

Nondalton Tribal Council
P.O. Box 49
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Resolution 03-05-15-1

**TITLE: A RESOLUTION URGING THE ALASKA LEGISLATURE TO
EXPAND MEDICAID COVERAGE TO IMPROVE THE HEALTH OF
ALASKANS AND TO IMPROVE THE ALASKAN ECONOMY.**

- WHEREAS,** nearly 42,000 of our family members, friends and neighbors have the opportunity to gain health care coverage under expansion; and
- WHEREAS,** Medicaid expansion will improve health outcomes by reducing the number of uninsured Alaskans by half, improving preventive and primary care access, providing substance abuse treatment and mental health counseling, and reducing the mortality rate; and
- WHEREAS,** Medicaid expansion brings over \$1 billion in new federal revenue into Alaska over the first five years; and
- WHEREAS,** studies project expansion will likely yield 4,000 new jobs, \$1.2 billion more in wages and salaries paid to Alaskans, and \$2.49 billion in increased economic activity throughout the state; and
- WHEREAS,** with expansion the State would save \$6.1 million in FY2016 by using federal funds to pay for health services currently paid for with state general funds; and,
- WHEREAS,** federal funds will pay for 100% of services provided to the expansion population through 2016 and will transition to 90% in 2020 and beyond; and
- WHEREAS,** the State's continued participation is contingent upon maintaining the 90% match; and
- WHEREAS,** Medicaid expansion will significantly reduce the burden of uncompensated care, which was over \$90 million at non-tribal Alaska hospitals in 2013; and
- WHEREAS,** Medicaid expansion will serve as a catalyst for meaningful Medicaid reform; and

WHEREAS, leveraging the federal resources that come with expansion is the State's biggest opportunity to finance reform efforts; and

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

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, Nondalton Tribal Council endorses Medicaid expansion, recognizing we all have an interest in ensuring that Alaskans are as productive as possible so they can contribute to our communities and economy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Nondalton Tribal Council strongly urges the Alaska 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.

CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the Nondalton Tribal Council at a duly called regular meeting of the Nondalton Tribal Council and was adopted by a vote of 1 for, and 0 against with 0 abstention 0 absent, this 1st day of March, 2015.

William Evanoff
William Evanoff,
President

Kristy Jeffries
Kristy Jeffries,
Secretary

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March 3, 2015

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
State Senate
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Murkowski,

Nondalton Tribal Council strongly urges the Alaska Legislature to expand Medicaid in July 2015 for the benefit of Alaskans and the Alaska economy.

Nearly 42,000 of our fellow Alaskans will be eligible for health coverage under Medicaid expansion. Expansion improves health outcomes by reducing the number of uninsured Alaskans by half, improving preventative and primary care access, and providing substance abuse treatment and mental health counseling.

There are significant economic benefits associated with Medicaid expansion, which will bring more than \$1 billion in new federal revenue to our state, 4,000 new jobs, \$1.2 billion more in wages and salaries paid to Alaskans, and \$2.49 billion in increased economic activity over the first five years. We should view Medicaid expansion as an economic driver that will positively impact our state's economy as we are faced with declining oil prices and the resulting budget challenges.

In addition to new federal revenue, savings to the state budget have also been identified in the Department of Corrections, the Chronic & Acute Medical Assistance (CAMA) Program and behavioral health grants. In FY2016, the state would realize \$6.1 million in savings. Medicaid expansion is healthy for Alaskans and healthy for the state's budget. We encourage the continued internal evaluation to identify other potential savings and offsets attributable to expansion and reform.


Federal funds will pay for 100% of services provided to the expansion population through 2016 and will transition to 90% in 2020 and beyond. We support Governor Walker's position that Alaska's participation is contingent on the federal match remaining at 90%.

Medicaid expansion will serve as a catalyst for meaningful Medicaid reform. We are pleased to hear that the Department of Health & Human Services has issued an RFP for technical assistance related to reform efforts. Though reform of the current Medicaid

program should be of utmost importance, reform efforts should not delay health care coverage for those Alaskans who would be eligible for Medicaid under expansion.

Nondalton Tribal Council endorses Medicaid expansion, recognizing we all have an interest in ensuring that Alaskans are as productive as possible so they can contribute to our communities and economy.

Sincerely,



William Evanoff,
President