

**STATE OF ALASKA
THE LEGISLATURE**

2025

Source

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**Legislative
Resolve No.**

14



Calling on the state's congressional delegation to oppose cuts to federal spending on Medicaid.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

WHEREAS more than 200,000 state residents rely on Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program for health care and long-term care coverage; and

WHEREAS Medicaid helps children, seniors, individuals with disabilities, and low-income adults access hospital, physician, prescription, and nursing home services, as well as behavioral health and home and community-based long-term care services throughout the state; and

WHEREAS state residents living in rural and remote areas of the state are enrolled in Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program at a higher rate than those residents living in population centers; and

WHEREAS Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program are vital sources of coverage in rural and remote areas where residents face more barriers to accessing care, including chronic provider shortages, limited connectivity, limited health care infrastructure,

expensive travel costs to access care, and fewer opportunities for employer-provided health insurance; and

WHEREAS nearly 40 percent of all Medicaid enrollees are under 18 years old, 36 percent of births are covered by Medicaid each year, and Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program provide health care coverage to nearly 100,000 children in the state; and

WHEREAS Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program are critical to maintaining the health and well-being of the state's newborns, new mothers, and children under 18 years old; and

WHEREAS Medicaid is the main source of funding for long-term services and supports for seniors and individuals with disabilities, and thousands of the state's seniors rely on Medicaid to help cover Medicare premiums and co-payments, allowing those seniors to live with dignity and independence in the seniors' own homes and communities; and

WHEREAS 30 percent of Medicaid enrollees are Alaska Native, and funding from Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program strengthens the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium system, helping to improve access to health care in all areas of the state; and

WHEREAS, unlike other Medicaid costs, which are shared by the federal government and the state, the federal government covers 100 percent of costs for services provided to Alaska Native Medicaid recipients receiving care through an Indian Health Service facility or at a tribal facility operating on behalf of the Indian Health Service; and

WHEREAS states that have implemented Medicaid expansion under the Affordable Care Act currently receive a 90 percent federal match for adults covered through the expansion; and

WHEREAS Medicaid drives growth in the health care sector, one of the state's most important sectors in terms of employment and wages, and Medicaid is a major source of funding for high quality union nursing and long-term care jobs in the state; and

WHEREAS Medicaid plays a crucial role in supporting the state's small businesses and entrepreneurs by providing access to affordable health care coverage for employees, which helps prevent illness, reduces absenteeism, and improves productivity; and

WHEREAS, by ensuring workers have access to necessary medical services, Medicaid enables small businesses to retain a healthier, more reliable workforce, ultimately

contributing to economic stability and growth in the state; and

WHEREAS, each year, the state receives over \$2,000,000,000, nearly 78 percent of Medicaid spending in the state, from federal funding, and those funds provide an economic boost throughout the state; and

WHEREAS the United States Congress is considering cuts of nearly \$880,000,000,000 to federal spending on Medicaid over 10 years; and

WHEREAS spending cuts of this magnitude would force the state to make tough choices about whether to offset reductions with state funding, reduce service levels, cut benefits, or reduce coverage levels, likely leaving tens of thousands of state residents without access to essential health care and long-term services and supports; and

WHEREAS the Alaska State Legislature recognizes the importance of fiscal responsibility and supports efforts to identify and eliminate waste, fraud, and abuse within the Medicaid system to ensure that limited resources are used effectively and efficiently; and

WHEREAS protecting core Medicaid benefits while pursuing administrative efficiencies and fraud prevention strategies can help preserve the integrity of the program and maintain access to high-quality care for vulnerable populations;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature calls on the state's congressional delegation to oppose cuts to federal spending on Medicaid to protect the state's health care system, communities, citizens, and economy.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the Honorable Dan Sullivan, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Nicholas Begich, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.