

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

CAMPBELL PARK

HOUSE FINANCE

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LEGISLATIVE BUDGET
AND AUDIT

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ETHICS (ALTERNATE)



DIMOND BUSINESS
DISTRICT

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EAST SAND LAKE

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MIDTOWN

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TAKU-CAMPBELL

REPRESENTATIVE ANDY JOSEPHSON

Sponsor Statement for House Bill 16

Medicaid offers a myriad of optional services, many of which Alaska chooses to offer to program recipients in our state. As listed in AS 47.07.030(b), these services cover a wide variety of health care needs, whether preventative (e.g. nutrition services for pregnant women, clinic services, and low-dose mammography screening), chronic (e.g. long-term care and hospice care), or emergent (e.g. emergency hospital services), or combinations thereof. Alaska also chooses to cover dental services, both preventative and restorative, for eligible adults.

In June of 2019, all funds appropriated towards adult dental Medicaid benefits were vetoed days prior to the beginning of the new fiscal year. This forced numerous program recipients to cease treatment, leaving multiple Alaskans who were in the process of receiving dentures literally toothless. Ultimately, reinstated funding ensured that this program would continue, but not until months after the initial veto.

HB 16 aims to prevent such uncertainty to program recipients in the future. This bill ensures that the listed services in AS 47.07.030(b) would be maintained in future years and not be subject to similar future cuts. Please join me in maintaining coverage for these individuals by supporting HB 16.