

Löki Tobin

From: Löki Tobin
Sent: Monday, February 14, 2022 10:38 AM
To: Löki Tobin
Subject: FW: Medicaid Constituent Concern

From: Kellie, Cordelia (Murkowski) <Cordelia_Kellie@murkowski.senate.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, August 4, 2021 10:56 AM
To: Seth Whitten <Seth.Whitten@akleg.gov>; Jenny Martin <Jenny.Martin@akleg.gov>; Rep. Geran Tarr <Rep.Geran.Tarr@akleg.gov>; Logan Basner <Logan.Basner@akleg.gov>
Subject: Medicaid Constituent Concern

Hello friends in our State legislature,

Passing along a concern about Medicaid from an elder Alaska Native constituent, as it's on the State side, and his contact information, with his permission.

James Chokwak Sr. contacted our office regarding Medicaid eligibility. In his experience, Medicaid has been the reason that his wife's \$300,000 open heart surgery was covered, and how they can receive the level of care that they require.

However, James Chokwak, Sr. has to decline benefits from Old Harbor Corporation, his village corporation of Kodiak, such as the Elder Benefit in the amount of \$250 a month, because it would render him ineligible for Medicaid. Additionally, Mr. Chokwak cares for his 92-year old mother, and knows that when his mother passes, he will inherit his shares, including any dividend payments that includes. His concern is that this will also tip him over and render him ineligible.

Sharing that the Senator just introduced a [bill](#) (with the text still forthcoming) to amend ANCSA to exclude certain payments to the "aged, blind or disabled" Alaska Natives or descendants from being used to determine eligibility of certain programs.

Firstly, sharing this constituent concern (he's in Representative Tarr's district) but also the concept, should there be an option to do something similar on the state side.

He further shared that he knows many other Alaska Natives who are twenty cents to \$20.00 over the limit, rendering them ineligible, and he's asking for consideration for a sort of variance, in these particular cases.

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Quyanaq,

Cordelia

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