

From: [Barbara Haney](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Cc: [Sen. Pete Kelly](#); [Sen. Anna MacKinnon](#); [Sen. Click Bishop](#); [Sen. Donny Olson](#); [Sen. Peter Micciche](#); [Sen. Mike Dunleavy](#); [Sen. Lyman Hoffman](#)
Subject: 7 Reasons Why I oppose Medicaid Expansion
Date: Saturday, April 11, 2015 1:08:34 AM

Dear House Finance and Senate Finance Committee Members

I am writing to request you vote no on Medicaid expansion. I have 8 reasons. They are as follows:

- 1) There is zero evidence that health is improved with Medicaid expansion. However, there is a lot of proof that states have gone deep into the hole over it.
- 2) **Medicaid Expansion is the prerequisite for Obama Care.** According to provisions of the PPA (better known as ObamaCare), [Medicaid expansion is required to implement Obama Care.](#) (Huffington Post story).
- 3) **The DHSS Estimates Grossly Overstate the Benefits.** After looking at the econometric estimates provided here in Juneau, it is pretty clear that there are many factors that have not been considered and that the benefits of Medicaid expansion are grossly overstated. Just for starters, they do not incorporate the impact of new taxes on the supply of providers and cost. Nor do they account for other issues pertinent to service delivery in Alaska. **In the seven other states that have expanded Medicaid, costs on an average rose 88% above forecasted costs.** This will likely be much higher in Alaska. The cost over-runs will do great harm to the Constitutional Budget Reserve-- it will be depleted rapidly.
- 4) **Crowd Out Of Most Vulnerable Populations:** Current Medicaid recipients, such as the elderly, disabled, and those with children, will be reimbursed at 50%. The new expanded population will be reimbursed at 90%. If you are a physician, who are you going to take? Clearly the new medicaid patients will crowd out the old ones who are reimbursed at the new rate. Thus, those in most need will go to the end of the line if they are even served at all.
- 5) **Taxes On Providers:** House Bill 148 also imposes taxes on providers. For medical providers already operating at the margin (and many in Alaska are barely surviving), this could be the nail that closes their practice.
- 6) **Medicaid is a big source of funding for Planned Parenthood.** Early on [Twitchy covered](#) how medicaid expansion and PPA specifically rewarded Planned Parenthood. In addition, Planned Parenthood has a track record of fraudulent claims with Medicaid. [American Life League has a page](#) that details the extensive number fraud of lawsuits in Iowa, Texas, California, and Illinois. The [Alliance Defense Fund's Report to Congress](#) in February 2012 details numerous details of fraud and abuse of Medicaid. Expansion would merely expand those opportunities in Alaska.
- 7) **Doesn't fix any of the current problems:** According to Leg Audit in FY 2014, there are serious problems with many of the Medicaid system. The payment system (Enterprise, formerly MMIS) is broken. There are over 451 defects in the payment system documented as of August 2014. The Aries System, used for determining eligibility is also broken. Over half

of the Medicaid providers certification files are incomplete. Nearly 2/3 of the providers lacked of any kind of evidence of rate verification, and important component in addressing costs.

Please vote NO on Medicaid expansion.



April 10, 2015

Hello,

My name is Mary Katasse and I live in Juneau, Alaska. I support Medicaid expansion and reform because I am the mother of two adult sons and the adopted mother of three siblings, Julian who is 7- Christian 4 and Alexia 3 years of age. Julian was diagnosed with FASD in January of 2010. His siblings are in the process of getting a diagnosis.

Our story is a story of success. When Julian first came in to our home, we knew there was a possibility of an FASD, but didn't know exactly what FASD was. With the help of family and local, state and federal agencies, we were able to get the information we needed to get a diagnosis, and to learn how to properly care for a child with an FASD. We are blessed with a wonderful support system which includes our family, friends, our employers, the Juneau School District, their Doctor's office and the local, state and federal agencies. Without early diagnosis and support, my children would not be doing as well as they are.

I am asking you to take Julian, Christian and Alexia in to consideration and support HB 148. All who support these children play a critical role in their lives and the lives of all who are affected by FASD. Thank you for your time and for this great opportunity to share my family with you.

~Mary

Our story can be found here:

<http://juneauempire.com/local/2015-02-05/finding-good-fasd>

<http://www.ccthita.org/info/newsletters/newsletters/2010april.pdf>

pg.15

From: [Sarah Isto](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: A Doctor Supports Medicaid Expansion
Date: Saturday, April 11, 2015 9:05:20 AM

To Members of the Committee:

I am writing this email to testify based on my experience as a physician. During my years of practice here in Juneau I witnessed some of the consequences of a medical insurance system which effectively excludes many responsible, low income working people.

Here is one example (disguised for medical privacy). A young father, whose job did not provide insurance, developed a dark expanding mole. He delayed several months before coming in to have it looked at because he did not want to add to the family's debt. His melanoma story ended well medically. I do not know how it ended for him economically, but I know his loss would have not only caused suffering for his family but would have been a loss to our community and to the state.

Except for a few periods as a young adult, I have always had medical insurance and have never had to face tough decisions about seeking needed non-emergency care. No Alaskan should have to face these decisions.

I urge you to support HB 148.

Sarah Isto, M.D.



ALASKA PHYSICAL THERAPY ASSOCIATION, INC.

A CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN PHYSICAL THERAPY ASSOCIATION

PO BOX 140351 ANCHORAGE, AK 99514-0351

PHONE: (907) 566-3749

April 10, 2015

The Honorable Mark Neuman
The Honorable Steve Thompson
House Finance Committee
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99901

Dear Representatives Neuman and Thompson:

The Alaska Physical Therapy Association is in strong support of Medicaid expansion. Access to healthcare is critical for our citizens to stay safe, well, and functioning effectively in their homes and communities. We believe that the proposed expansion in concert with reform measures currently being considered in the Legislature will not only improve the health of Alaskans but will also be good for the Alaskan economy.

Members of our community need to be able to access care at the right place, at the right time, and from the right provider at the right price. When people lack access to health insurance they delay treatment and end up receiving care in the most expensive locations - the emergency room and in hospitals. Early access to health care services will enable Alaskans to stay healthier for longer in their homes and communities. Individuals frequently delay receiving adequate medical care because it is too expensive or too difficult to access. Medicaid expansion will also allow health conditions to be treated at a time when care is relatively less expensive. Early intervention can improve health outcomes, save money and more importantly contribute significantly to quality of life. Nearly 42,000 of our fellow Alaskans will be eligible for health coverage under Medicaid expansion. Access to care will improve health outcomes by reducing the number of uninsured Alaskans by half, improve preventive and primary care access, and provide substance abuse treatment and mental health counseling. As you are aware, Alaska has higher incidence of conditions like sexually transmitted infections, diabetes, depression, substance abuse and suicide. All of the above conditions can either be prevented or effectively managed by accessing appropriate primary care. Improved access to affordable healthcare is a critical step if we want to address these serious health concerns in our state.

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. We don't turn down federal money for education, transportation, and the military, and we shouldn't turn it down for health care.

Medicaid expansion is healthy for Alaskans and healthy for the state's budget. Federal funds will pay for 100% of services provided to the expansion population through 2016 and will transition to 90% in 2020 and beyond. Alaska's participation can be contingent on the federal match remaining at 90%. Medicaid expansion will serve as a catalyst for meaningful Medicaid reform. 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.

Thank you for your leadership in spearheading this critical process for a healthier Alaska.

Respectfully,

LeeAnne Carrothers, PT, PhD
President, Alaska Physical Therapy Association

From: Filymcc@aol.com
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: April 11 testimony from Partners for Progress
Date: Saturday, April 11, 2015 10:07:38 AM

To: Members of the House Finance Committee

From: Janet McCabe

For: Partners for Progress Board of Directors

Re: House Bill 148

April 11, 2015

Dear House Finance Committee Members,

Our **eleven (11)** member board of directors asked me to express their request that you quickly approve HB 148, to expedite the process of enactment of Medicaid expansion and reform this session. Our reasons for this request are as follows:

1. Action this session would start a flow of new federal dollars into Alaska. The positive ripple effects throughout Alaska's economy would help counter the negative effects of the decline in oil prices. The ratio of benefits over costs of Medicaid expansion is strongly positive.
2. Through the programs operated by Partners for Progress (Therapeutic Court Support and Partners Reentry Center), we have seen firsthand the devastating effects of lack of access to health coverage. Individuals, their families and their employers are all harmed by lack of basic preventive health care. Emergency room care is no substitute, and it costs us all.
3. We are all Alaskans. The people who visited you from Anchorage Faith and Action

Congregations Acting Together, speaking for their collective congregations of 10,000, urged you to consider Medicaid expansion because we must always try to be “our brother’s keeper”. Our board agrees with them.

Respectfully,

Janet McCabe, on behalf of Partners for Progress Board of Directors

ARCTIC ALLIANCE FOR PEOPLE
A network of Human Service Providers in Interior Alaska

Date: April 7, 2015
To: House Finance Committee
Senate HSS Committee
Interior Delegation
From: Arctic Alliance for People
Re: Support for HB 148 and SB 78

The membership of Arctic Alliance urges the members of the House Finance Committee to pass HB148, the members of the Senate Health and Social Services Committee to pass SB 78, and the members of the Interior Delegation to support the Governor's bills to accept Medicaid Expansion in Alaska, HB 148 and SB 78.

Passage of Medicaid Expansion would provide nearly 42,000 Alaskans with access to health insurance, add 4,000 new jobs and will bring more than \$1 billion federal dollars to Alaska in the first five years. It is also expected to significantly stabilize rising insurance and health care costs by reducing uncompensated care. It will also improve access to both preventative and behavioral health care, helping to build a healthier Alaskan population.

Medicaid Expansion will be good for the Alaska economy – and in this budget environment we can't afford to let an opportunity to stimulate the economy pass us by. To do so would shortchange both current and future generations.

Please support Medicaid Expansion and pass HB 148 or SB 78 THIS legislative session. There are thousands of Alaskans whose quality of life – and even their lives – depend on this wonderful opportunity.

Thank you for your consideration.

Taber Rehbaum and Doug Toelle, Legislative Committee Co-chairs
Pete Pinney, Chair
Arctic Alliance for People

From: [michael mccurdy](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Medicaid Expansion....
Date: Friday, April 10, 2015 8:00:46 PM

Because my Social Security Premium for Medicare is over \$100.00 per month, I am unable to afford it. Alaska is Expensive! So I rely on Medicaid. Please consider individuals such as myself..... Michael McCurdy, Homer, AK 99603

From: [Deb Sandar](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Medicaid Expansion
Date: Saturday, April 11, 2015 8:39:49 AM

Good morning -

I am writing in support of Medicaid Expansion for the State of Alaska. I am the Treasurer of the Food Bank of Alaska, and the board and staff of FBA are fully in support of this action. It will improve the lives of many, many Alaskans.

In addition, I belong to a faith community that endorses this action. Leaving fellow Alaskans without access to basic health services doesn't meet the basics of being a good neighbor or a person of faith.

I strongly encourage you to take the right action in this measure, for the good of all of us.

Thank you -

Deborah Sandar
2820 Lexington Circle
Anchorage, Alaska 99502
907-242-4338

From: [Kristi McEwen](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Medicaid testimony
Date: Saturday, April 11, 2015 7:44:49 AM

Medicaid expansion is needed now, more than ever. With looming State budget cuts, which will leave thousands of Alaskans without employment and the insurance that comes with it, it would be unwise, unethical, and simply cruel, to deny thousands of Alaskans the opportunity to receive health care, which will be funded by the Federal government. It is not the oil industry that makes Alaska's economy thrive, it is our people – people who work hard every day to make Alaska the place we choose to live. A person with dire health care needs cannot recover the way that oil prices can. With the many ways that Alaska will now have to turn away those in need of services, why also say no to something that we, citizens of the United States, can receive, as so many across this nation do? Medicaid expansion will save lives, create healthy families, make our state stronger, and will be a lifeline in our sinking economy.

Medicaid Expansion now.

Kristi McEwen

321 Miller Hill Road

Fairbanks, AK 99709

Sent from my iPad

From: [Ron Windeler](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Medicare expansion
Date: Friday, April 10, 2015 6:53:05 PM

As an Alaskan (native born), I should be in favor of free money from the federal government, but I am also an American, and must oppose criminal, un-Constitutional, un-American spending of my federal taxes on unauthorized and incompetent federal programs such as Medicare and Medicaid. Therefore, I urge you to resist the evil temptation of "free" federal funds for medical care in Alaska. Please, instead, support Americare, the real solution.

From: [Cindy Bettine](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: I support medicaid expansion.
Date: Friday, April 10, 2015 11:08:33 PM

To the House,

This session, you are faced with a monumental task. The people of Alaska are surely going to face hard times ahead. We've see the state legislature give tax reductions to the oil companies; and possibly a tax credit to Agrium all in the name of increasing jobs.

I'm a small business person and I'm all for increasing jobs. Medicaid expansion will create jobs.

You've proven you are willing to make budget cuts in hard times, so take the Federal money and make the hard cuts in the future if it's necessary. Help the working poor.

Cindy Bettine

Big Lake

From: [Mark Lackey](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Cc: [Rep. Cathy Tilton](#); [Rep. Mark Neuman](#); [Rep. Wes Keller](#); [Rep. Shelley Hughes](#); [Rep. Lynn Gattis](#); [Rep. Jim Colver](#); [Sen. Mike Dunleavy](#); [Sen. Charlie Huggins](#); [Sen. Bill Stoltze](#)
Subject: Time to Expand Medicaid in Alaska!
Date: Friday, April 10, 2015 8:05:30 PM

I just paid a lot of money in federal taxes.

While I'm thinking a good portion of them could be spent more efficiently, and perhaps I could contribute less...

I certainly would feel better knowing that I was supporting better health and wellness (and providing much cheaper preventive care instead of emergency care) to those without insurance in Alaska. As it stands I'm just supporting those other states to be healthier and and contributing to their cheaper medical bills.

We need to accept the federal funds, increase the percentage of covered individuals, and improve our Alaskan health care system! I'm sure we can continue working on reforms and making Medicaid more expensive, but in the meantime - let's not delay providing more Alaskans with coverage and care.

Thanks for your service to the Mat-Su,

Mark Lackey
Wasilla, Alaska

From: [S.L. Harris](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: HB 148
Date: Friday, April 10, 2015 8:55:57 PM

Please support HB 148. The bill provides federal funds to pay for basic health care services for uninsured Alaskans. I don't see a down side.

Thank you.

Sandra Harris
424 4 th St
Juneau, AK 99801

From: [Tara G](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Medicaid expansion
Date: Saturday, April 11, 2015 8:20:47 AM

Dear Legislators,

I am writing to oppose expansion of the Medicaid program. Expansion may seem like a good deal for Alaska in the short-term, but I believe that the long-term risks are far too great. There is no guarantee that the federal government will keep its promises or that they will continue to help fund this program, and then where does that leave us? Especially in light of the state's current fiscal crisis, I believe this a risk that we cannot afford to take. Please do not approve Medicaid expansion.

Thank you,

Tara Gallear
Eagle River

From: [Familie Veh](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Expand Medicaid!
Date: Saturday, April 11, 2015 9:03:00 AM

Dear AK State Legislature;

Expand Medicaid! Why? Because it will provide a much needed infusion of money into our health care industry. It's also a life or death situation for the uninsured.

I understand that the members of the AK Legislature already have health care coverage. My recommendation is to strip that healthcare benefit away from lawmakers until they can accept the money for the Medicaid Expansion.

As always, sending respect! Thank you!

Sincerely,
Katharine Veh
Soldotna, Alaska

From: [Vince Meurlott](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Stop HB 148 Please
Date: Saturday, April 11, 2015 8:51:34 AM

Dear Legislators,

Please do not pass HB 148. We do not need an expansion to Medicaid. We believe that we have enough budget problems already and do not need to add to them.

Sincerely,

Vince and Annie Meurlott

596 Arvita Court

Fairbanks, Alaska 99712

Phone (907) 378-4663

Fax (907) 457-4919



*“We help adults with mental
illness live their own best lives”*

Quality Community Behavioral Health Services Since 1985

April 6, 2015

House Finance Committee
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol Building
Juneau, Alaska 99801

As Executive Director of Juneau Alliance for Mental Health, Inc. (JAMHI), and on behalf of our Board of Directors, I urge your support for the expansion of Medicaid in Alaska. As a state-designated Community Behavioral Health Center, we serve adults with Serious Mental Illness and others experiencing mental illness and multiple co-occurring disorders such as Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder, cognitive impairment, substance use disorders, PTSD, or dementia. In addition to behavioral health issues, many of our clients have chronic medical problems that complicate their mental illness, overall functioning, and ability to live independently. As the population ages, this becomes an increasingly common situation and existing resources don't meet the need. For those without Medicaid or other coverage, options are limited to non-existent.

Medicaid funding is an important revenue stream for JAMHI, accounting for about 50% of our total revenue, and allows us to provide care to those with serious mental illness who have qualified for Medicaid under the existing eligibility criteria. Often, those covered by Medicaid are the Social Security beneficiaries. JAMHI also serves others not currently eligible for Medicaid who have no other payor source. These persons still need treatment to address their disorders and to prevent them from getting worse. Case managers assist clients to help them apply for Social Security benefits. *This assistance is not reimbursable* and even under the speediest of circumstances, using the “SOAR” fast-track Social Security method, it takes on average 40 work-hours to process the paperwork to the point of application. Without this assistance, the process can often take years for a disabled person to become eligible for benefits, often leaving them no means to pay for services.

JAMHI serves between 350-475 adults, providing outpatient clinical and psychiatric assessments, therapy, case management, rehabilitation services, medication management, and care coordination. We coordinate care with primary care providers, the courts, and many other community, regional, and state organizations. In addition to these services, we have a continuum of housing for 52 seriously mentally ill adults, including highly structured Group Living for those in need of a sub-acute setting (just below psychiatric hospitalization) with 24/7 services and monitoring; Supported Living apartments for persons capable of more independent living with staff supports; and Independent Living. Some of the individuals we house used to reside “permanently” at Alaska Psychiatric Hospital until it downsized in the 1980s. Our goal is to assist our clients to live productive lives in the least restrictive, most independent settings in the community. This helps prevent costly hospitalizations, repeated emergency room visits, or incarcerations. Medicaid helps cover the cost of caring for these vulnerable adults.

JAMHI also provides Psychiatric Emergency Services, evaluating persons experiencing suicidality, psychoses, and other psychiatric emergencies which may put them at risk of harm to self or others. The goal is to determine the least restrictive setting that is appropriate for the individual. By working collaboratively with others and tapping into all available resources we have been able to reduce the

number of individuals requiring hospitalization. In FY14 we conducted 499 such evaluations in Juneau.

Alaska's present behavioral health treatment system has serious gaps. As a result, there is an imbalance wherein individuals with mild to moderate mental illness and substance use disorders have limited access to treatment services, in contrast with those having severe problems. Medicaid expansion will help remove some of the existing governmental administrative barriers by simplifying the eligibility criteria and process. Individuals will be eligible for Medicaid based on their income (or lack thereof), and this will allow more people with mental health and/or substance use disorders to receive much needed care and treatment.

Some say Medicaid expansion is expensive and something we cannot afford. We believe that we can't afford *not* to take advantage of expansion. Doing nothing, in this instance, costs more than doing something. Medicaid expansion offers us a practical alternative to our current system. It will help create a more holistic and less fragmented approach to healthcare. It will increase the likelihood of successful outcomes, decrease the cost of care, and improve quality. We firmly believe it is the right thing to do. Let's act now!

Thank you for your thoughtful attention to this very important issue. We respectfully ask that you strongly support Medicaid expansion in our state, now.

Respectfully,

Pamela L. Watts
Executive Director
Juneau Alliance for Mental Health, Inc.

From: [Marilyn Holmes](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Federal Medicaid Funding
Date: Saturday, April 11, 2015 8:54:30 AM

To the members of the House Finance Committee –

As an Alaskan interested in improving healthy birth outcomes in our state, I am writing to urge you to accept federal Medicaid money in order to provide healthcare to thousands of Alaskans who can't afford health insurance.

According to the World Health Organization, two of the three factors that contribute to healthy birth outcomes for both mothers and infants are 1) universal health care and 2) early and consistent pre-natal care.

These funds will contribute to developing those conditions for Alaska's families.

Thank you,

Marilyn Holmes

Juneau

From: [Kathi Wineman](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: HB 148
Date: Saturday, April 11, 2015 7:30:39 AM

I strongly urge you to do the right thing and support HB 148 - Alaska's Medicaid. It is the compassionate thing to do.

Thank you,
Kathi Wineman
Juneau

From: [Barry Santana](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Cc: governor@alaska.gov
Subject: Medicaid Expansion
Date: Saturday, April 11, 2015 8:17:11 AM

Gentlemen and Ladies,

I am an Alaskan voter and typically consider myself socially and fiscally conservative. I am sure there are problems that require fixing in any government program as large as Medicaid...and they need to be fixed. But my Federal tax dollars are being collected this whole Obamacare, Medicaid expansion program and I have NEVER received a dime from Medicaid. With the Alaska Legislature's "head in the sand" approach since this issue became law, fact, reality, you have allowed my money to be spent 100% outside Alaska. The Federal government has been reimbursing states 100 % since the law became effective; there is only 2 years left at best to get in on this Federal freebie; then it will be a 90/10 split. With the potential transfer of medical expenses from other programs to Medicaid and with the economic growth of the Alaskan medical system it seems a no-brainer to me to accept the new Medicaid program and money. Add to that the moral aspects of the issue and it is difficult to understand how the Alaska Legislature has allowed this to happen over the last 2-3 years. We can always opt out if it doesn't work out. We can also attempt to reform Medicaid in a parallel effort...if you have the resolve. You need to resolve this long overdue decision with a yes vote today and get on with budget issues as well as waking up to the damage you are doing to the negotiation process of AKLNG with HB132. Please make a positive decision today!

Barry Santana
Pedro Bay and Wasilla, Alaska

From: [Jenny Pursell](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: From Jenny Pursell re the support of Medicaid expansion
Date: Friday, April 10, 2015 8:18:48 AM

Dear Members of the Finance Committee,

I strongly support expanding the Medicaid program in Alaska. I see no downside in doing so. Medicaid coverage will enable Alaskans to get their healthcare needs met so that they can maintain employment or seek employment thusly lending to the health of our economy. It will assist Alaskans being released from prisons to receive substance abuse treatment. These treatment programs benefit all Alaskans as recidivism rates should decline due to those recovery programs. Alaskans having attended recovery programs are more likely to be mainstreamed back into our communities while having the potential to contribute to the strength and health of our communities and state. The expansion of Medicaid programs will reduce the hospital costs for all of us, because those with insurance will not be paying for those folks without insurance..... the Federal government will. The Feds will pay 10% of costs for those eligible for Medicaid through 2016. After 2016 the Feds will pay 90% of those costs. Alaska would then will be responsible for picking up 10% of the costs after 2016. It's important to note that Alaska also picks up 10% of the costs of Federal highway and aviation infrastructure. Surely the medical coverage of Alaskans is JUST as important as transportation infrastructure. As a 13 year resident of Alaska I believe that the health and strength of this state has its foundation in its people. The health and strength of ALL Alaskans MUST be maintained and cultivated for a viable and healthy Alaska!!! I strongly URGE you to expand our Medicaid program!

Jenny Pursell

Sincerely,

P.O. box 33578

Juneau, Alaska, 99803

From: [Jenny Pursell](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: FW: From Jenny Pursell re the support of Medicaid expansion
Date: Saturday, April 11, 2015 9:58:05 AM

Good Morning and to Whom it may Concern, just want to make sure that you received my email supporting Medicaid expansion which I sent to you April 10 in the morning. Please let me know if you did indeed receive this email. Thank you, Jenny Pursell

From: Jenny Pursell [mailto:mikejen@gci.net]
Sent: Friday, April 10, 2015 8:19 AM
To: 'lhscfin@akleg.gov'
Subject: From Jenny Pursell re the support of Medicaid expansion

Dear Members of the Finance Committee,

I strongly support expanding the Medicaid program in Alaska. I see no downside in doing so. Medicaid coverage will enable Alaskans to get their healthcare needs met so that they can maintain employment or seek employment thusly lending to the health of our economy. It will assist Alaskans being released from prisons to receive substance abuse treatment. These treatment programs benefit all Alaskans as recidivism rates should decline due to those recovery programs. Alaskans having attended recovery programs are more likely to be mainstreamed back into our communities while having the potential to contribute to the strength and health of our communities and state. The expansion of Medicaid programs will reduce the hospital costs for all of us, because those with insurance will not be paying for those folks without insurance..... the Federal government will. The Feds will pay 10% of costs for those eligible for Medicaid through 2016. After 2016 the Feds will pay 90% of those costs. Alaska would then will be responsible for picking up 10% of the costs after 2016. It's important to note that Alaska also picks up 10% of the costs of Federal highway and aviation infrastructure. Surely the medical coverage of Alaskans is JUST as important as transportation infrastructure. As a 13 year resident of Alaska I believe that the health and strength of this state has its foundation in its people. The health and strength of ALL Alaskans MUST be maintained and cultivated for a viable and healthy Alaska!!! I strongly URGE you to expand our Medicaid program!

Jenny Pursell

Sincerely,

P.O. box 33578

Juneau, Alaska, 99803

From: mtaonline.net
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Fw: Medicaid expansion
Date: Friday, April 10, 2015 12:20:42 PM

Subject: Re: Medicaid expansion

Please look at the money we are leaving on the table while subsidizing the more enlightened states that have accepted the Medicaid expansion. These are valid studies using empirical timely data,

“The first study, from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, examined Kentucky and Arkansas — two states with previously high uninsurance rates that have benefited significantly from Medicaid expansion.

According to the researchers, those states should serve as prime examples of how “expansion can produce savings in tax dollars and generate new revenue for state budgets.” Between state fiscal years 2014 and 2021, Kentucky will save an estimated \$820 million and Arkansas will save an estimated \$370 million after accepting federal funding to extend health coverage to additional low-income residents.

Those savings come from a combination of the additional federal funding allocated for states that accept the expansion and the decline in uninsured residents seeking uncompensated care, which increases revenue for health providers.”

“The second study, from the Kaiser Family Foundation, reported similar findings for Connecticut, New Mexico, and Washington State. Although the researchers acknowledge that it’s difficult to isolate the specific effect of Medicaid expansion on state budgets, they conclude that “early evidence from interviews with budget officials in these case study states shows state savings and revenue gains with limited costs resulting from expansion.”

The three states examined in the Kaiser study are also saving money in programs outside of Medicaid itself, particularly when it comes to their behavioral health programs. With additional federal funding to finance Medicaid, states are able to shift money around to allocate more resources to mental health services, which have suffered big cuts in state budgets over the last several years.

Previous studies projected big savings for Medicaid expansion states — but, now that the policy has been in effect for a full year in many states, researchers are able to start confirming that positive benefit more explicitly. Other states, like New Jersey, have also started factoring the savings stemming from Medicaid expansion into their budgets.

There’s been some other recent evidence that Medicaid expansion can also help spur job growth. According to a recent report from the market research group FitchRatings, the states that expanded their public health programs are creating jobs in the health care field at a more rapid rate, suggesting that “ACA expansion is generally positive for that sector’s employment profile.”

Expanding Medicaid is good for Alaska's working poor and our economy.

From: [Susan Olsen](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Fwd: Medicaid Expansion
Date: Friday, April 10, 2015 3:22:23 PM

>

> Dear House Finance Committee members:

>

> I urge you to support expansion of Medicaid: for its very real health benefits to those currently without health insurance; to bring substantial federal dollars into Alaska thus helping to alleviate our current fiscal crisis, and a start to reducing unfunded health costs currently absorbed by hospitals and other facilities but paid by all of with insurance.

>

> Reform of Medicaid does NOT need to be accomplished before accepting federal dollars to expand Medicaid in this state. To so insist is simply a political ploy to thwart the Governor. There is no reason both cannot be initiated at the same time. To argue that we should not expand Medicaid because the Feds might not follow through on providing 90% of the costs in subsequent years (after paying 100% of the initial expansion) is hardly based on experience or principle as evidenced by our long time, complete reliance on, and acceptance of, federal highway dollars.

>

> Your ultimate job is to provide for the security of Alaska's citizens whether through providing for education, food safety, trooper coverage, road building or health. Expansion of Medicaid is fundamentally just the right thing to do.

>

> Susan Olsen

> Anchorage, AK99516

From: [Katherine Hicks](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Fwd: Testimony on Medicaid Expansion
Date: Saturday, April 11, 2015 9:38:08 AM

I sent this to Rep. Thompson and Rep Neuman yesterday. I now see that this is the official site I should send this request to NOT FUND MEDICAID EXPANSION. Since I am walking for our Mayoral candidate today, I cannot afford the time to sit and wait to be called upon.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Katherine Hicks <akhix49@gmail.com>
Date: Fri, Apr 10, 2015 at 8:23 PM
Subject: Testimony on Medicaid Expansion
To: Rep.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov, Rep.Mark.Neuman@akleg.gov

House Finance co-chairs,

I would like this testimony to be put on the record, as I can't afford the time to come down to the LIO and listen to every special interest in Juneau testify while I wait for our turn to testify.

Good morning, members of the committee. My name is Katherine Hicks and I have lived in Anchorage for 41 years. I don't think Alaska should be expanding the Medicaid program. From what I've heard and read, a central claim is that the State will take in more money from this expansion. If you believe that, I have some oceanfront property in Willow to sell you.

The state budget you folks will approve in the next week will include billions of dollars in deficit spending. Who else does that all the time? The federal government. That's the way they do business in Washington, DC, and now they – I should say the Obama Administration – wants to hook us in on the pretext that we will get a short term benefit from expanding Medicaid.

One thing is for sure. Down the road the federal rules will change and guess what, they won't be helpful to, Alaska. And not a one of you on this committee knows if we will have the money when the bills finally come due. By that time, Commissioner Davidson will be long gone, and her pledges that this will all work out fine will be long forgotten. And the citizens of Alaska will be left holding the bag.

My other major concern is that ObamaCare's national Medicaid expansion is being paid for with big cuts to Medicare. In order to pay for the Medicaid expansion and the rest of the things in the federal affordable care act, the government will cut \$716 billion from Medicare overall and \$156 billion from Medicare Advantage over the next ten years.

Much of those cuts will affect doctors who accept Medicare patients. And I am one of many seniors whose own Doctor stopped accepting Medicare. So thank you for that, President Obama. The money the feds are saving on Medicare helps pay for the Medicaid expansion you are considering, a program that will benefit many working age adults, not seniors in poor health with no health care options.

Now, as state legislators, you can ignore this fact by pretending it is not your problem; that it is a federal problem. But by expanding Medicaid in Alaska, you are aiding and abetting the ObamaCare plan to squeeze senior's health care to pay for expanding healthcare for other new groups.

In conclusion, I want to say that I support a safety net for seniors, the disabled, and other people who can't care for themselves. We already do a good job

through the Medicaid program we have today. There may be reforms that would even improve our Medicaid program. But if you believe in the tooth fairy, and think that a few years from now we will find millions and millions of dollars under a pillow then go ahead and expand Medicaid in Alaska.

If you believe there is a limit to what we can afford down the road, then act responsibly and don't commit Alaska to long term Medicaid costs that some experts want you to believe will never come due.

Thank you.

Katherine Hicks

From: [Chris Prussing](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Please expand Alaska's Medicaid program.
Date: Friday, April 10, 2015 7:50:35 PM

The hand-wringing and waffling on what should be an open-and-shut "Yes!" decision to expand Medicaid is just ridiculous.
Enough of running this state as if it were the private fiefdom of the Koch, BP and Exxon oligarchy.

Chris Prussing
Juneau

From: [Linda File](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Cc: governor@akleg.gov; [Rep. Tammie Wilson](#)
Subject: governor's medicaid expansion bill
Date: Saturday, April 11, 2015 9:16:15 AM

To the Chair and Members of House Finance;

Thank you for receiving public testimony on the governor's expansion bill.

If approved, this bill will be the shining legacy of this legislature.

We who support are asking you to open the window of life-saving health care coverage to 40,000 Alaskans. These are people who deserve better. They are our sons and daughters, they are the people who work in our second and third largest industries of tourism and fisheries, often seasonal workers who hold several jobs throughout the year to make ends meet. They are the people who hold the service jobs in the building where you hold session and in the places where you go to lunch or dinners. They are the aides and substitute teachers in our schools. They are the housekeeping staff of the hotels, the clerks at the shops, the homeless you walk by on the street. They are often those without a voice.

The expansion would also bring 4,000 new jobs in medical and related fields, with a return to Alaskans of over \$1 billion dollars in new wages.

It would save the State of Alaska some \$6 million dollars in savings. These are funds we need, now.

Please support the governor's bill for Medicaid Expansion. Do not deny to the most vulnerable Alaskans health care you receive as a person elected by the people of Alaska. We are counting on you.

Linda File
Alaskan resident since 1965
2350 Mission Road
North Pole, Alaska

From: [Teresa](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: HB 148
Date: Friday, April 10, 2015 5:32:03 PM

I am writing in support of HB 148 to expand Medicaid in Alaska. Helping Alaskans in this tough economy is the right thing to do! People with disabilities would benefit as well. Savings to our State is a no brainer when looking at the cost savings and helping Alaskans without is where we as a people should be!

Please, support and pass this bill!

Thank you,
Teresa Sarabia

Sent from my iPad

From: [Lisa Harbo](#)
To: [House Finance](#); bill.walker@alaska.gov; byron.mallott@alaska.gov
Subject: HB 148 Medical Assistance Coverage; Reform
Date: Saturday, April 11, 2015 9:09:51 AM

Dear House Finance Committee, Governor Walker, and Lieutenant Governor Mallott:

I support Medicaid expansion in Alaska. Because so many people in Alaska already are covered by government-subsidized insurance and/or government-sponsored health care in one form or another, there is absolutely no "free market" for health care in Alaska, and because of this the cost of medical care for those without insurance coverage (and even for many with this coverage, when the coverage includes very high insurance deductibles) is absolutely not affordable, even for many Alaskans with jobs. Alaskans need a medical care safety net where they can get access to needed medical care even when they do not have high paying jobs that include employer-sponsored health insurance. The Constitution of the State of Alaska, Article 7 Section 4 states that "The legislature shall provide for the promotion and protection of public health." Access to medical care is one essential component of the promotion and protection of public health.

Sincerely,

Lisa Harbo
820 Capricorn Street
Fairbanks, AK 99709

- Lifelong Alaskan and over 50 year resident of Interior Alaska -

From: [Cathleen Teich](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: HB 148
Date: Friday, April 10, 2015 1:29:33 PM

I am in support of House Bill 148 that would give Alaska federal funds (Medicaid expansion) to provide for Alaskans who need health care coverage.

Sincerely,

Cathy Teich

From: [Steve and Heidi Frost](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: HB148
Date: Friday, April 10, 2015 1:30:47 PM

Hello and Happy Friday,

My husband and I feel strongly that HB148 should be passed by the legislature.

It will make healthcare affordable and accessible to the majority of Alaskans. It will increase the number of people employed in the healthcare industry. Lower the rates I pay (because currently I'm paying for the uninsured - and so are you!). And, reduce the amount the state pays for these services.

It is a win-win-win!

Please pass HB148 - for all Alaskans!

With Regards,
Heidi and Steve Frost

POB 243705
Anchorage, Alaska 99524

From: [Heidi James Frost](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: HB148
Date: Friday, April 10, 2015 1:24:31 PM

Greetings,

I'm writing on behalf of many individuals with disabilities who would benefit from the passage of HB148. Many people want, but can't get or can't afford, health insurance - at least that was the situation a few years ago. But, now, we can make it affordable to all Alaskans.

By making health insurance affordable, we will be doing much more than just ensuring equal access to all Alaskans, we will also be increasing the number of health-care jobs available. And those jobs are across the spectrum in terms of educational needed to fill them and where the jobs are located. There will be jobs that only require on the job learning as well as paraprofessional jobs and professional level jobs. These jobs will be available in urban, rural, and remote Alaska. It is a great opportunity.

It will also lower the rates I pay the doctors and hospitals. Right now, even nonprofit hospitals are charging patients with health insurance more money to cover the costs of the noninsured. When the majority of people have health insurance, this will become a non-issue.

Finally, in these tough economic times, this is an opportunity to lower the amount that the State of Alaska is paying for health and social service care. Imagine!

Thanks for listening!

Enthusiastically,
heidi

Heidi James Frost
Executive Director
Statewide Independent Living Council of Alaska
(907) 263-2092
www.alaskasilc.org

From: [Lisa J. Seifert](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Health Care testimony
Date: Friday, April 10, 2015 1:33:41 PM

Dear House Finance Committee,

I am writing to you to testify on the **behalf** of "**Medicaid Expansion**"

I am a hard working self employed individual. A photographer and Vacation rental proprietor.

I work over 40 hours per week and my income after cost of doing business, Taxes and living expenses hardly leaves me enough to buy Gas.

I have not been able to afford health insurance since October 2009, when my premiums went up to \$575.00 per month.

I had to choose between heating & health insurance.

So after paying Blue Cross & Blue Shield well over \$150,000.00 in the course of about 30 years I was left uninsured just like that.

Medicaid expansion would allow me to have preventative medical Care. This not only guards me from a possible catastrophe and bankruptcy. But it would save everybody money in the long run.

Please Vote "**For Medicaid Expansion**" to help keep "All" Alaskans Healthy.

Thank You,

Lisa J. Seifert
age 53

From: [Fred Nelius](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Cc: governor@alaska.gov
Subject: Bill 148
Date: Friday, April 10, 2015 7:16:24 PM

Dear House Finance Committee Member,

I am unable to testify in person at your hearing on Bill 148 tomorrow, but I certainly want to let you know my thoughts have not changed since December 25, 2013 when my Letter to the Editor was published in the Alaska Dispatch News.

Here is how that letter appeared:

Palin erred on "death panels"

December 25, 2013

Sarah Palin's death panels do exist, but they were not caused by the Affordable Care Act. That act provides financial assistance on a sliding scale to Americans with incomes above a certain level. People below that level were to be provided health care by Medicaid. In many states that is working.

Palin claimed that the Affordable Care Act would create panels that would, in some situations, deny health care to certain people.

In some states, Republican governors and legislatures have refused to accept federal money to expand Medicaid. That expanded Medicaid would provide health care to people whose income is between the cutoff level of existing Medicaid and the income level that would allow them to get financial assistance to help them afford private health insurance.

Therefore, Republican governors and legislators are, according to Palin's description, denying health care to certain people. They are the death panels.

— *Fred Nelius*

See: <http://www.adn.com/article/20131225/letter-palin-erred-death-panels>

Alaskans have replaced the selfish governor that opposed Medicaid Expansion, but it appears that we still have some heartless legislators who are willing to let people die needlessly because they can not afford medical help.

DO NOY BE ONE OF THEM.

Sincerely,
Fred Nelius
12861 W King Arthur Drive
Houston, AK 99623-1978

(907) 347-9203

From: [Richard Smith](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: House Bill 148.
Date: Friday, April 10, 2015 12:23:43 PM

I strongly support this Bill.

dick smith

--

Richard H. Smith, PE
HerringbayPE - Consulting Civil Engineer
7866 South Tongass Highway Ketchikan, Alaska 99901
907.225.8605 cell 617.1121
Branch Offices in Sitka & Valdez
Box 912 Valdez, Alaska 99686
907.835.9120 cell 617.1121
herringbaype@gmail.com & herringbaype.com
Alaska Ombudsman Director, EMPLOYER SUPPORT of the GUARD and RESERVE
[ESGR]

From: [Marilyn Pierce-Bulger](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: I support MEDICAID EXPANSION- FASD perspective
Date: Saturday, April 11, 2015 9:08:40 AM

Hello,

I have been doing FASD diagnosis for the past 5 years. The Anchorage FASD diagnostic team receives referrals from foster/adoptive parents, OCS, agencies, pediatricians, AND birth mothers.

One aspect of this story that is untold and important is that of the adults with FASD who have not been diagnosed, who are out there in the world struggling, and who are **costing taxpayers money** as they are overrepresented in OCS, DJJ, other criminal justice, and health care systems.

When I helped to create Nutaqsiivik (a high social risk family support program) at ANMC/Southcentral Foundation 20 years ago we were capturing data about who we were serving and 28% of the high social risk Alaska Native women giving birth at ANMC either had an FASD or were behaving in a cognitively impaired manner and it was impacting their ability to parent, follow through on OCS case plans, follow parole or DJJ discharge plans, etc.

When some of these undiagnosed women got a diagnosis for their "hidden disability", they became eligible for services they needed and, therefore, might be able to raise a child with assistance. (We documented a longer interval between pregnancies...the revolving door of having a baby, OCS taking a baby began to shift/stop...)

Fast forward to the recent 5 years. I have had adult women in recovery (in their 50's) seeking an FASD evaluation for their adult children (in their 30's) who are doing poorly in the world (i.e. incarceration, can't keep a job, substance use, etc) These adults have no insurance to pay for an FASD evaluation (average cost is calculated to be about \$6,000 because it involves 4 health professionals and a coordination hub.)

The nurse-midwife in me believes that getting their child (even an adult child) an evaluation for FASD (because she knows she drank during that pregnancy) **would be part of the healing process for two generations. Helping the adult child would help her recovery process as well.**

Medicaid expansion would cover these vulnerable adults who are living with "hidden disabilities" so that they **may be able to get the services they should have been receiving since childhood...**

Please support HB 148. Thank you.

Marilyn Pierce-Bulger, ANP

FASDx Services LLC

741 Sesame Street Suite 1B

Anchorage, AK 99503-6657

907/865-3279 phone 907/865-7979 fax

marilyn timer@fasdxtimer.com



This email has been checked for viruses by Avast antivirus software.

www.avast.com

From: [Penney Benson](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: I Support Medicaid Expansion.
Date: Friday, April 10, 2015 5:03:37 PM

I urge you to support Medicaid Expansion. Please accept federal Medicaid money to provide healthcare to thousands of Alaskans who can't afford health insurance, In addition to providing health care to Alaskans, federal Medicaid money will boost the state's economy. Data from states that have accepted federally funded Medicaid expansion show those states experienced, greater healthcare job growth, savings to state spending, and lower rates of uninsured patients – which ultimately translates to lower health care costs for the rest of us.

Sincerely,
Penney Benson
PO Box 1124
Cordova, AK 99574
907-424-7540

From: [Felix Favorite](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: I support Medicaid expansion
Date: Friday, April 10, 2015 9:22:45 PM

Sent from Windows Mail

From: [Conrad Muller](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Please support HB 148
Date: Friday, April 10, 2015 7:58:54 PM
Attachments: [conrad.vcf](#)

All Alaskans deserve health care.

Conrad

--

Conrad E. Muller
326 4th St 509
Juneau, AK 99801

206 388-6053

<http://www.databasezone.com>

From: [Charles Bingham](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Medicare
Date: Friday, April 10, 2015 2:26:34 PM

If this were "highway money" you would be all over it. If the Feds should back out, then put a provision in the bill to kill it. We are all ready paying for this, why not take the handout while we can.

Charles Bingham
4005 Borland Drive
Anchorage, AK 99517
907-947-2679

From: [Twyla Hartsock](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Medicaid
Date: Friday, April 10, 2015 2:32:17 PM

Please pass the bill to gain medicaid money for Alaska. Thank you. Twyla Hartsock, 2551 Vista Drive, Douglas, AK 99824

From: nomad@spitwspots.com
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Medicaid
Date: Friday, April 10, 2015 12:48:30 PM

Please pass House Bill 148 so that all Alaskans can get health insurance! I feel that it is morally right and sound financially.

Thanks for your time, sincerely Doug Meeker, Homer, Alaska.

From: [Aron Wolf](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Medicaid
Date: Friday, April 10, 2015 1:14:46 PM

Sent from my iPhone

The expanded Medicaid is essential to the healthcare for a vulnerable sector of Alaskan society it will also substantially help with our present financial state

We should accept it now

Dr. Aron Wolf

From: [Dolly](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Medicaid bill.....
Date: Friday, April 10, 2015 1:28:17 PM

Alaska Legislature:

We, your constituents, want to see the Medicaid expansion bill signed. We hope that you who are still holding back progress on this will see your way clear to stop fighting this and pass it. There are many Alaskans who need this coverage and it will be an advantage for everyone to get it passed. Please do your duty for Alaskans who have voted for you and move this forward.

Thank you,

Dolly and Mike Jens
Anchorage, AK

From: [Sherry Eckrich](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Medicaid Expansion
Date: Friday, April 10, 2015 4:38:58 PM

Expanding Medicaid is very important to thousands of Alaskans. It is short-sighted to not become part of this federal program. Healthcare costs will be borne in the long run by those who have insurance if people who do not have private insurance are not helped to receive care they can afford. Alaska cannot afford to not expand out coverage.

Sherry Eckrich
18514 Olivia Drive
Eagle River, AK 99577

From: [Susan Smalley](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Medicaid Expansion
Date: Friday, April 10, 2015 3:46:01 PM

Thank you for taking this testimony.

I support the expansion of Medicaid. To use a cliché, Alaska's refusal to insure this group of people is pennywise and pound foolish.

When I hear those who are in elected office and who have amazing medical insurance thanks to the state, say things like, "They (the uninsured) can just go to the Emergency Room," or "They (the ERs) have to treat them," I am confounded. This statement in that context seems to say that we have solved the issue of health care for our friends and neighbors. And on to the next issue ...

For example, I, as a taxpayer in the Central Kenai Peninsula Borough, am a co-owner of a valuable piece of land in Soldotna and the hospital on it. I pay attention to the financial numbers in the quarterly reports of the Central Peninsula Hospital — the hospital that sits on my property. People whose only viable access to health care is via the ER, and very often ultimately the hospital stays that follow, are creating financial havoc — both for patients and for us as a borough/community and it affects even those of us who are fortunate enough to have insurance.

More than a decade ago, I was treated for breast cancer. Obviously, I am a survivor. I had access to preventative care in the form of mammograms, and that itself led to the detection of cancer at Stage 1. We had wonderful insurance, much like you as elected officials have now. Even at that, the out of pocket costs were in excess of \$20,000, with my early diagnosis. That's my story.

I can safely say, because of my time spent as a volunteer with cancer patients, that without access to preventative care, many people are not diagnosed until their cancers become symptomatic. In most cases that would be far beyond Stage 1. Ending up in the ER for one's first glimpse of their cancer is a nightmare for the person, as well as for the rest of us who share the burden in some way. The sad and horrific news is that often the later stage diagnosis is followed by much more drastic (i.e. expensive) treatment and the chance of death is greater. If you subtract the human suffering aspect, we, as a society/community are paying the cost of ER visits, surgeries, treatments, hospital stays ... with death as a more likely result, and with much more financial output. Someone lives. Someone dies. Someone pays.

It's magical thinking to envision the ER as a place where one goes with an emergency and emerges whole on the other side. Its function is as a critical stopgap place that should be framed with care on the preventive side and care on the follow-up side. For those we are excluding, it often becomes the only choice. It is expensive for people's health and certainly a financial drain on the rest of us, like you and me and our hospitals. It's the most expensive and least effective method of administering health care.

I admit that my level of concern is about the human beings in my community. Healthy people can be better workers, parents, volunteers etc. The shared reality is that people without appropriate access are costing us a fortune and I trust that for whatever reason, my state

government will respond. And you know what? Those federal dollars are mine too and I want them used this way. I have no conflict of interest and nothing to gain except healthier people and communities.

Sincerely, Susan Smalley

105 Linwood Lane, Kenai, AK 99611

From: [Karol Libbey](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Medicaid Expansion
Date: Friday, April 10, 2015 3:56:38 PM

To the House Finance Committee Members:

I urge you to act now to accept Medicaid Expansion to get the full benefit of federal funding. It will provide greater healthcare job growth, while bringing savings to state spending and lower the rates of the uninsured.

Thank you for your hard work on this matter.

Sincerely,
Karol Libbey
14901 Wildien Dr.
Anchorage, AK 99516



This email is free from viruses and malware because [avast! Antivirus](#) protection is active.

From: [Sharon Stockard](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Medicaid expansion
Date: Friday, April 10, 2015 1:23:14 PM

Senate Finance members,

I support expansion of Medicaid for Alaskans, and urge you to support the governor's proposal. There is an effort to enact Medicaid "reform" now but that would be putting the cart before the horse. We should pass Medicaid expansion first, then amend it afterward if needed.

Thousands of deserving Alaskans would benefit from expansion of Medicaid, which would be funded 100 percent by the federal government this year and next. We have already lost 100 percent funding by doing nothing. Plus the state economy would benefit from this expansion. Please pass Medicaid expansion to help out our fellow Alaskans, help stimulate the Alaska economy and receive 100 percent federal funding. It is the right thing to do.

Thank you.
Sharon stockard

From: Julie.Taylor@hcahealthcare.com
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Medicaid Expansion
Date: Friday, April 10, 2015 2:35:23 PM

I am writing in support of Medicaid Expansion. It's good for the economy and good for Alaskan's.

Understandably, there is a fair amount of concern about expanding Medicaid on a "broken" system and a hesitancy to support expansion until it is "fixed". While I agree there are numerous opportunities to improve the program, delaying expansion until better structures are in place has negative implications as well – both from a financial perspective and related to the well-being of many Alaskans.

The patients I am most concerned about are those who are not receiving care for chronic conditions, or those who delay treatment and end up requiring more resources to treat their condition. The "cost" differential between treating a simple sore throat in the ER versus the financial impact of a patient that ends up in renal failure as a result of unmanaged diabetes is staggering. Below you will find two actual patients examples that illustrate the problem with delaying access to care.

Patient A

A 58 year old male has been hobbling on the same bad hip for years. Underemployed and uninsured, he cannot afford to have his hip replaced. He eventually loses his job and is now unemployable – at least until he gets his hip fixed. He takes Advil by the handful to cut the pain, but with limited mobility, he begins to gain weight and is depressed. Months go by and his weight gain continues – and now he has hypertension and is pre-diabetic. He has no money to see a physician so this cycle continues until he begins to experience chest pain one evening and his wife calls 911. The ambulance picks him up and brings him to ARH where he is diagnosed as having an acute MI and is taken to the cath lab. Three stents later, he is in ICU recovering with an additional diagnosis of diabetes to go with his hypertension and obesity. He also has stress ulcers from eating Advil like candy. Hundreds of thousands of healthcare resources have been utilized by this one patient...and he still hasn't had his hip fixed. Fortunately, he didn't have a stroke requiring nursing home placement, because that is a very likely scenario with patients like this. The nursing home stay would have been on our dime as well.

Patient B

A 26 year old female has been suffering with a horrible toothache. She doesn't have dental insurance so she manages the pain as best as she can, figuring it would resolve itself eventually. A month goes by and she is unable to stand the pain any longer and has noticed an odor and experiences purulent drainage from her mouth. She presents to the emergency department looking for pain relief. On assessment, she is determined to have a temperature of 103 and a rapid, thready pulse, indicative of a potential sepsis. She is admitted to the hospital and doesn't respond well to the initial treatment and ends staying inpatient for an extended period of time fighting a super-infection with expensive IV antibiotics. Once again... tens of thousands of dollars are spent because of a condition that could have been treated – and quite possibly prevented – if she had access to dental care.

These are the patients you need to consider when deciding whether or not to support the immediate implementation of Medicaid expansion. They are already in our system – and we are all paying for them in higher costs of care. Imagine how many patients could be treated if we spent those same dollars on the front end instead of the back. If we are ever going to move from reactive to proactive approaches to healthcare, financial support for access to primary care services is a must – which is exactly what Medicaid expansion will provide.

Yes, we want to redirect patients into a primary care setting as much as possible and not pay for ER visits at 10x the cost. This is why the Medicaid clinic Alaska Regional Hospital is proposing in Mountain View makes sense. We are willing to consider foregoing the revenue we receive in the ER treating these patients in the spirit of demonstrating cost improvement opportunities available with Medicaid expansion. The savings in this strategy are large – but not near as substantial as you would find with the examples cited above.

I am hopeful you will keep this information in mind as you make this very important decision. Opponents are using terminology such as "covering able bodied people" as if it is a bad thing, which to me reflects their lack of understanding of the cost conundrum we face as a state. Some of our hardest working Alaskan's fall into the pay ranges that this program could help.

You have a difficult decision to make. If you are interested, I would be happy to provide you with a tour of our emergency department during peak hours - or set up a lunch with our case managers who can tell you what it is really like on the front lines and the patients this decision will impact. I think what you would see would be enlightening.

The clock is ticking on our dollars - and on the health and wellness of Alaskans across the state. I hope you see the value of moving on this in 2015. We cannot afford to wait. Thank you for listening.

Sincerely,

Julie Taylor, CEO

Alaska Regional Hospital



Arctic Slope Native Association, Limited

P.O. Box 1232 • Barrow, Alaska 99723 • 907.852.2762 • fax 907.852.2763

Mr. Chairman-

My name is Luke Welles and I am the Vice President of Finance and Chief Financial Officer for Arctic Slope Native Association, a tribal health organization in Barrow-home to the newest hospital facility in the state of Alaska. We support Medicaid for many reasons, but the primary reason is because of the insurance coverage it will bring to the 43,316 individuals in the state of Alaska by 2020 per the Lewin Report completed in 2013. Both the short and long term benefits are in the state's best interest.

Short term economic benefits include increased federal financial assistance to the state for both non-native and native individuals. Depending on the details of implementation the state could receive up to \$1.12 billion of federal funds while only spending an additional \$61m over the course of the first five years. Given the significant decreases in other areas of the state budget at this current time the additional funds would be significant economic boost in the coming years.

Long term economic benefits include enrolling as many as 20,000+ additional Alaska natives over the next 5 years in Medicaid which will significantly decrease health care expenses to the state of Alaska. When an Alaska native who is a member of a federally recognized tribe receives their health care services from one of the 25 tribal health organizations in the state of Alaska, and Medicaid is the primary coverage, the state receives 101% reimbursement for their care from the federal government. With a current population of over 150,000, Alaska natives will always be a large percentage of the population and it would be short sided of the state to not recognize the fact that the federal government is responsible for the cost of this population's healthcare into perpetuity.

As a long time Alaskan I truly believe this is in the best interest of both the State of Alaska and many of its residents. As you are aware both the Urban Institute and Lewin studies provide detailed social economic facts/figures and the empirical data demonstrating that Medicaid Expansion is a win/win solution for all involved.

Thank you,

Luke Welles
VP Finance/CFO

From: [Sandy](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Medicaid expansion
Date: Friday, April 10, 2015 9:42:05 AM

I favor Medicaid expansion in Alaska. I was fortunate to have worked for 40 years at jobs that provided health insurance, and can only imagine the fear and anger that those without insurance must feel. Every member of the Legislature and their families have access to medical insurance; my friends who work jobs without this benefit should be no different.

Expanding Medicaid as proposed will save money, will improve your constituents' lives and ability to work, and will lessen the burden on hospitals and clinics that must now absorb enormous write-offs.

Please treat Alaska residents as you would want to be treated. Expand Medicaid.

Sandy Dauenhauer PO Box 418 Ester, AK 99725

From: lura.white@att.net
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Medicaid Expansion
Date: Friday, April 10, 2015 6:40:15 AM

Please expand Medicaid. We cannot afford to ignore our less fortunate.
Thank you.
Lura Elverson-White
500 M St, #304
Anchorage AK 99501

Sent from my iPad

From: [Latesia Guinn](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Medicaid Expansion
Date: Friday, April 10, 2015 11:46:34 AM

I would like to encourage and support the expansion of Medicaid for Alaskans. Many of these people who could qualify for the expansion live in rural Alaska and health care is a premium. In our efforts with the Outreach and Enrollment this was discovered that there are alot of people who fall into this gap. Please do all you can to get this passed through ASAP, for the people of Alaska who need this most.

--

LaTesia Guinn
Executive Director
Bethel Family Clinic
Box 1908
Bethel, AK 99559
907-543-3773

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From: [Don](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Medicaid expansion
Date: Friday, April 10, 2015 12:20:39 PM

Please expand medicaid. It will provide access to more efficient health care to many Alaskans and save the State money. Another strong argument in favor of medicaid expansion is that it will provide coverage for people with alcohol-use disorder to get treatment.

Best Regards,

Don Crandall

From: [Iniakuk Lake Wilderness Lodge](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Medicaid Expansion
Date: Friday, April 10, 2015 12:37:41 PM

I support Governor Walker's position on expanding Medicaid in Alaska.

In addition to providing health care to Alaskans, federal Medicaid funds will boost the state's economy (which could certainly use a boost due to low oil prices and other factors). Data from states that have accepted federally funded Medicaid expansion show those states experienced greater healthcare job growth, savings to state spending, lower rates of uninsured patients, fewer trips to ER because insurance provided a range of options before the need for emergency care.

I urge you to vote for Medicaid Expansion. Alaskans have spoken 2 to 1 in favor of Medicaid Expansion. It's the right thing to do. Being responsive to your constituents is the right thing to do.

Patricia Gaedeke, Owner
Iniakuk Lake Wilderness Lodge, LLC
[Of all the paths you take in life, make sure a few of them are dirt. -John Muir](#)
www.gofarnorth.com
877.479.6354
Remote. Exceptional. Unforgettable. Since 1974

[Trip Advisor](#)
[Facebook](#)
[Iniakuk Blog](#)

From: [Jane Demmert](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Medicaid expansion
Date: Friday, April 10, 2015 12:47:49 PM

It's time that Alaskans benefit from the expansion of Medicaid as proposed by Governor Walker. By now you know the reasons this makes sense and cents. Health care costs unexpectedly overwhelm Alaskans on meager incomes who now fall above the maximum earnings allowable under Alaska's current income guidelines for Medicaid eligibility. Their fragile financial stability is lost. Health care providers absorb the loss incurred when patients are truly unable to pay their bills.

So what's to be done? Clean up the log jam causing delays in current Medicaid payments
AND go forward with increasing Medicaid access as so many others states have successfully.

Sincerely,

Jane and Dennis Demmert
PO Box 66
Klawock 99925

From: [Loretta Bullard](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Medicaid Expansion
Date: Friday, April 10, 2015 12:49:22 PM

I encourage the house finance committee and the state legislature to support Medicaid expansion. The expansion will:

- provide coverage to those who are without insurance;
- help insure that those of us with insurance, don't foot the cost of uninsured patients through higher medical payments;
- create additional well paying jobs in Alaska; and
- help protect families from the crippling expense of major illnesses. One of the leading reasons families enter into bankruptcy and lose their homes... Is because of medical expenses. Please help Alaskans receive the medical care and financial protection they need.

Sincerely,

Loretta Bullard
Nome, AK

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Emily Kane](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Medicaid expansion
Date: Friday, April 10, 2015 5:47:12 PM

Dear Legislators

The old adage "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure" applies now more than ever. Unless everyone can have early access to health care, acute problems become chronic and appropriate early intervention never has a chance to work. As a primary care provider in Juneau for 22 years I can assure you that I've saved the State hundreds of thousands of dollars from early intervention. If everyone has access to healthcare we can prevent diabetes and reduce the burden of multiple conditions from irritable bowel syndrome to auto-immune diseases and even cancer. We have no problem accepting federal money for roads. Why should we shun federal money to help PEOPLE?

Sincerely
Dr. Emily A. Kane
Natural Healthcare
Juneau AK 99801

www.DrEmilyKane.com
www.AKANP.org
www.naturopathic.org

From: [Chriss Homan](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Cc: [Sen. Pete Kelly](#); [Sen. Anna MacKinnon](#); [Sen. Click Bishop](#); [Sen. Donny Olson](#); [Sen. Peter Micciche](#); [Sen. Mike Dunleavy](#); [Sen. Lyman Hoffman](#); [Sen. Kevin Meyer](#); [Rep. Bob Lynn](#)
Subject: Medicaid expansion and budget
Date: Saturday, April 11, 2015 8:31:02 AM

In this time of a fiscal crisis the state of Alaska can not afford Medicaid expansion. In states that have enrollment and costs have been substantially higher than forecast. The Alaska Republican party passed a resolution against Medicaid expansion, aren't you supposed to be republicans? I'm still waiting for Governor Walker's 16% cut in the budget that he promised during the campaign. We need to at least cut by 10%. Every special program is going to scream at even the slightest cut, but we the voters voted you in, not them. Their side lost. We have jobs and families to attend to and do not have the time to always be in your face about our 'special' issue. Please stand strong and represent the basic principles of the republican party; smaller government, lower taxes.

Thank you,
Chriss Homan

From: [Dave Kuiper](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Medicaid Expansion and Reform
Date: Friday, April 10, 2015 2:01:42 PM

Dear Members of the House Finance Committee,

Thank you for your service to all Alaskans. I support the Governor's efforts to expand and reform Medicaid NOW. I have heard it said that churches should be able to pick up the slack where healthcare is not affordable. I am a pastor and our congregation is grateful and willing to serve the needs of people as we can BUT healthcare is simply beyond the capacity of our community and I believe so many others. Please do all you can to ensure that the current gap in healthcare coverage for the most vulnerable of our citizens is bridged by supporting the Governor's bill. I believe is the right thing to do!

Thank you,

David L. Kuiper

4920 Car Lynn Circle

Anchorage, AK 99507

From: [Patrick Linton](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Cc: [Rep. Mike Chenault](#); [Sen. Peter Micciche](#); [Jean Bardarson](#); [Dick Cruse \(skywatcheradvertising@yahoo.com\)](#); [Nancy Merriman](#); [David D'Amato](#); [Kris Erchinger](#)
Subject: Medicaid Expansion and Reform
Date: Friday, April 10, 2015 4:26:42 PM

Dear House Finance Committee Members:

As the Executive Director of Seward Community Health Center, a newly funded federally qualified community health center (FQHC) that opened last year, I am very much aware of the proposed legislation to expand and reform the State Medicaid Program. I do not know all the issues and factors that must be considered from the perspective of managing a large state program such as this. I must respectfully defer to your collective good judgment to do what you think is best for the State and the citizens of Alaska. What I can lend testimony to is what this means as a safety net primary care provider serving the majority of people in the Seward Service Area.

From my professional perspective, I am very much in favor of expanding Medicaid to eligible individuals. We see every day the challenges and frustrations faced by many of our patients and fellow citizens who fall between the eligibility cracks. They fall just above the cut off of the current Medicaid eligibility thresholds and they do not qualify for our own sliding fee discount program. And yet most of them are responsible working members of society who have no other form of insurance. Our trained outreach and enrollment staff do everything they can to assist our patients to find and enroll in some form of coverage, but so many fall into this dreadful "gap" category and have to bear the costs themselves.

So yes, I simply must advocate for these patients that we care for in hopes that many of them will be covered under the expanded program.

I also need to advocate for our community health center; a community project that has been in the works for five years. We represent the best hope to provide sustainable primary health care for our community. We have done well so far in being able to recruit qualified family medicine physicians and practitioners to the health center to serve the community. But sustainability includes being financially sustainable so that we can continue to provide these services in the years ahead. Medicaid expansion will most definitely enhance the financial viability of the health center and support the continued employment of our 20 provider and support staff members. Under expansion, many of our patients will move from the self-pay category to the Medicaid category resulting in increased revenues and reduced write-offs. Because we are non-profit and exist only to serve the primary care needs of the community, these enhanced revenues go directly towards supporting our critical mission.

But I also am a strong proponent of significantly reforming the Medicaid program to control costs, better coordinate care and improve patient outcomes. Simply expanding Medicaid without reform is not sustainable for the State. We must all work together and take responsibility to transform the program and realize these goals. As you consider what reform means and how reform will be developed, primary care will naturally assume an even greater role and responsibility within the Medicaid Program. We know this. We understand this clearly. We are already planning and preparing ourselves to assume this role and carry out our responsibilities at both the local and statewide levels. We are at the table and ready to do our part as the largest primary care network covering the entire state with 28 centers and over 150 sites.

In closing, here are the key takeaways for you to consider and hopefully support:

- Please expand Medicaid for our patients, our health centers and our communities
- Please reform Medicaid to better control costs, coordinate care and improve patient care outcomes
- Please understand the important role that primary care will play in a reformed program
- Please acknowledge our statewide network of FQHC's and welcome us at the table
- Please continue to hold us accountable for our performance individually and collectively

Respectfully and with kind regards,

Patrick Linton

Executive Director

Seward Community Health Center

907-224-8505

From: [Stephanie Stanley-Harrell](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Medicaid Expansion
Date: Friday, April 10, 2015 1:51:30 PM

To Whom It May Concern,

I am an employee of a small clinic in Talkeetna and therefore, I understand the importance of the services needed for rural Alaskans. Medicaid Expansion will provide opportunities for those who may have none. Please consider how important it is for those who need this. Say “yes” to Medicaid Expansion!

Sincerely,

Stephanie Stanley-Harrell, PHR

Human Resources Manager

Sunshine Community Health Center

HC 89 Box 8190

Talkeetna, AK 99676

(907)733-9236 Direct

(907)733-1735 Fax

www.sunshineclinic.org



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necessarily represent those of the organization.

From: [Cici Schoenberger](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Medicaid expansion
Date: Friday, April 10, 2015 2:15:12 PM

As you can see I am a Behavioral Health Provider at a Community Health Center. I have firsthand information as to how the gap between qualifying for Medicaid and qualifying for subsidies under the Affordable Healthcare Act affects a significant number of people in my community. Many people remain uninsured and therefore cannot afford appropriate health care. Although SCHC offers a sliding fee scale to patients, many still do not have the money to afford basic primary healthcare, including behavioral and dental health. The expansion of Medicaid to this group of people would substantially reduce the number of people without health insurance. A healthier population reduces costs for the state. As the studies that have been completed show, the expense of Medicaid expansion would be outweighed by the savings to the state from uninsured health needs that are either met in a very expensive setting or go unmet until it costs a great deal of money to treat an illness that could have been averted through affordable health care. Many of the patients of SCHC do receive primary health care and are able to afford this, however if they are referred to a specialist or for a diagnostic test that cannot be done in a clinic setting, they are unable to access the treatment that has been recommended because of the cost. I write to urge you to vote for Medicaid expansion both because it appears to be cost saving, and certainly Alaska's budget needs all the cost savings measured that it can get, but also because it is the right thing to do for all your neighbors and friends who could become eligible for basic health insurance and therefore good healthcare. It is the right thing to do.

Sincerely,

Cici Conti Schoenberger, LCSW, CAS

Behavior Health Provider

Talkeetna 733-9229

Willow 495-9425

Fax 733-1735

From: [Shawn Hansen](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Medicaid expansion
Date: Friday, April 10, 2015 2:40:36 PM

to: House Finance Committee

from : Shawn Hansen, Homer AK.

Re: Medicaid Expansion

Honestly I find it hard to understand why or how any Alaskan can oppose this Medicaid expansion.

We actually have real world hard data from the other states, which have had this program in place, which shows the cost savings to the state and our medical system that translate to reduced cost for all Alaskans; The health improvements for the citizens covered by the expansion, the Job expansion in the health system. More specifically think of the savings in the cost to the currently state-funded CAMA program, the cost to the schools of the children whose parents currently cannot afford the school lunch or adequate supplies because they are paying for their healthcare out of pocket, or the cost of state substance abuse or corrections for someone who did not receive early mental health treatment. Plus all the other inmate health cost.

These are not just claims and projections but real world results. Even in good economic times for our state this seems like a no brainer! In our present budget situation expanding Medicaid is a completely obvious thing to do.

Certainly this is not any panacea for our dysfunctional overall health care system. It does, however, offer an opportunity to begin making some improvements on the system. HB 148 makes a good start on rationalizing and improving the system and starting the move toward keeping people healthy instead of paying much more to try to cure them after they have become sick.

As I said I can't imagine any reason to oppose doing this expansion. I have seen some adds in various media, making vague and misleading claims that the expansion would take money away from things like schools, and other state programs: The sole argument that has a shred of logic so far as I can see is that when, years from now, the Fed's begin to reduce the subsidy from the 100% now in place, that some how that 10% cost in 2020 will cause state budget dislocations.

Given the demonstrated economic positives that is a doubtful situation. But even if it's true then at that time cut the program. Everyone in Juneau has lot's of practice cutting this year. So besides this, future and dubious possible drawback what could be the reason for opposition?

Please inform me if there are real reasons to oppose expansion:-

Does anyone remember Ted Stevens? He is no doubt spinning in his grave at the thought of state legislators considering turning down a huge Federal pile of money.

Thank you

Shawn Hansen

Homer AK

.

From: [Jeffrey Merkel](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Medicaid Expansion
Date: Saturday, April 11, 2015 9:34:34 AM

Dear Senators and Representatives,

It staggers the imagination

That you lawmakers are on the cusp of

Turning down millions of federal dollars

Which would create thousands of Alaskan jobs,

If the legislature accepts the Medicaid program

Proposed by Governor Walker.

Have any of you noticed how your popularity has plunged

As you have turned into tea-party tightwads and cheapskates

Toward the concerns of people,

While being wastrels when it comes to oil-patch and corporate giveaways.

May your stock continue to plunge,

As you serve your own ideologies and political gain,

And ignore the needs and concerns of the people.

Which is why we elected Governor Walker,

And sent Sean Parnell packing – to his oil patch golden parachute.

Parnell was always in the pocket of big oil.

What a disgrace he was to our state.

If you can't pull it together in this time of fiscal crisis,

I and many other Alaskans will take the energy
Generated by your dumbfounding recalcitrance,
And turn you out of office.

Your actions resisting the Medicaid Expansion
Will be remembered far and wide
As the best evidence of incompetence and arrogance
In the time of Alaska's greatest need.

Sorry for the fury, but it's real.
There's nothing wrong with the Affordable Care Act.
There's a lot wrong with the Alaska Legislature right now.

Thank you

Jeff Merkel

J e f f M e r k e l
P O B o x 80343
Fairbanks, AK 99708
907 479 - 8717

*'Hope has two beautiful daughters;
their names are Anger and Courage.
Anger at the way things are,
and Courage to see that they do not remain as they are.'*
Saint Augustine of Hippo

Rev. Lawrence L Rorem
Laura E Rorem

2800-D Peters Lane
Juneau, Alaska 99801
(907) 586-6452
rorem@gci.net

April 11, 2015

House Finance Committee
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol Building
Juneau, Alaska 99801

We write this letter in strong support for the Expansion of Medicaid in Alaska.

As parents and caregivers of two adult children and grandchildren severely disabled with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder, Autism and Mental Illness, we are living examples of how important Medicaid is in their lives and ours. Without Medicaid (Denali Kid Care for the grandchildren), they would not survive, or would be an even greater burden on the state as they would be using the hospital as a stop-gap measure. They would be living on the streets or in jail, at an even greater cost to the state. Medicaid provides preventative care that saves the state from much more costly care!

As a 17 year member of the Board of Directors for Juneau Alliance for Mental Health, the local Community Behavioral Health Center serving adults with mental illness, Laura knows that these services provide a LIFELINE for those in desperate need. Many adults with serious mental illness use Medicaid to receive these LIFE SAVING services. Our board, struggles to scrape money together to provide the best services we can to treat mental illness and help our clients to live as independently as possible.

As an ordained Lutheran Pastor for 42 years, Larry's ministry focuses on "the Least of These", those who most vulnerable in society. Laura and Larry together ran food pantry's for many years in the congregations they served. Larry was the Chair of the Glory Hole Board of Directors for 6 years in the early 2000's. Many of these clients would have benefited greatly from Medicaid Expansion.

Our medical support for people who cannot afford adequate insurance to meet their basic health needs is filled with POTHOLEs, ROADBLOCKS and DEAD ENDS that harm them and society. As a state we gladly accept Federal Government financial assistance for roads, runways and other needs related to the wellbeing of our state. HUMAN needs for equitable health care are a fundamental NEED FOR OUR MOST VITAL RESOURCE—OUR PEOPLE.

We urge you to lead us toward a **compassionate human based decision** to expand Medicaid so that more of our people can live under the umbrella of health safety.

Respectfully,

Lawrence L Rorem

Laura E Rorem

Rev. Lawrence L Rorem

Laura E. Rorem

From: [Judith Burtner](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Medicaid expansion
Date: Friday, April 10, 2015 5:08:33 PM

This is Judith W. Burtner. I have never needed Medicaid, and I am thankful for that. I believe that in order to have a healthier climate for all of us in Alaska, we need to expand Medicaid. I think it is the smart thing to do. Thank you.

Sent from my iPad

From: [RHEES BURKET](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Medicaid expansion
Date: Friday, April 10, 2015 2:29:49 PM

I offer the following in support of Governor Walker's proposal to accept increases in Medicaid funding available under the Affordable Care Act, which should and I believe will always be known as Obamacare.

For far too long the poor and near-poor among us have been forced to make ugly choices between receiving adequate medical care and feeding, clothing, and providing shelter for themselves. As a result of this cruel choice which is not forced on many other people in the developed world, the cost of medical care for everyone has been steadily pushed upward, making it still harder for those needing assistance to get enough care when they need it.

The record is beginning to show costs will increase at a slower rate with those in need offered reasonable healthcare options. This helps all of us in Alaska and the Nation as a whole. Refusing to accept the Medicare expansion is unjust, cruel and places Alaska at a disadvantage. We see this in most of the states which refuse to participate in Obamacare. Those states which are refusing can usually be found near the bottom of any list showing success in education, healthcare, or any other measure of the quality of life. We should not be competing for a place with the least but striving to be at the top.

I have personal knowledge of people who are suffering from mental illness. Due to the low funding and poorly managed system of mental healthcare in Alaska, they have added barriers to face in the battle for normalcy and usually end up receiving sub-standard care, and they face huge bills which often go unpaid. The added burden of poor credit does them no good and only shifts many of the bills to the rest of us.

I read of many legislators who complain that we can't expect the federal government to continue to provide the Medicare funding, which is a ridiculous argument and should be rejected without consideration. Do these same legislators refuse highway funding, increases in military expenditures in Alaska, or any of the other funding options those who oppose Obamacare want so badly?

In closing, I want to let those who oppose expansion know we voted for Governor Walker in large numbers and we will be watching, listening and reading of the actions of those of you who oppose helping our fellow Alaskans. We will be back at the polls and we will be working harder than ever to support those candidates who support all Alaskans.

Mr. Rhees E. Burket
Fairbanks, Alaska

From: [Linda](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Medicaid Expansion
Date: Friday, April 10, 2015 4:27:03 PM

I urge you to support the expansion of Medicaid. This program will not only help thousands do Alaskans who cannot afford medical insurance, but will be a boon to local public hospitals that currently are providing services to those without insurance through their charity care programs. This costs each of us since these losses are made up for through higher prices for those of us who pay our own way and through higher insurance premiums for those of us who are insured.

Please do the right thing and approve the expansion of Medicaid.

Sent from my iPad
Linda Murphy
Soldotna, Alaska

From: [Luke Welles](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Medicaid Expansion testimony
Date: Saturday, April 11, 2015 9:26:55 AM
Attachments: [Medicaid Expansion.docx](#)

Please let me know if you have any questions!
thanks,

Luke Welles
VP of Finance
Arctic Slope Native Assoc
PO Box 1232
Barrow, AK 99723
907-852-9352 Office
907-399-3029 Cell
907-852-2763 Fax

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From: [Michele Galla](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Medicaid Expansion
Date: Friday, April 10, 2015 4:55:30 PM

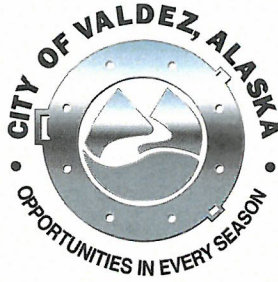
Dear Legislators,

I don't care about national political squabbles: I care about the wellbeing of people here and the economic fitness our state. I don't want to see Alaskans suffer while state legislators by proxy play Washington D.C.'s destructive games. Since the majority of Alaska's voters are Nonpartisan and Undeclared, I know I'm not alone in this. Partisan politics about "Obamacare" have no place here.

I'd like to see my federal taxes help people here in Alaska get the medical care they need. Even though this expansion would not directly add services for me or my family, medical bills are a factor in more than half of all bankruptcies, and one foreclosure in our neighborhood affects all our property values. Additionally, it is a matter of morality and compassion: we should ensure our fellow Alaskans have access to affordable, quality medical care. Expanding Medicaid also makes fiscal sense as it helps Alaska's economy by providing and supporting hundreds of well-paying, skilled positions for our workforce. The majority of Alaskans voted for this platform in November and continue to support Medicaid expansion in every poll I've seen.

So, this is a no-brainer: help our economy, while saving the state money; help Alaskans' health and wellbeing, while supporting what the majority of Alaskans want. For all these reasons, let's use available federal resources to help Alaskans. Expand Medicaid.

Thank you,
Michele Galla
Wrangell



April 10, 2015

29th Legislature of the State of Alaska
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: Medicaid Expansion

Dear Legislators,

Please accept this letter as support for SB 78 and HB 148 regarding the Governors' efforts to expand Medicaid. While it is acknowledged that there are many facets to this issue, with some aspects perhaps not completely known at this time; the preponderance of information available does still clearly make this initiative worth pursuing. Being able to serve more Alaskans, while simultaneously having the potential to reduce pressure on the State budget, is an opportunity that deserves to garner our attention, especially in our current environment. Therefore please make every effort to work with the Governor to move this important legislation forward. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

John Hozey
Valdez City Manager

From: info@alaskara.com
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Medicaid Expansion
Date: Wednesday, April 08, 2015 8:14:04 AM
Attachments: [SERIOUS MISGIVINGS - Medicaid Expansion and House Bill 148.pdf](#)
[ATT00001.htm](#)

Hello,

I am hearing that some of you are wavering on Medicaid Expansion. I simply cannot urge you strongly enough to say NO to Medicaid Expansion. There are many reasons why.

There is one that stands out among all others to me... We are moving toward socialism in this country. Medicaid Expansion via Obamacare is one big step in that direction. Are you Republican or Socialist/Democrat? Please do not even consider losing our identity as a free nation by putting this burden on us.

There are also pragmatic reasons to say NO to Medicaid Expansion...

Of 730,000 people in our state, 165,000 already are on assistance. That is a huge financial burden already. Expansion will cost us far more than you think, as demonstrated by what happened in other states already.

The ones who truly need it, have it already. Why would you add to the rolls of assistance those (single, with no children) who are already employed and have employer provided health insurance just to bolster Obamacare's rolls? This expansion is nothing more than another trap to make us dependent upon Obamacare.

Other states who have allowed Medicaid expansion say the enrollment is much, much higher than you will expect and causes financial burdens that their states never expected, nor can they handle. Don't think that people will happily give up their permanent fund to bolster the rolls of Obamacare.

Medicaid will pay for these new single adults far better than Medicare does for seniors. I experienced first hand how doctors refused to take my mother because she was on Medicare. I don't look forward to being forced onto it myself in a few short years because I know doctors will be hard to find. These young single adults will force many seniors right out of the doctor's office because doctors will take more of them due to their benefits paying better.

Regardless, because of the doctor shortage you will create by adding this to our financial burden, more will be using hospital emergency rooms for care because they cannot find a doctor. Hospitals will not be reimbursed very well for their care, so they will also suffer financially. This is an ongoing problem in the states who have already expanded Medicare.

I know you have seen presentations on the dangers of Medicaid Expansion. I'll add a couple of links and one presentation below to refresh your memory. We are trusting you to act like a good parent and keep us from the harm that program will bring to our state. Please don't fall for the 'sympathy' trap brought to you by the left.

<http://alaskapolicyforum.org/2014/10/alaska-makes-right-decision-on-medicaid-expansion/>
<https://docs.google.com/file/d/0B8C9VR9ScGtgOS1TZ25KVlk3cUU/edit>

From: [Emily Kane](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Medicaid expansion
Date: Friday, April 10, 2015 5:47:12 PM

Dear Legislators

The old adage "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure" applies now more than ever. Unless everyone can have early access to health care, acute problems become chronic and appropriate early intervention never has a chance to work. As a primary care provider in Juneau for 22 years I can assure you that I've saved the State hundreds of thousands of dollars from early intervention. If everyone has access to healthcare we can prevent diabetes and reduce the burden of multiple conditions from irritable bowel syndrome to auto-immune diseases and even cancer. We have no problem accepting federal money for roads. Why should we shun federal money to help PEOPLE?

Sincerely
Dr. Emily A. Kane
Natural Healthcare
Juneau AK 99801

www.DrEmilyKane.com
www.AKANP.org
www.naturopathic.org

From: [Anne Fuller](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Medicaid expansion
Date: Saturday, April 11, 2015 8:30:50 AM

Please act to expand Medicaid - our health providers benefit (more routine care, fewer urgent trips, better support for wellness).

Thank you

Anne Fuller
7943 N Douglas Hwy, Juneau AK 99801
fernleafgt@yahoo.com

From: [Kathleen Nyssen](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Medicaid Expansion
Date: Saturday, April 11, 2015 9:13:21 AM

Dear Committee Members,

Please support HB 148 and Governor Walker's efforts to expand Medicaid.

In light of the proposed budget, it's clear that **Alaska cannot afford to pass this opportunity up**. To do so would be negligent to the Alaskans who fall through the cracks of the current system. It would be negligent to all Alaskans, fiscally speaking.

As it is, the cost of living in Alaska is prohibitive. Affording health insurance is extremely strenuous for many Alaskans.

I, for example, am a single-parent who falls into the "low-income" bracket. I have three sons, ages 22, 12 and 10-years-old. My younger sons receive Denali Kid Care; however, my eldest is not eligible for DKC, nor is he eligible for subsidies under the Affordable Care Act.

He is not on my insurance because I simply can't afford it.

Expanding Medicaid will help close these kinds of gaps.

Again, I urge you to support HB 148 and help serve all Alaskans.

Thank you,
Kathleen Nyssen

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Andrew Reimherr](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Medicaid exsansion
Date: Saturday, April 11, 2015 9:42:21 AM

Please do not expand Medicaid. It is Obamacare. It is Federal over reach. Let the medical professionals take care of patients not bureaucrats. Elderly and disabled will be pushed to the back of the line. the State and the Federal governments do not have the money for this.

Andrew Reimherr

From: [Linda Green](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Medicaid
Date: Saturday, April 11, 2015 9:16:27 AM

Dear sirs and madams,

Please pass gov. Walker bill which would provide Medicaid coverage to thousands of Alaskans. They sorely need it and it is good for all in the long run.

It is the responsible thing to do for your constituents!

Thank you,
Linda s green

Sent from my iPhone

From: keclark@gci.net
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Medicaid participation
Date: Friday, April 10, 2015 3:05:05 PM

We strongly urge the committee to accept the Governor's Bill 148.
We feel sure the Medicaid program will help many Alaskans that need medical assistance.
Further we believe the end result will help Alaska's economic situation.
Please support Governor Walkers Bill 148.

Thank you.

Kenneth & Marie Clark
961 W. Gail Drive
Wasilla, AK 99654
Telephone 907-373-0666
E-mail keclark@gci.net

Z

We request your full support for Medicaid Expansion. This system may have some problems but it is better than not expanding coverage. We appreciate your understanding and full support.

Respectfully submitted,
The Alaskans who have signed below

Signature	Print	Address
1. Cathy Stingley	Cathy Stingley	Homer.
2. Gert Seekins	GERT SEEKINS	HOMER
3. Harry	Harry	
4. J. M. Converse	A. CONVERSE	HOMER
5. Brandon M Glean	Brandon M Glean	Homer
6. Lee Westworth	Lee Westworth	Homer
7. Rosemarie Faust	Rosemarie Faust	Homer
8. Louise Lush	Louise Lush	Homer, AK.
9. Tim Quinn	Tim Quinn	Homer AK
10. Frank A. Dropp	FRANK A DROPP	HOMER -
11. Claudia Caffee	CLAUDIA CAFFEE	Homer
12. Elizabeth A. Hunter	ELIZABETH A. HUNTER	HOMER, AK
13. Floyd Seekins	FLOYD SEEKINS	P.O. Box 57 - Homer, AK 99603
14. Bob Moore	BOB MOORE	P.O. Box 92 Homer, AK
15. VANCE Price	Vance Price	184 - W. DANVILLE
16. Helen S. Meeker	Helen S. Meeker	1425 Bay Ave. Homer AK
17. Phil Klobertanz	Phil Klobertanz	5140 Kachemak Dr. Homer AK
18. LeAnne Craft	LeAnne Craft	P.O. Box 392 Kaslo 99610
19. Karen Cauble	KAREN CAUBLE	Homer
20. Nancy Martin	Nancy Martin	Homer
21. Carol Coleman	CAROL COLEMAN	Homer
22. Megan Garrette	Megan Garrette	Homer
23. Daniel Weisser	Daniel Weisser	P.O. Box 211 Homer AK 99603
24. Chizuko Water	Chizuko WATER	HOMER AK 99603

We request your full support for Medicaid Expansion. This system may have some problems but it is better than not expanding coverage. We appreciate your understanding and full support.

Respectfully submitted,

The Alaskans who have signed below

Signature	Print	Address
1. <u>Helen Josefsen</u>	<u>HELEN JOSEFSEN</u>	
2. <u>Carol J. Reich</u>	<u>CAROL J. REICH</u>	<u>SOUNDVIEW ASSISTED LIVING</u>
3. <u>Joan Graves</u>	<u>JOAN GRAVES</u>	<u>980 SOUNDVIEW AVE. HOMER AK 99603</u>
4. <u>Althea Clymer</u>	<u>Althea Clymer</u>	
5. <u>Amy Gay Fraker</u>	<u>Amy Gay Fraker</u>	<u>P.O. Box 2867 Homer 2160 Sprucewood</u>
6. <u>Elizabeth Melkenthin</u>	<u>ELIZABETH MELKENTHIN</u>	<u>P.O. Box 9501 HOMER AK 99603</u>
7. <u>Marfa Molodtch</u>	<u>MARFA MOLODICH</u>	<u>P.O. Box 1185 Anchor Point</u>
8. <u>Jane V. O'Meara</u>	<u>JANE V. O'MEARA</u>	<u>PO Box 1125 HOMER AK 99603</u>
9. <u>Elmer Enzinger</u>	<u>ELMER ENZINGER</u>	<u>PO Box 153 HOMER AK 99603</u>
10. <u>Jeanette Price</u>	<u>JEANETTE PRICE</u>	<u>184 W. Danview Ave. Homer 99603</u>
11. <u>Goniweker</u>	<u>GONIWEKER</u>	<u>184 W. DANVIEW AVE. HOMER 99603</u>
12. <u>Teri Van Dyke</u>	<u>Teri Van Dyke</u>	<u>59295 Pahl Lane Homer, AK 99603</u>
13. <u>Deronda Somers</u>	<u>Deronda Somers</u>	<u>3953 Main Act 8</u>
14. <u>MARGARET A. BROWN</u>	<u>Margaret A. Brown</u>	<u>2158 ASPEN LN Homer AK 99603</u>
15. <u>Larry N. James</u>	<u>Larry N. James</u>	<u>4048 Bartlett #6</u>
16. <u>LaRene Rogers</u>	<u>LaRene Rogers</u>	<u>Box 849 Homer</u>
17. <u>Barb Brodoski</u>	<u>BARB BRODOSKI</u>	<u>4048 BARTLETT ST. HOMER, AK</u>
18. <u>Kathleen</u>	<u>KATHLEEN</u>	<u>FL FL. 3695 Poppy CT</u>
19. <u>Alan S. Ches</u>	<u>Alan S. Ches</u>	<u>167 W. Cityview Ave Homer, AK</u>
20. <u>Martha Krohn</u>	<u>Martha Krohn</u>	<u>PO Box 15275 Fritz Creek AK</u>
21. <u>Virginia Stanchio</u>	<u>Virginia Stanchio</u>	<u>Homer AK Bear Creek</u>
22. <u>Micacela Bruffe</u>	<u>Micacela Bruffe</u>	<u>Homer AK</u>
23. <u>Mary Jo Gates</u>	<u>Mary Jo Gates</u>	<u>PO Box 1107, Homer AK 99603</u>
24. <u>Alice Lind</u>	<u>Alice Lind</u>	<u>Homer, Alaska</u>
25. <u>Sarah McBride</u>	<u>Sarah McBride</u>	<u>33965 McBride Ave Homer AK</u>

From: [David G Lewis](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Medicaid
Date: Friday, April 10, 2015 12:48:30 PM

Dear Sirs,& Madams,

Please support the expansion of Medicaid, it is good for the AK economy and people.

Thank You,

Dave Lewis

Homer

From: [Gerald Brookman](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Medicare expansion
Date: Saturday, April 11, 2015 9:22:13 AM

I urge that you support Governor Walker's Medicare expansion proposal. I, personally, would not benefit from this legislation but I understand that an estimated 40,0000 needy Alaskans would. I understand that it would bring jobs and substantial economic benefits to Alaska as well, but I believe the most important reason for supporting it is that it would bring medical benefits to many Alaskans who are presently uncovered, at very little cost to the State.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Gerald Brookman
715 Muir Avenue
Kenai, Alaska 99611-8816

From: [Queen Parker](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Support House Bill 148
Date: Friday, April 10, 2015 8:05:37 PM

Please support House Bill 148.

From: [Elyce Santerre](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Cc: [Sen. Pete Kelly](#); [Sen. Anna MacKinnon](#); [Sen. Click Bishop](#); [Sen. Donny Olson](#); [Sen. Peter Micciche](#); [Sen. Mike Dunleavy](#); [Sen. Donny Olson](#); [Sen. Lyman Hoffman](#)
Subject: Oppose Medicaid Expansion
Date: Saturday, April 11, 2015 9:17:37 AM

Be sure to pay attention to the comments from Barbara Haney, especially the ones I've copied below. She appears to have nailed the problems with Medicaid expansion.

My personal opinion is that we need to fix the current Medicaid program, not expand it in ways that are likely to hurt the current recipients. We need to look at making sure people get care, not "coverage" that doesn't work. — Lisa Santerre

2) The DHSS Estimates Grossly Overstate the Benefits. After looking at the econometric estimates provided here in Juneau, it is pretty clear that there are many factors that have not been considered and that the benefits of Medicaid expansion are grossly overstated. Just for starters, they do not incorporate the impact of new taxes on the supply of providers and cost. Nor do they account for other issues pertinent to service delivery in Alaska. **In the seven other states that have expanded Medicaid, costs on an average rose 88% above forecasted costs--some as high as 123%.** This will likely be much higher in Alaska. The cost over-runs will do great harm to the Constitutional Budget Reserve-- it will be depleted rapidly.

3) Crowd Out Of Most Vulnerable Populations: Current Medicaid recipients, such as the elderly, disabled, and children, will be reimbursed at 50%. The new expanded population will be reimbursed at 90%. If you are a physician, who are you going to take? Clearly the new medicaid patients will crowd out the old ones who are reimbursed at the new rate. Thus, those in most need will go to the end of the line if they are even served at all. This is counter to the original intent of Medicaid... to give aid to those in need.

4) Taxes On Providers: House Bill 148 also imposes taxes on providers. For medical providers already operating at the margin (and many in Alaska are barely surviving), this could be the nail that closes their practice.

5) Medicaid is a big source of funding for Planned Parenthood. Early on [Twitchy covered](#) how medicaid expansion and PPA specifically rewarded Planned Parenthood. In addition, Planned Parenthood has a track record of fraudulent claims with Medicaid.

[American Life League has a page](#) that details the extensive number fraud of lawsuits in Iowa, Texas, California, and Illinois. The [Alliance Defense Fund's Report to Congress](#) in February 2012 details numerous details of fraud and abuse of Medicaid. Expansion would merely expand those opportunities in Alaska.

6) Doesn't fix any of the current problems: According to Leg Audit in FY 2014, there are serious problems with many of the Medicaid system. The payment system (Enterprise, formerly MMIS) is doesn't work efficiently or expeditiously. There are over 451 defects in the payment system documented as of August 2014. The Aries System, used for determining eligibility is also problematic and often provides incorrect results. Over half of the Medicaid providers certification files are incomplete. Nearly 2/3 of the providers lacked of any kind of evidence of rate verification, and important component in addressing costs. If these are not fixed pre-expansion, you can believe they won't be addressed in any new rapid expansion. All

that will happen is an expansion in the problems, and on a much larger scale.

From: [Paul Oliva](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Please Accept Medicaid Expansion
Date: Saturday, April 11, 2015 7:28:19 AM

Hi,

I am an anchorage resident and a former AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer. When I was doing my year of service with VISTA, I fell in the gap as a result of the lack of expanded Medicaid here. What kind of message does that send to potential volunteers thinking about doing a year of service in Alaska? Please expand Medicaid and allow VISTA volunteers doing a year of service access to adequate healthcare. It's the right thing to do.

Paul Oliva

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Scott](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Please expand Medicaid in Alaska
Date: Friday, April 10, 2015 3:11:00 PM

Dear Members of the House Finance Committee,

I am writing to request Medicaid expansion in Alaska. Besides the humane fact of what having health care would mean to thousands of our Alaskan neighbors, families, and children, the Alaskan economy is in dire need of this diversification and energy input. As an owner of several small businesses considering our own expansion, I have to say that having the 4,000 newly created- high paying jobs in the Alaskan economy that Medicaid Expansion would provide would make the business community allot more comfortable to continue to invest here at home. This new influx of federal dollars, our tax dollars, are already going to many 'other' states for this purpose. It is time for those dollars to come back home.

Myself, and both of my business partners were able to branch out on our own and create brand new businesses in Alaska. And what made this possible? Healthcare coverage, provided by all three of our wives for our families allowed us this ability to do this. What will healthcare coverage mean to the tens of thousands of newly covered Alaskans? It could be an incalculable myriad of benefits for thousands of families in Alaska. PLUS expansion has the added benefit of reducing the financial burden on the rest of us who already pay for these uninsured folks emergency room visits.

In these low oil price times, it is more important than ever that we continue to push to diversify our economy in whatever ways we can. Ways like Medicaid expansion, Film Tax Credits, and fully funding our education system will pay dividends far greater than our costs now and in ways we can't even calculate. Because right now, the banter in public I hear at my business is a public whose concern is not really the low price of oil, but rather the short-sighted governments response to it.

Thank you for opportunity to offer my views.

Scott Anaya
owner/manager
CRUSH Wine Bistro & CeLLar
www.crushak.com

Sent from my iPad. Please forgive typos.

From: [Leila Wise](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: please expand Medicaid
Date: Thursday, April 09, 2015 6:55:47 PM

Hi, I'm lucky. I have great health insurance, which means I have great health care. But I also have a chronic condition that first reared its ugly head during a time when I didn't have health insurance. So I ignored the signs and am now struggling.

That makes me extremely sympathetic to low income Alaskans who would be served by expanding Medicaid. Taking care of health issues early prevents long term, more expensive, more destructive problems. Ultimately we do for health care for low income people, whether it's when their lives and bodies are devastated by untreated conditions or whether it's that we pay higher fees and premiums to cover costs for those who can't pay.

Please expand Medicaid. It's a wise investment in Alaska.

Thank you,

Leila Wise
PO Box 244034
Anchorage 99524
277-1330

From: [Mary Sullivan](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Cc: [Michael Miller](#); [Karla Jutzi](#); [Cara Durr](#)
Subject: Please support Medicaid Expansion
Date: Friday, April 10, 2015 4:22:50 PM
Importance: High

Dear House Finance Committee,

Food Bank of Alaska would like to express its support of Medicaid Expansion. We know that hunger and health are intrinsically connected. Furthermore, we know that having access to health insurance greatly increases the likelihood that individuals will seek medical help before their condition worsens and/or becomes more costly for them, and ultimately for us.

Food Bank of Alaska's network of over 300 statewide partners serves the 1 in 7 Alaskans struggling to find their next meal, this includes 1 in 5 children. And we know from the 2014 Hunger in America, Alaska study that hungry people are faced with difficult decisions every day about whether to pay for food or housing (53%), food or utilities (59%), or food and transportation (64%).

But did you know that hungry Alaskans are also facing serious health problems? 26% have a family member with diabetes. 47% have a family member with high blood pressure. A whopping 56% have unpaid medical bills, and **34% report having no health insurance at all, including Medicaid.**

Having access to Medicaid means that our most vulnerable will have access to the health care they need to thrive and be productive in the workforce. The working poor, in fact, is one of the fastest growing demographics of folks seeking food assistance. We know already that about 60% of those served by Alaska's anti-hunger network were employed in the last year.

For our struggling neighbors, every little bit of help they can receive to stretch their monthly budgets allows them to take steps further and further into independence. Passing Medicaid expansion is good for Alaska's economy not only because of the health care job growth it will create, but also because it will lower the rate of the uninsured and translate to lower health care costs for the rest of us. And, most importantly, lower health care costs for those most struggling, means they won't be faced with some of those heart breaking decisions, like whether to feed their children, or have dinner themselves tonight. It means that for the 56% of Alaska's hungry who are currently making the choice between food and medical care, life will be a little bit easier. It will mean they may finally be able to create the financial and wellness stability they need to change their difficult situation and attain full independence and economic prosperity.

Please support Medicaid expansion. Thank you.

.....

Mary Sullivan, MSW

Director of Advocacy & Agency Relations

Food Bank of Alaska

2121 Spar Avenue

Anchorage, AK 99501

Phone 907.272.3663

Direct 907. 222.3113

Cell 907.727.8773

Fax 907.277.7368

Web FoodBankofAlaska.org



Love Alaska with a gift to end hunger. Please add Food Bank of Alaska when you Pick.Click.Give. at <http://pfd.alaska.gov> – Help us earn a \$25,000 match from Shoreside Petroleum and Petro 49.

From: [Keren Kelley](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Please Support Medicaid Expansion
Date: Friday, April 10, 2015 10:19:01 AM

We respectfully request your full support for Medicaid Expansion. This system may have some “hiccups” but the reality of no system presents far greater problems. We appreciate your understanding and full support.

Respectfully submitted, Keren L. Kelley

From: [badpublicity](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Please vote for Medicaid expansion
Date: Friday, April 10, 2015 12:30:16 PM

Please vote for Medicaid expansion.

Barbara Derr
6509 Chevigny
Anchorage ak 99502

Sent from Samsung Mobile

From: [Cindy Smith](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Pls pass Medicaid expansion
Date: Friday, April 10, 2015 5:02:30 PM

Please support Medicaid expansion.

Thanks,

Cindy Smith
Juneau AK

From: mcewen.kristi@gmail.com on behalf of [Kristi McEwen](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Medicaid testimony
Date: Saturday, April 11, 2015 7:28:02 AM

Medicaid expansion is needed now, more than ever. With looming State budget cuts, which will leave thousands of Alaskans without employment and the insurance that comes with it, it would be unwise, unethical, and simply cruel, to deny thousands of Alaskans the opportunity to receive health care, which will be funded by the Federal government. It is not the oil industry that makes Alaska's economy thrive, it is our people – people who work hard every day to make Alaska the place we choose to live. A person with dire health care needs cannot recover the way that oil prices can. With the many ways that Alaska will now have to turn away those in need of services, why also say no to something that we, citizens of the United States, can receive, as so many across this nation do? Medicaid expansion will save lives, create healthy families, make our state stronger, and will be a lifeline in our sinking economy.

Medicaid Expansion now.

From: [Paula Terrel](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Support HB148
Date: Friday, April 10, 2015 10:23:57 PM

I urge the House. Finance Committee to support Governor Walker's legislation to accept the federally funded expansion of Medicaid. I know of several individuals who are about to fall through the cracks and unable to get subsidies for health care. This will not only help them but also be of economic benefit to Alaska.

Thank you.
Paula Terrel
Juneau

From: [Laura Rorem](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: RE: Medicaid Expansion
Date: Saturday, April 11, 2015 10:03:09 AM
Attachments: [Medicaid Expansion Letter April 2015.doc](#)

Please find attached our letter concerning Medicaid Expansion.

Thank you,

[Laura and Larry Rorem](#)

From: mtaonline.net
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: RE: Medicaid expansion
Date: Saturday, April 11, 2015 10:02:43 AM

Breaking News

4/11/15 11:16 AM EDT

The Montana Legislature has backed expansion of the state's Medicaid program under Obamacare, a startling turnaround after supporters' repeated setbacks during the current session.

More governors in red states have noted the economic advantages of expanding Medicaid. It is also the right thing to do for Alaskans that are struggling to just put food on the table. Even at \$15/hour and a part time \$10/hr job, an Alaskan family of two adults and three children make too much for Medicaid. That was \$34K last year five. Could you live on that? They would be better off to quit working and collect benefits. No one wants that!

Thank you

From: [Karen Grussendorf](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: medicaid expansion
Date: Friday, April 10, 2015 6:40:20 PM

Sitka Community Hospital borrowed 1 million dollars from the City and Borough of Sitka to cover costs. Much of the overrun was from uncovered charity costs, which could be covered under medicaid. Our new CEO, Rob Allen, has the situation under control, but the problem will continue without the expansion.



City of Pelican

BOX 737 - PELICAN, ALASKA 99832 - PHONE: 735-2202/2203 - FAX: 735-2258 - EMAIL: cityhall@pelicancity.org - WEBSITE: www.pelican.net

CITY OF PELICAN RESOLUTION 2015-14

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF PELICAN IN SUPPORT OF GOVERNOR BILL WALKER'S LEGISLATION RELATING TO MEDICAID EXPANSION AND REFORM

WHEREAS, Governor Walker introduced legislation (SB78/HB148) to expand Medicaid; and

WHEREAS, Medicaid expansion takes advantage of available federal resources by accepting an estimated \$146 million in federal Medicaid expansion money; and

WHEREAS, SB78/HB148 lays out the Governor's plan to reform the State of Alaska's Medicaid system to ensure the program is affordable over the long term; and

WHEREAS, the legislation makes healthcare coverage available through Medicaid to adults who earn \$20,314 or less (\$9.76 per hour) or married couples who earn \$27,490 or less; and

WHEREAS, access to healthcare improves health outcomes and increased productivity and independence; and

WHEREAS, more Alaskans will get preventive and primary healthcare, including behavioral health services and help in managing costly chronic diseases.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City of Pelican supports passage of Governor Walker's (SB78/HB148) legislation relating to Medicaid Expansion and Reform.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED THIS 8th DAY OF APRIL, 2015.

Signed: Patricia Phillips
Patricia Phillips, Mayor

Attest: Kelly L. Chapman
Kelly L. Chapman, City Clerk



Resolution in Support of Medicaid Expansion

by Anchorage Human and Social Services Executive Directors

February, 2015

Whereas, the health and wellness of Alaskans is a Constitutional priority and is vital to each individual, family, community and our entire State;

Whereas, Alaskans have identified 25 Leading Health Priorities providing a science-based framework to guide efforts toward improving health and ensuring health equity for all Alaskans which includes access to health care;

Whereas, an estimated 40,000 of the most vulnerable Alaskans are uninsured and potentially eligible for Medicaid (*Source: Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium. Healthier Alaskans Create a Healthier State Economy. Anchorage, AK, 2013.*);

Whereas, the State of Alaska budget deficit, due to significantly lower oil prices and declining oil production, calls for all Alaskans to work together to achieve consensus on priorities, long term financial sustainability, program performance and leveraging revenue sources;

Whereas, routine preventive care contributes to life time good health; early treatment of illness and injury make it more likely for an individual to regain their health; and, treatment in an Emergency Room is most expensive;

Whereas, access to primary care and medication is particularly significant for individuals with chronic disease such as cancer, diabetes and cardiovascular disease; and Medicaid patients are 15% more likely to be tested than uninsured. Medicaid beneficiaries with heart disease are twice as likely to take their medication appropriately, compared to those who are uninsured, and are also more likely to have their blood pressure controlled and to have been checked for high cholesterol compared to the uninsured. [*Cancer Action Network, American Diabetes Association, American Heart Association, American Stroke Association, Medicaid: An Important Source of Health Care Coverage for Patients with Chronic Disease.*];

Whereas, lack of health insurance contributes to family stress and financial instability including 154,900 Alaskans served annually by the Food Bank of Alaska network of over 300 partners:

- 56% making choices between medications/meals
- 26% of households report at least one member with diabetes
- 47% of households report at least one member with high blood pressure
- 34% have no health insurance of any kind, including Medicaid
- 56% of households report having unpaid medical bills
- 53% of clients served have incomes that are at or below the federal poverty level (\$15,510 or less for household of two)
- 27% have incomes between \$1-\$10,000 annually; 29% have incomes of \$10,001-\$20,000 annually

Whereas, good health and wellness are supporting factors in children staying and succeeding in school; adults getting and keeping a job; and, in healthy, competitive communities;

Whereas, the State of Alaska has an opportunity now to develop an Alaska Medicaid Expansion Program which meets the needs of vulnerable Alaskans, communities and Alaska as well as being an effective component of the Alaska health care system and is funded by the Federal government at least at 90% and has the potential to provide additional offsets to program expansion administration;

Whereas, Medicaid Expansion would provide a revenue stream covering a portion of the health care costs of vulnerable Alaskans and in doing so support financial stability and organization sustainability of the Alaska health safety net: community health centers, community mental health centers, tribal clinics, rural hospitals, urban hospitals;

Whereas, in FY2014, as partners in caring for vulnerable Alaskans, coalition members contributed directly to customer health or provided supports to increase the likelihood of short term and lifelong health and wellness. We

- provided 18,805 customers health care services 26,529 customers health screenings; 68,841 customers health education; \$17,690,505 donated logistical or financial assistance; 14,848 with a patient centered medical home; and, 31,793 or 84% of customers surveyed demonstrated/reported healthy behaviors and 8,073 or 84% met the terms of their health treatment plan; and,
- Served 994,312 meals/snacks/ box lunches; sheltered 17,103 homeless individuals/families; provided 24,695 households prevention services and/or income boosts; distributed 540,037 pounds of food; and 1,484 or 64% of participating customers demonstrating improved coping skills, better ability to return to daily life, *ability to return to work and/or home after completing crime or violence prevention and/or stabilization programs and 1,532 or 70% of participating customers had increased self-sufficiency levels after exiting a program operating in the community; and,*
- 1,037 children 0-5 screenings; 1,684 children provided with quality care and education services; 109,165 free books distributed to children 0-5; and, 2,167 or 89% of participating parents/families had increased knowledge of parenting and child development
- 20,948 of youth participating in activities that promote youth development; 196 or 67% participating youth decreasing substance use; 6,000 or 69% youth more engaged with education, learning and school; and, 10,860 or 74% youth with conflict resolution skills (*Note: the information above is a sample based on data provided is based on annual reporting by partner agencies to United Way of Anchorage.*); and,
- We, our partners, business people, teachers, students and parents have been working together to increase the Anchorage School District graduation to 90% by the year 2020, and have together increased graduation rates from 59% in 2005 to 74% in 2014 which contributes as a positive determinant in lifelong health.

Therefore, we the undersigned non-profits support the following Medicaid Expansion strategies:

- Approve Medicaid Expansion
- Fix and clear backlogs for
 - the State of Alaska Medicaid eligibility determination system, Alaska's Resource for Integrated Eligibility Services (ARIES), and;
 - the payment system, Medicaid Management Information System (MMIS) prior to Medicaid Expansion
- Accept federal money for Medicaid Expansion
- Approve supplemental funding for Medicaid Expansion administration

And;

Commit to being partners in this effort by continuing to care for vulnerable Alaskans and by working with the Governor, State of Alaska Legislature, the State of Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, the business community and other stakeholders to develop a sustainable Alaska Medicaid Expansion Program.

Hilary A. Morgan, Co-Chair

hmorgan@ywcaak.org

Signatories

Abused Women's Aid in Crisis, Inc. (AWAIC)

AK Child & Family

Alison Kear, Chief Executive Officer, Covenant House Alaska

American Diabetes Association

Anchorage Neighborhood Health Center

Anchorage Youth Development Coalition (AYDC)

Barbara Dubovich, Chief Executive Officer, Camp Fire USA Alaska Council

CCS Early Learning

Food Bank of Alaska

Jerry A. Jenkins, Chief Executive Officer, Anchorage Community Mental Health Services (and Fairbanks Community Mental Health Services)

Lisa Aquino, Executive Director, Catholic Social Services

Nine Star Education and Employment Services

Pauline P. Smith, Executive Director, Alaska Literacy Program

RurAL CAP

Stephanie Berglund, CEO, thread

Volunteers of America Alaska

YWCA

From: [Devin Swanson](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Medicaid
Date: Friday, April 10, 2015 6:58:20 PM

To refuse the federal Medicaid by law makers, is denying our Seniors the best available care, over a political statement. Ridiculous. Don't build three new fighter jets, or a new ship! Why are the old or young the ones to suffer from this?

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Carl Brodersen](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: I support Medicaid expansion.
Date: Friday, April 10, 2015 11:21:04 PM

-A majority of Alaskans do. I'm most certainly one of them. Please do the right thing.
-Carl Brodersen, Juneau.

From: [Martin Zeller](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: HB 148
Date: Friday, April 10, 2015 8:27:24 PM

Dear members of the House Finance Committee,
My name is Martin Zeller and I am and have been a resident of the Homer area since 1972. I support HB 148 for many reasons and they all are underscored by their benefit to the citizens of Alaska and the economic and health welfare of all Alaskans irrespective of their eligibility or disability. I am also impressed by the time deadlines for the reform elements of the bill.

My understanding is that the passage of this bill will benefit the State of Alaska by the potential for receiving \$1.1 billion in federal dollars to support the Expansion; 3-4000 new jobs can occur; and about 40,000 uninsured Alaskans will be eligible for basic health coverage.

Ultimately it is the right thing to do and the payoff will be a healthier and more inclusive statewide community.

Thank you for your attention to this mail.

Sincerely,
Martin Zeller
509-294-0451
martinzeller10@gmail.com

From: [David Cheezem](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: HB 148
Date: Saturday, April 11, 2015 7:34:12 AM

Please support HB 148. The talking points chatter about so-called "reform" is just excuses for inaction. The moral case for expanding Medicaid and the economic case are both aligned.

-- David Cheezem
720 S Alaska St.
Palmer, AK 99645

From: [Barbara Doty](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Medicaid Reform
Date: Friday, April 10, 2015 10:16:37 PM

Thank you for hosting the statewide opportunity for public testimony on Medicaid Reform. This is Barb Doty M.D., newly appointed Mat Su Borough Assembly member and practicing family physician in Mat Su for 28 years.

Regarding Medicaid Reform:

Alaska currently has an unsustainable health care system, arguably the most expensive in the nation, and is not in line with efforts to improve and refocus health care toward prevention and optimal health of Alaskans. We have the resources to provide the best health care in the country, but to do so we must invest in infrastructure and insist on good health status data, reasoned principles of operations, and clinician payment based upon health outcomes and patient-informed choice.

I support Medicaid Reform and Expansion that includes the following:

1. Blended payment for Patient Centered Medical Home care models where health status data is collected, analyzed, and acted upon for optimal continuity care
2. Accountability for medical travel costs, including holding patients accountable when appointments are not kept.
3. Expanded use of telemedicine and conference call consultation with appropriate payment streams.
4. Standardized primary pharmaceutical formulary across all payers
5. Active streamlining of administrative burden for clinicians
6. Incentives for development of Independent Physician Association Associations and Primary Care-lead Accountable Care Organizations for coordinated comprehensive care
7. Cost transparency across all levels
8. Primary care coordination of ER Utilization and post-hospital care that is payment incentivized
9. Regulatory reform for Behavioral Health payment to allow all qualified licensed Mental Health Professionals at masters or above bill for services when practicing in conjunction with a licensed primary care clinician
10. Emphasis on the triple aim of Higher Quality, Lower Cost and Better Patient Satisfaction

Thanks for accepting my input.

Barbara Doty M.D.
District 6 representative, Mat Su Assembly

From: [Frank & Donita Duncklee](#)
To: [House Finance](#); [Sen. Pete Kelly](#); [Sen. Click Bishop](#); [Sen. Mike Dunleavy](#)
Subject: Stop HB 148
Date: Saturday, April 11, 2015 9:21:13 AM

Representatives and Senators,

This isn't good. Thou this is a House Bill it will be coming to you in the Senate soon. This bill should never see the light of day on the floor of the House or the Senate. Please say NO to Medicaid Expansion. The bill has passed the Senate HSS committee and is now headed to Senate Finance. How did this thing even get out of the HHS committee? Medicaid expansion specifically rewards Planned Parenthood, do we really want to support that organization even more?

Alaska **can not** afford this additional drain on the Constitutional Reserve.

Thank you,

Frank and Donita Duncklee

From: [Mary McDowell](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Support for HB148 - MEDICAL ASSISTANCE COVERAGE; REFORM
Date: Saturday, April 11, 2015 8:19:54 AM

Dear Members of the House Finance Committee,

I am writing to ask for your support and passage of the Medicaid expansion and reform bill. I believe that taking advantage of the opportunity currently available to Alaska to expand medical coverage to more Alaskans, at so little cost to the state, is the fiscally and morally responsible thing to do.

The expansion would provide so many short and long-term benefits to the individuals who could access better medical care and their families, and to the overall state economy, that it seems inconceivable that we would pass up this opportunity. It is my understanding that Alaska can opt to bow out in future years if the federal government fails to provide at least 90% of the funding. I doubt that that will happen, but even if it does and the expansion to cover the bigger pool of people does not continue far into the future, it only makes sense to take this opportunity to provide better access to health care for so many Alaskans in the meantime. Even a few years of better health care for more Alaskans will pay dividends to the state and its citizens into the future.

With both the state and federal governments struggling with budget shortfalls, and the costs of medical care and medical assistance programs constantly rising, I don't believe that Alaska taking advantage of the opportunity to expand Medicaid eligibility now will diminish the motivation and pressure to continue making needed reforms to medical assistance programs.

Please move HB148 out of the Finance Committee and do all you can to ensure its passage by the full legislature before the session adjourns.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Mary McDowell
Box 7
Angoon, AK 99820

From: [Monica Adams - CEO \(PCHSAK\)](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: support HB148
Date: Thursday, April 09, 2015 4:21:02 PM
Attachments: [supportHB148.docx](#)

April 9th, 2015

Dear House Finance Committee

My name is Monica Adams. I am the CEO of Peninsula Community Health Services of Alaska. I am urging you to please support Medicaid Expansion (HB 148). PCHS is a Federally Qualified Health Center and Community Mental Health not for profit health care agency serving 7,500 Under and Uninsured Alaskans living in Central Kenai Peninsula. Over the past two years, the number of uninsured patients we have cared for has risen from 13% of our total patients to 17%. In that same time we have provided over \$3,000,000 in charity care or other losses due to the inability to pay. Many of these people who struggle to pay medical bills are uninsured who may otherwise qualify for Medicaid. The health care industry that cares for the uninsured patients including hospitals and Community Health Centers cannot continue to care for a rising uninsured population. The more Alaskans that continue to remain uninsured the less available health care resources are for all. As it is today, without Medicaid Expansion, PCHS and other agencies like ours will have to eliminate vital health services which will impact the health and safety of our communities. Some may think that this will save the State overall and look only at dollars, but what they do not take into consideration is that these are our community members remain in our community, will access care as emergencies rather than through preventative primary care, thus costing the State and all of its citizens. Community Health Centers provide efficient and effective care for those who are on Medicaid, Medicare, and the Uninsured. Supporting Medicaid Expansion allows patients to receive LOW COST, efficient, effective preventative care which otherwise is delayed resulting in expensive chronic conditions that burden our society and nation as a whole.

People who have health care access are more likely to be employed and contributing members of society; working, paying taxes, and contributing to social and economic growth. As an employer, those who are insured either through our agency or through other plans are healthier are more likely to engage in preventative health care service allowing them to be more participatory members of our workforce. All of us want a healthy and vibrant workforce and community, and Medicaid Expansion is a step toward that end. There are thousands of Alaskans who do not make a living wage, many of whom are uninsured and who could qualify for Medicaid. These hard working Alaskans are likely to experience the struggles of limited access to care resulting in greater sick days and the subsequent financial and health impacts. Medicaid Expansion makes sense for Alaska so that we can have a healthy economy and healthy citizens.



We appreciate the time and attention you have given this important decision and respectfully urge you to expand Medicaid in Alaska.

Thank You,

Monica Adams

From: [Kathleen Menke](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Support of Expanding Medicaid
Date: Friday, April 10, 2015 1:21:58 PM

I am on Medicare, so don't need expanded Medicaid.

However, I lived in Alaska for 18 years without medical insurance before reaching the age at which I could buy into Medicare. I know the insecurity that such lack of insurance brings.

I have worked multiple jobs, but few paid me more than \$14,000/year. Couldn't have afforded health insurance. Wouldn't have qualified me for subsidies under #ACA.

Yet, I paid all my bills and built my own house out-of-pocket. Worked wage jobs and ran my own part-time business as photographer/book publisher.

I was lucky and didn't have any major medical emergencies.

Thousands of Alaskans work hard at either low-paying wage jobs and/or as small business owners, contributing to Alaska's economy and well-being. Bankruptcy and bake sales should not be their only option if they need medical care.

Furthermore, care for all of us in Alaska will be improved if federal dollars can be used to expand Medicaid and reimburse providers as needed.

Regards, Kathleen Menke, Haines

From: [Diane K King](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Support of Medicaid expansion and reform
Date: Thursday, April 09, 2015 12:16:39 PM
Attachments: [Diane K King PhD.vcf](#)

To the House Finance Committee,

I live in Anchorage and am a Research Assistant Professor at UAA. My area of research is focused on preventing chronic disease, substance use/abuse, and FASDs.

I am writing to ask you to support HB 148.

In addition to the many fiscal arguments in favor of the expansion (including potential for stimulating Alaska's economy and reducing uncompensated care provided by our already overburdened community health and public health care systems), assuring all Alaskans have adequate coverage to access primary care services is a cost-effective way to reduce health disparities and *prevent* many of the costliest diseases and causes of death.

Thank you for all of your work for Alaskans and for listening to both sides of this issue.

Sincerely,

Diane King



I could not at any age be content to take my place in a corner by the fireside and simply look on. –Eleanor Roosevelt

From: [Gail Heineman](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: This Alaskan supports HB 148, Medicaid expansion
Date: Friday, April 10, 2015 2:16:33 PM

House Finance Committee members,

I am a 34-year Alaska resident. As do a majority of Alaskans, I support Medicaid expansion. I urge you to pass HB 148.

I know that some of you demand reform of DHHS first. I hope you will agree that the reform may be done during and after acceptance of the money.

Besides the near certainty that it will save our State money, we should support expansion so that more of our residents will have access to medical care.

I know that some of you are concerned that there are not enough providers for Medicaid patients. I hope you will see that as reason to work with providers on this issue. We all know that there is already more access for Medicare recipients in Anchorage than just five years ago, because it was seen as a problem and addressed, not just ignored.

Sincerely,

Gail Heineman
2732 W 67th Ave
Anchorage AK 99502

907-243-1602

From: [Chris Prussing](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: This chart seems to make pretty clear why the Republican objection to Medicaid expansion
Date: Saturday, April 11, 2015 7:38:51 AM

It made me wonder if perhaps more than a little racism is involved.

<http://equitablegrowth.org/interactive/aca-beneficiaries/#>

From: [Jesse Carlstrom](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Please Support House Bill 148
Date: Saturday, April 11, 2015 1:10:58 AM

Dear House Finance Committee:

Please support House Bill 148.

I'm a 32 year old lifelong Alaskan. I grew up in Fairbanks. I currently reside in Anchorage. I intend to raise my family in the Last Frontier.

It's critical to expand medicaid in Alaska. It will be good for the people of Alaska. It will be good for the businesses of Alaska. Supporting House Bill 148 is both the morally and fiscally right thing to do; it's an investment that will provide social and financial returns to the state for years to come.

Please support House Bill 148.

Thank you for your consideration,
Jesse Carlstrom

From: [Susan Amundson](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Medicaid Expansion
Date: Friday, April 10, 2015 8:04:20 PM

Dear Members of the House Finance Committee:

I am writing to request that you move the Medicaid Expansion Bill forward in order to provide health care coverage for low-income Alaskans. As you are probably aware, the State of Alaska currently spends millions of dollars each year for uninsured, low-income, and disabled citizens using emergency levels of care. Without less costly preventative health services as with Medicaid Expansion, these stakeholders use exorbitantly-priced health portals such as emergency rooms and psychiatric hospitals costing the state so much more.

Thank you for your commitment and work for the State of Alaska.

Regards,
Susan Amundson, PhD
1060 East End Road
Homer, AK 99603

From: [Jenise McGraw](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: VOTE YES ON MEDICAID EXPANSION
Date: Friday, April 10, 2015 1:47:43 PM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)

Thank you again for the opportunity to

SUPPORT MEDICAID EXPANSION FOR ALASKANS!

The residents of Alaska need and deserve the Medicaid Expansion.

As an employee of a community health center, we see a variety of patients who have Medicaid.

Some of our elders, as well as our children, would not be able to have good health care without

their Medicaid benefits. Please make your YES for MEDICAID EXPANSION for Alaskans!

Jenise McGraw

Executive Administrative Assistant to the ED

Sunshine Community Health Center

Talkeetna, Alaska 99676

Telephone: 907-733-9230

E-mail: jmcgraw@sunshineclinic.org



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From: [Gail Roust](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Medicaid Expansion/Reform
Date: Saturday, April 11, 2015 12:23:52 AM

Alaska Legislators--

I strongly urge you to approve Governor Walker's plan for Medicaid expansion and reform!!!

It will help many fellow Alaskans who cannot otherwise afford health insurance to gain access to health care, while virtually eliminating their use of very expensive emergency room services for nonemergency healthcare. This will save the State big money, as it is much less expensive to pay the State's share for Medicaid insurance than to pay for preventable emergency room services for these folks. (Certainly, by now, you are aware that Medicaid covers preventive health services that eliminate much of need for costly emergency room services.)

Additionally, the generous Federal share of such Medicaid expansion will provide Alaska a nice chunk of matching revenue into the future!!!!!!

Accepting these Medicaid expansion funds for Alaska should, indeed, be a no brainer--especially since State funds are presently so short.

Gail Roust

Sent from my iPad

Sent from my iPad

From: [Megan Irene Behnke](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: please support HB 148
Date: Saturday, April 11, 2015 7:54:03 AM

Greetings:

Please support HB 148. This issue is close to home for me--a dear friend who is about to turn 23 is going to lose her health insurance, since her parents are retirees from the state, and their dependents are only covered to 23, not 26.

Under the current rules, she cannot receive subsidies. Please help everyone who, like her, is slipping through the system and suffering for it. It will not cost our state, but will help so many.

Thank you for listening.

Megan

--

Megan Behnke
Chemistry
St. Olaf College
behnke@stolaf.edu

From: [Crystal Hudak](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: Written testimony for HB148
Date: Friday, April 10, 2015 10:42:27 AM

Good morning,

I'm a graduate from the Coast Guard Academy and served 6 years active duty. I have a Masters degree I earned while in the Service. I'm currently working on my MBA on my GI Bill, I play volleyball on a community team, and I'm one of the fastest lady marathoners in Alaska. I also work over 40 hours a week in a fast-paced environment where I'm considered the expert in my field. I'm a private citizen. I volunteer at my Church, I love to bake, and I love step aerobics, even though I'm often tripping over the bench and on the wrong foot.

I've been diagnosed bipolar and have periods of severe depression where I often think about suicide. I suffered from depression starting in high school, and in my late 20's I began hearing noises that weren't there and suffered from extremely scary and unstable mood swings. I was terrified for myself, and certainly terrified what others would think if I told them. Many people here will judge me for that statement or say I don't look like THOSE people and some will stigmatize me, impacting occupations and relationships. I don't do drugs, I'm not a heavy drinker, I'm someone who's brain chemistry failed her and she was brave enough to seek help. It wasn't easy, and I'm thankful for good friends and community resources that gave me this opportunity. I'm not alone either. According to an article Newsweek released in 2014, one in five adults struggles with mental illness annually. That's depression, bipolar disorder, schizophrenia and other very treatable illnesses. I'm lucky in that I have health insurance through my employer that covers my medication, but if I had to choose between groceries and medication, most likely I wouldn't be here. Medicaid would expand basic health insurance to individuals who earn up to \$20, 314.00 per year, giving approximately 40,000 Alaskans the opportunity to seek and receive medical care. Won't it be wonderful for those to not have to choose between groceries and medical care, but to receive the care they need to work.

IF it wasn't for JAHMI, I do not exaggerate when I say I'd be dead right now. Expanding Medicaid gives other fellow Alaskans the opportunity to have a normal life and contribute. By expanding Medicaid, fellow Alaskans won't have to choose between groceries and medication and our population will be healthier overall. I'm a success story – but only because I have health insurance and access to JAHMI. At my first appointment at JAHMI I broke down in tears - not because of pain, but because of the support and hope I felt from such a caring staff. Now, when I go to follow-up appointments, they ask about my activities, my family, and information I told them three months prior. I'm not the 3PM appointment to JAHMI - I'm Crystal, a unique individual, and my recovery plan is especially tailored to me. How do you determine how much someone's functionality and safety is worth?

This is a tough budget environment and I do not envy the decisions you're making. I ask you to think hard about Medicaid and this opportunity to save Alaska's future and people like me. I contribute so much to my community, but only if there are people and resources like JAHMI around to help me stay healthy.

Thank you. I am available for questions.

- Crystal

From: [Larri Spengler](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: yes on HB 148
Date: Friday, April 10, 2015 4:11:03 PM

Greetings:

I urge you to support HB 148, joining with Governor Walker's effort to accept the federally funded Medicaid expansion for those Alaskans who are otherwise likely to fall through the health care cracks.

A real example is a young woman I know who is going to turn 23, and thus go off her parents' health insurance; they are state retirees, and for that group, the coverage of dependents does not go to age 26, but rather to age 23.

In the coming year she won't be making enough money to qualify for a subsidy under the basic Affordable Care Act format -- oddly, if a individual makes less than \$11,670 a year, they are required to buy health insurance, but they don't get the subsidies that a low income individual who makes more than that amount may obtain to offset the costs.

Please help correct this unreasonable result, at no cost to state for now (and little cost later), by accepting the federally funded Medicaid expansion. To do so will improve the health of Alaskans, and of our state's overall economy.

Thank you.

Larri Spengler

Larri Irene Spengler
4545 Thane Road
Juneau, Alaska 99801
907-586-9768 (phone/fax)
lspengler@ak.net

From: [Art Peterson](#)
To: [House Finance](#)
Subject: SUPPORT Medicaid expansion
Date: Friday, April 10, 2015 10:49:47 PM

Hello,

Please **support** Governor Walker's efforts to expand Medicaid – **HB 148**. This expansion would be economically advantageous to the state **AND** provide medical-insurance coverage to thousands of Alaskans who cannot afford to get other health insurance.

As a 48-year Alaskan, I know that we want and need health coverage for the people of our state.

Sincerely,

Art Peterson

Juneau