral until it is no longer controlled, taking a situation which is currently improving and forcing a backslide so I am not employable. I would deteriorate to the point of needing state-funded services – which I don't want to use – in order to survive. This is frankly ludicrous compared to the reasonable alternative.

Medicaid expansion is the bridge to get me from where I am now to where I could realistically be again, contributing to Alaska's economy. If I am appropriately medically managed, I can obtain and maintain employment, which in turn would allow me to get off Medicaid.

I am currently in my twenties. The trajectory I am on now will determine the rest of my life. Despite my condition, I could have the opportunity to build on my foundation of work experience and my college degree to have a career while contributing to Alaska. To refuse a state responsibility of approximately \$210 million despite a federal payment of \$2.1 billion* is to declare that partisan politicking is more important to you than ensuring a person in her twenties has the medical care necessary to be a productive member of society for decades to come.

There is no question a person with unmanaged diabetes could not realistically sustain employment over time. Similarly, my condition requires medical maintenance for now. I want to work again. The question is: Will you let me?

Thank you for your time. Please do what is right for Alaskans and expand Medicaid immediately.

Sincerely,



Annette Alfonsi

* Based on the 2013 Lewin Group Analysis of a January 2016 Medicaid expansion

We support the legislation that Governor Walker (House Bill 148 and Senate Bill 78) introduced to support the expansion of Medicare with smart reforms. We have a family member who has a medical condition which makes full time work impossible and as a result he has not been able to get medical care. There are many Alaskans who are in this situation and Medicaid will enable many of these Alaskans to get medical care and will save the state money in the process. We should expand Medicaid immediately and not miss out on the Federal monies that are available. As federal taxpayers we feel that we should get our share of the monies that go for this program. Let's get this legislation passed and get these much needed monies into our economy.


John and Judi Morack

1621 Wolverine Lane
Fairbanks, AK 99709

47d-2676

Representative Paul Seaton
Alaska Legislature
State Capital Rm 102
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Paul Seaton,

My name is David Devlin, I'm a life
Long Alaskan writing in support of medicaid
expansion. I'll be finishing up my time at UAA
soon and would like to stay in Alaska and start
my own business, though I'm aware medical
expenses can be high. Thank you for keeping an
open mind about medicaid expansion.

Sincerely, David Devlin

David Devlin

Testimony Medicaid Expansion
& Reform
HB 148

Thursday, March 26, 2015

1:53 PM

Thank you for allowing testimony today. Since my retirement, I follow Gavel to Gavel closely. Its unfortunate that more people can't, because your actions affect all Alaskans.

I am very impressed with the new commissioner, Valerie Davidson. She understands the health care problems here and has the insight and intelligence to bring real, positive changes. Medicaid expansion will allow her to allocate new federal funds to bring about overall cost reductions for all of us. Let her do that!

Care management will be available and will have a huge impact on reducing costs. Some people need help understanding the system, and sometimes hand holding. I know of a woman in Fairbanks with serious mental illness, who failed to go to appointments that she needed for daily IV antibiotics. After several days, she showed up at the ER. She had a middle of the night medivac flight from Fairbanks to Seattle where she underwent spine surgery, and a 4 month hospital stay. I have no idea what that bill was, but 50% of a huge amount is a huge amount.

The expansion population, who currently have no care, are going to be the kind of people who disregard or discount medical issues until they become critical and perhaps even life-threatening. You don't need to officially cover them, but my medical bills, absolutely reflect it.

Ms. Davidson and the Governor want to make reforms and I know that they will. But Medicaid Expansion has a deadline that we can't afford to miss.

And to Rep. Dunleavy, it won't personally help me. Some of us just care about our State and the people in it. ^{50%}

Thank you,

Andrea Stalder
Anchorage, Alaska

LIO Mat-Su

From: Joanne D. Rousculp <jspuffin@mtaonline.net>
Sent: Friday, March 27, 2015 5:34 PM
To: LIO Mat-Su
Subject: Medicaid Expansion bill

I am writing in support of House Bill 148 on Medicaid Expansion and also Senate Bill 78. I am dismayed that our state is not able to use federal medicaid money to provide health care to Alaskans who can't afford health insurance. I am glad that these bills will lay out a path to reform Medicaid in Alaska so our program is affordable over the long term.

I live here in the Mat-Su Valley and care deeply about people having access to basic necessities like health insurance. The Affordable Care Act was a godsend for our family as it allowed our 21 year old son to be insured under his father's policy when he struggled with cancer. We could never have afforded the chemotherapy treatments without insurance and you just never know when you will be faced with something catastrophic.

Please don't leave anyone hanging out there without insurance. It is not a privilege to have health insurance. It is a basic right and necessity.

Thank you,
Joanne Rousculp
Palmer, Alaska

LIO Mat-Su

From: Christel <christel@gci.net>
Sent: Monday, March 30, 2015 7:36 AM
To: LIO Mat-Su
Subject: HB148

I would like the MAT-SU legislatures to pass HB148. I think this is a good bill and desperately needed in this state, where insurance and medical/dental cost are out of control.

Thank you,

Christel Petty

March 28, 2015

RE: Medicaid Expansion Bill HB 148

We urge to support and pass HB 148 which will bring health care insurance to approximately 40,000 uninsured Alaskans. This bill makes moral, ethical and fiscal sense. The prohibitive costs of health care can drastically stop the uninsured from pursuing medical treatment. No insurance is synonymous with no health care, which can and does result in a death sentence due to financial circumstances.

HB 148 actually saves the state money, with projections of 6 million dollars not being used from the general fund. It will bring in 146 million dollars of federal money.

It's the right thing to do. It's fiscally responsible to support this bill.

Thank you,

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Homer, AK 99603



Statement of Support for Medicaid Expansion in Alaska

We offer unqualified support to Medicaid Expansion in Alaska on the following grounds:

COMMUNITY- All people are children of God (Colossians 1:16) and we are, thus, bound beyond our differences and disagreements. As brothers and sisters in the Alaskan community, we are all entitled to the benefits of being together in a system that sees and treats all citizens as equal.

HEALTH- Healthy citizens are productive citizens. "Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?" (1 Corinthians 6:19) We do not allow the desecration of *buildings* that glorify God. Thus, we cannot allow disregard or disrepair to the *bodies* of Alaskans, which are also God's temple, due to lack of access to affordable healthcare.

FISCAL- The Alaska State Constitution prohibits the creation of debtor's prison. (Article 1.17) Failure to provide a community safety net for emergencies, regular checkups, mental health services, or treatment programs means that many Alaskans are but an accident or a diagnosis away from serious debt or bankruptcy. Allowing this to happen creates a de facto debtor's prison, which violates the spirit, if not the letter, of our constitution.

MORAL- Jesus leads his disciples' into caring for one another by example. In John 13, he washes their feet, a very necessary task at the time, and commands them to do the same for one another. The commandment extends to any who will join them in their cause. Now we who would dare to call ourselves disciples and must look to how Christ humbled himself, said how *no person* is greater than any other in word or deed, and called us all to service in loving our neighbors by attending to their most basic needs.

LEADERSHIP- By expanding Medicaid in this state, we can indicate to the rest of the country that Alaska is not the "last frontier" when it comes to caring for its citizens. We can be part of leading the way, breaking the cycles of oppressive fear, lack of choice, and debt that characterize the lives of many in our state. We can heed the word of the prophet and align ourselves with God's direction to "tear off every yoke". (Isaiah 58:6)

SPIRITUAL- St. Paul explains that nothing can separate us from the love of God (Romans 8:37-39), yet we are all capable of causing others to *feel* separated from the love of God through our actions. Medicaid Expansion reminds a specific portion of our neighbors, brothers and sisters, and fellow Alaskans that they are not forgotten. They are not taken for granted. They are not outside of God's love or memory, nor ours.

Just as AFACT has answered the call to speak out in the name of faith, we trust that our elected officials in Juneau will answer their call to keep all Alaskans healthy so that no seat at God's table is left empty.

UNDERSTANDING *Medicaid Expansion*



A Guide for People of Faith

Dear Paul Seaton ANCHORAGE AK 995

Please support the Governor's Medicaid reform and expansion bill.

27 MAR 2015 PM 1 T



It's the Right Thing to Do!

AK Legislature
State Capital Room 101
Juneau AK 99801

Chad Laube

(Name) P.O. 292

(Address) Gridwood AK 99587

(City, State, Zip)

Dear Paul Seaton ANCHORAGE AK 995

Please support the Governor's Medicaid reform and expansion bill.

27 MAR 2015 PM 1 T



It's the Right Thing to Do!

Paul Seaton
House of Representative
State Capital Juneau AK
99801-1182

Laura Valinske

(Name) 6910 Chad St

(Address) Anchorage AK 99518

(City, State, Zip)

Dear Paul Seaton ANCHORAGE AK 995

Please support the Governor's Medicaid reform
and expansion bill.

It's the Right Thing to Do!

Peder Reiland

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17 MAR 2015 PM 1 T



Ak legislature

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