

Emails in Support of HB 148 – 3.28 to 3.30

*Included emails from:*

*Joan Diamond - Anchorage*

*Allen Wilfong – Kasilof*

*Roberta Wilfong – Kasilof*

*Christy Favorite*

*Kerry Lee Kruckenberg*

*Gary and Eileen Sheridan*

*Robin Minard –Mat-Su Health*

*Sharon Geraghty*

At a time when State projects, services, programs and jobs are being cut from the Alaska budget, expanding Medicaid is the only beacon of hope for this session. I hope that the Republican majority will act in the public's best interest and reject a resistance to Healthcare Reform for all the wrong reasons. We need solidarity Now.

Bankruptcy is a factor in healthcare crisis'. Most of the time, we never expect it. This month I had shoulder surgery from an old ski injury. The bills are in the thousands of dollars. Then last week, my husband had a bike crash and broke a bone in his hand, a concussion and stitches under his eye and chin. We have not seen the bill for the Emergency Room yet. The orthopedic surgeon will be seen on Monday. Between the two of us, without insurance, would bankrupt us. We are healthy and active people but never could have predicted these medical situations.

40,000 plus Alaskans will benefit from expanding Medicaid and it is up to the Republican Party to help us. Think about your own family and friends without health insurance and whether you would spend down your own saving to rescue them.

Help us,  
Joan Diamond  
[Anchorage, AK](#)

From: Allen Wilfong [REDACTED]  
Sent: Sunday, March 29, 2015 10:11 AM  
To: Rep. Paul Seaton  
Subject: Close the health insurance gap

Dear Representative Seaton,

Please help close the health insurance gap in Alaska.

I support Medicaid expansion - which will provide more Alaskans health care for less state money by maximizing use of available federal dollars. When people have insurance they are able to access primary care, resulting in less expensive emergency room visits. People are also better able to manage chronic diseases, resulting in better health at a lower cost.

Access to health care enables people to stay healthy and join or stay in the workforce. Individual Alaskans who earn \$20,314 (about \$9.76 an hour) a year or less, or married couples earning a combined \$27,490 a year or less qualify for Medicaid expansion. Medicaid gives them the freedom to work for a living without worrying about whether an unpreventable accident or illness will make them bankrupt.

I encourage you to support the governor's proposal to implement Medicaid expansion with smart reforms. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Allen Wilfong  
[REDACTED]  
Kasilof, AK 99610

From: Roberta Wilfong [REDACTED]  
Sent: Sunday, March 29, 2015 10:09 AM  
To: Rep. Paul Seaton  
Subject: Close the health insurance gap

Dear Representative Seaton,

Please help close the health insurance gap in Alaska.

I support Medicaid expansion - which will provide more Alaskans health care for less state money by maximizing use of available federal dollars. When people have insurance they are able to access primary care, resulting in less expensive emergency room visits. People are also better able to manage chronic diseases, resulting in better health at a lower cost.

Access to health care enables people to stay healthy and join or stay in the workforce. Individual Alaskans who earn \$20,314 (about \$9.76 an hour) a year or less, or married couples earning a combined \$27,490 a year or less qualify for Medicaid expansion. Medicaid gives them the freedom to work for a living without worrying about whether an unpreventable accident or illness will make them bankrupt.

I encourage you to support the governor's proposal to implement Medicaid expansion with smart reforms. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Roberta Wilfong  
[REDACTED]  
Kasilof, AK 99610

**From:** Christy Favorite [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 29, 2015 1:33 PM  
**To:** Rep. Paul Seaton  
**Subject:** HB 148

Dear Representative Seaton:

Please vote in favor of HB 148. Medicaid expansion is the right thing to do for Alaska's people, from a number of viewpoints: a healthier population, more jobs, and peace of mind for the newly insured and those who love them. How often do you get to support legislation that provides so much good for so many people?

Thank you for your time and attention.

..--Christy Favorite

From: Kerry Lee Kruckenberg [REDACTED]  
Sent: Saturday, March 28, 2015 1:16 PM  
To: Rep. Paul Seaton  
Subject: Medicaid expansion

I'm not going to type out some long detailed letter why it just makes sense to expand medicaid. THIS IS JUST SOMETHING ALASKA NEEDS TO DO!

From: Gary and Eileen Sheridan [REDACTED]  
Sent: Monday, March 30, 2015 12:57 PM  
To: Rep. Paul Seaton  
Subject: Medicaid Expansion

Dear Representative Seaton:

We understand you wanted your constituents opinions on the Medicaid Expansion. We are definitely in favor of the legislature passing that. Not having proper medical care in infancy and as a child grows up can affect their educational growth, also. Parents trying to work two jobs and get sick usually don't have sick time, and it can affect their economic growth, also.

Thank you for asking our opinion. We'd rather pay for early medical care, then having to pay for higher insurance payments, or subsidizing the hospitals which end up getting the more advanced health issues that might have been eliminated from earlier care by a doctor, or requiring special help in education due to lack of health, ear problems, etc.

Sincerely,

Gary and Eileen Sheridan  
[REDACTED]

**From:** Robin Minard [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 30, 2015 9:35 AM  
**To:** Rep. Paul Seaton  
**Subject:** Medicaid Reform and Expansion

Representative Seaton,

Thank you for all you are doing to support Medicaid Reform and Expansion! So many of the expansion population are the working poor who will greatly benefit from this opportunity to stay on the path to self-sufficiency. When we allow people to get preventive health care versus delaying things until they become emergencies, we have a healthier population and tremendous costs savings.

Alaska accepts Federal dollars for so many other programs, and I hope that we find a way to accept the Medicaid dollars too, ensuring a healthier population for years to come.

Thank you for your time!

Robin

**Robin Minard**  
**Director, Public Affairs**  
**Mat-Su Health Foundation**  
950 E. Bogard Road, Ste. 218  
Wasilla, AK 99654  
(907) 352-2892  
(907) 352-2865 fax  
[rminard@healthymatsu.org](mailto:rminard@healthymatsu.org)

**From:** Sharon Geraghty [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Monday, March 30, 2015 1:57 PM

**To:** Rep. Paul Seaton

**Subject:** Medicaid Testimony

There is a length story behind this testimony, but I will try to keep this brief.

This is an example of what goes awry when we play games with poverty levels

- My brother was diagnosed with a terminal illness at 41 after working his whole life
- He applied for Public Assistance while waiting for Disability with Social Security to begin
- over a year later the Disability payments started and were \$30 over the limit for Medicaid eligibility
- we put great effort and expense into setting up a Miller's Trust for him so the health benefits would resume
- before these things were completed, he needed hospitalization twice
- Medicaid isn't covering the expenses from January because they say he didn't qualify for Medicaid in January due to the \$30. I know the medical transport company is facing a \$38,000 loss. There are multiple Doctors, two Hospitals who aren't getting paid.
- there is no estate to pay for these expenses as he qualified for Medicaid
- all the rest of us, including those of us who pay out of pocket for medical expenses will pay more to offset Medicaid's loopholes
- If Medicaid coverage was expanded, this whole thing could have been averted
- This is just what happened to our family. Surely there are many others who are experiencing the same problem

Why does medical coverage get cut off over such a small amount? Why is the limit for Medicaid less than \$1400/month? The money he was making on Social Security Disability wasn't enough to pay rent and groceries, let alone health insurance and medical costs. Here's where it gets even more ridiculous, he would have been allowed to have the medicaid maximum plus \$20 a month spending money. So we're really talking about \$10 a month for two months, and now several Alaskan companies are having to write these legitimate expenses off. This isn't good for Alaska, and it's not good for Medicaid patients who need health coverage in the future. If we don't pay the medical professionals who do their job in good faith of getting paid, they won't be here when we need them.

I'm not advocating for just giving money away to people. I know how painful the increased taxes can be on the middle class. It seems like there's got to be a better, more compassionate way than this. Another thing that seems ridiculous to me is that we gave another tax cut to oil companies last year. Now our State is in financial trouble and facing a loss of jobs and services. I sure hope increasing taxes for the oil companies is on the table for helping the deficit.

If you need more details, I can provide them. Thank you! Sharon Geraghty [REDACTED]