

SJR

25

Senate Health, Education and Social Services Committee

Legislation Checklist

Bill number: STR 25
Sponsor: ALZA FAHRENKAMP
Date referred to committee: 4/29/85
Synopsis completed:
Fiscal note:
Further referrals: NONE

CONTACTS:

NOMINATING COMMITTEE APPOINTED

The 1985 Nominating Committee has been appointed by Association Chairman Ed Zeine. The committee is chaired by Sister Barbara Haase, immediate past chairman, and includes Ed Zeine, Cordova, and Mike Herring, chairman-elect, Homer. Offices to be filled are: chairman-elect, secretary/treasurer, delegate and alternate delegate to the American Health Care Association, trustee delegate and alternate trustee delegate to the American Hospital Association, and two members to the ASHA/PAC board. Nominations should be submitted to the association office in Juneau before June 15.

ANNUAL MEETING TIME

A real Alaskan style annual meeting of the Alaska State Hospital Association is planned this year August 25-28, in Cordova. The dates coincide with Cordova's salmon derby; so in addition to hard work on developing a strategic plan for the association led by Michael Annison, there will be plenty of opportunity for pursuing the wily king salmon, river rafting and other Alaskan activities.

A contributing author of the best-selling management book, "Megatrends,;; Michael Annison will follow-up his 1984 address at the association meeting in Sitka. A dynamic speaker with an exciting (and somewhat disturbing) message for the future of health care, Annison is expected to lead lively discussions both Monday and Tuesday mornings, August 26 and 27. Paul Willging, the incoming executive vice president of the American Health Care Association, Richard Barr, chairman of the board of trustees of the Association of Western Hospitals, and Jack Skarupa, chairman of the board of trustees of the American Hospital Association will provide presentations at the Cordova meeting on Wednesday, August 28.

Annual Meeting headquarters will be at the Reluctant Fisherman Hotel in Cordova; however, because accommodations are limited, all housing arrangements will be handled through the association office in Juneau.

Preference in choice of accommodations will be given to those responding to an initial mailing/survey which has been sent to all Northern Care readers. If you did not receive this initial notice or require additional information, please contact the ASHA office at 907/586-1790. Follow-up registration information will be mailed in June.

FUTURES TASK FORCE MEETS

"How do we want to grow?" was the subject of an intensive 2-day process in strategic planning as members of the Alaska State Hospital Association's task force on future directions met with Ed Tuller and John Zang of the American Hospital Association in Seattle last week.

The group, which included task force chairman Dale Reynolds, Charter North Hospital, Anchorage; Tom Boling, Our Lady of Compassion Care Center, Anchorage; Sister Barbara Haase, Ketchikan General Hospital, and association staff Dennis DeWitt and Bonnie Frey; worked through a planning process in which they defined health care goals in terms of the association membership and then projected themselves into the year 1995 and outlined the elements of their success "in retrospect." With the use of a computer, this information was illustrated in a form that helped the group compare areas of relative importance to perceived performance. When this more or less theoretical exercise was complete, the group was able to list specific implementing strategies for consideration by the board of directors in August.

Task force Chairman Dale Reynolds expressed satisfaction with the work done by the committee in the two days. "I think we're in a position now to review for the board how the association has developed in the five years since the Share Report and how we think its priorities can best be met in the next five."

Vol. 8 May 1985 No. 5

THE LEGISLATURE ADJOURNS

DATES TO REMEMBER

May 27-29, 1985
Aging Together in Alaska
Conference
McKinley Chalets, Alaska

May 31, 1985
ASHA Executive Committee
Our Lady of Compassion Care Center
Anchorage, Alaska

June 2-5, 1985
AHCA Congressional Conference
Hyatt-Regency Hotel
Washington D.C.

June 5-8, 1985
Alaska State Medical Assoc.
Annual Meeting
Haines, Alaska

June 6-7, 1985
AHA Small/Rural Hospital
Conference
Chicago, Illinois

June 13-14, 1985
AHA Trustee Conference
Lake Tahoe, Nevada

July 29-31, 1985
AHA Annual Convention
Chicago, Illinois

They only stayed 119 days (one short of the new 120-day limit) and their focus was clearly on managing limited resources. Proposed funding bills for capital improvements at Wrangell General Hospital moved through the policy committees but failed to be included in the final appropriation legislation that went to the governor. Funding in the amount of \$1.45 million to complete the Cordova Hospital project was included as well as \$250,000 for St. Ann's Nursing Home renovation, \$515,700 to Norton Sound Health Corporation for an alcoholic treatment center and \$1.6 million for architectural and engineering costs at Kodiak Island General Hospital. These appropriations must still survive potential veto as the governor trims the legislative budget to a level he finds acceptable.

In a relative sense, the legislature was generous in the funding of the Medicaid program. As almost all budgets were being cut, the legislature allowed for both volume and inflation growth for hospitals and nursing homes.

Not a great deal of legislation impacting hospitals in other respects reached the governor's desk. House Bill 215 by Representative Hermann relating to state aid for community health aides, House Bill 335 by Representative Koponen addressing midwifery and the municipal code revision succeeded through the legislature. Senate Bill 45 by Jan Faiks, which would have permitted Joint Commission on Accreditation (JCAH) approval in lieu of licensure, and Senate Bill 140 by Senator Eliason regarding the rights of the terminally ill, were caught in the last push to adjourn and will be early action items next year.

An important feature of success this year is what did not pass. A proposal to regulate all health facility rates through expansion of the Medicaid Rate Commission did not move. A proposal to reduce Medicaid payments to facilities to solve budget shortfalls was killed. In a year of severe budget reductions, the legislature maintained its commitment to reasonable payment for health facility services.

ON THE FEDERAL LEVEL

The U.S. Senate rejected an administration-proposed cap on the Medicaid program early in May. The proposed cap would have been disastrous to states with limited Medicaid programs such as Alaska. While the victory was sweet, it was short-lived. Subsequently the Senate adopted a budget which would freeze Medicare payments to providers and limit federal Medicaid spending to \$1.2 billion over the next three years.

The Alaska State Hospital Association delegation, led by Jack Buck, administrator of St. Ann's Nursing Home in Juneau, will address this issue as well as federal tax policies, V.A. use of private sector health facilities, and other issues critical to Alaska while attending the American Health Care Association Congressional Conference. The conference is scheduled June 4 and 5 at the Hyatt Regency in Washington D.C. The meeting provides an opportunity for nursing home administrators to learn about federal activities and how they will impact the local facilities. In addition, Alaskans will meet with our congressional delegation to share our point of view on key issues.

POSITION PAPER
SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 25

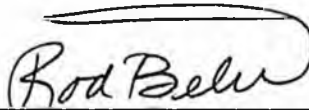
Background

The President has proposed a CAP on Medicaid to limit federal growth in this program beginning in federal fiscal year 1986. The effect of this blanket reduction in federal financial participation would be devastating to the relatively small Medicaid program in Alaska. The President's proposed reduction of \$2,000,000 in FFP to Alaska in 1986 alone would force the State to eliminate critically needed services and would have a serious fiscal impact on Alaska's small, rural hospitals.

Recommendation

The Department strongly supports Senate Joint Resolution No. 25 which requests the Governor and the members of Alaska's delegation in Congress to contact President Reagan and the members of Congress to express the Alaska State Legislature's opposition to the proposed federal Medicaid reduction, and to take appropriate action to ensure that the proposal fails to pass Congress.

Recommended By:

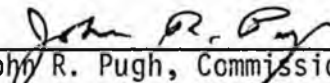


Rod Betit, Director
Division of Medical Assistance

Date:

5/3/85

Approved By:



John R. Pugh, Commissioner
Department of Health and Social
Services

Date:

5-5-85

alaska
state
hospital
association

NRN

319 Seward St., Juneau, Alaska 99801 • (907) 586-1790
REPRESENTING ACUTE, LONG TERM AND OUTPATIENT FACILITIES

Chairman of the Board
Edward Zeine
Cordova Community Hospital
Cordova

April 29, 1985

Chairman-Elect
Michael Herring
South Peninsula Hospital
Homer

Honorable Betty M. Fahrenkamp
Alaska State Senate
Pouch V
Juneau, AK 99811

MAY 2 1985

Immediate Past Chairman
Mark Hawkins
Sitka Community Hospital
Sitka

Secretary/Treasurer
Emma Ivy
Wrangell General Hospital
Wrangell

Dear Senator Fahrenkamp:

Delegate to the American
Hospital Association
Al M. Camosso
Providence Hospital
Anchorage

The Alaska State Hospital Association wishes to express its support for SJR 25 which opposes federal Medicaid funding reductions. We believe that Alaska needs to make its position known on this federal proposal.

Alternate Delegate to the
American Hospital Assoc.
Sister Barbara Haase
Ketchikan General Hospital
Ketchikan

The federal proposal, which would place an arbitrary cap on federal financial participation in the Medicaid program, impacts more heavily on states with conservative programs such as Alaska. The flaw in the proposal is that it fails to restructure the program in terms of benefits, beneficiaries or administration. This simply shifts federally mandated costs to the state. Without consideration of the limited number of nonmandated services offered on a state by state basis, Alaska will very quickly be forced to either reduce below basic service requirements or replace the federal shortfall with state funds.

Delegate to the American
Health Care Association
Jack Buck
St. Ann's Nursing Home
Juneau

Alternate Delegate to the
American Health Care
Association
Craig Slater
Petersburg General Hospital
Petersburg

Delegate to the Association
of Western Hospitals
Keith Campbell
Seward General Hospital
Seward

Aside from the human needs and philosophical issues which are legion, this resolution is critical in an economic and pragmatic sense. Alaska should not be required to shoulder disproportionately greater cuts, because it failed to add all 30 plus optional benefits. As a matter of prudent finance, Alaska should, at a minimum, demand that any reductions be directed at options and not applied to basic benefits.

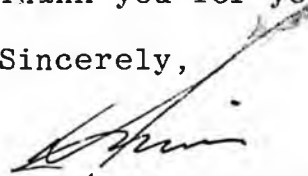
Alternate Delegate to the
Association of Western
Hospitals
Jane Sabes
Norton Sound Regional
Hospital
Nome

Thank you for your consideration.

Trustee Delegate to the
American Hospital Assoc.
Moe Kadish
Trustee, Providence
Hospital
Anchorage

Sincerely,

Alternate Trustee Delegate
to the American Hospital
Association
Maxine Robertson
Trustee, Ketchikan
General Hospital


Dennis L. DeWitt
President

Physician Member of
the Board
Morris Horning, M.D.
Anchorage

DLD:rn

President
Dennis L. DeWitt
Juneau

cc: Senator Kelly

STATE OF ALASKA
THE LEGISLATURE

POUGH Y - STATE CAPITOL
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811
907-465-3800

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AGENCY
LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE LIBRARY

May, 1988

Copies of minutes listed below were originally included in this file. The minutes are available on the STAIRS database CMPR. In order to save space copies of minutes have not been left in the files.

Mary Van Nimwegen

HESS 4-26-85 12:08 pm

Alaska State Legislature

BETTYE FAHRENKAMP, Chairman
ARLISS STURGULEWSKI, Vice Chairman
JOE JOSEPHSON
PAUL FISCHER
EDNA ARMSTRONG-DE VRIES



POUCH V
STATE CAPITAL
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811
(907) 465-3834
(907) 465-3835

Senate Committee on Health, Education and Social Services

TO: MEMBERS, SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION AND
SOCIAL SERVICES

FROM: COMMITTEE STAFF

RE: SJR 25, OPPOSING PROPOSED FEDERAL MEDICAID FUNDING
REDUCTIONS

DATE: APRIL 26, 1985

Today, Friday, April 26, 1985 immediately following the Senate floor session, a brief committee meeting will be held in the Beltz Room to take action on SJR 25.

President Reagan has proposed a reduction of \$1 billion in the federal medicaid program in FY 86, to be applied as a cap on federal matching payments to states. If a state's medical care needs were to rise above the amount of the capped federal payment, the state would have to absorb the additional costs or cut Medicaid services. For Alaska, whose Medicaid program provides only critical services, the \$2 million we stand to lose could mean a significant reduction in our already limited program through elimination of services and eligible groups.

SJR 25 urges our Congressional delegation to oppose the proposed federal Medicaid reduction.

Introduced: 4/24/85
Referred: Health, Education & Social Services

1 IN THE SENATE

BY THE HEALTH, EDUCATION AND
SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

2

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 25

3

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4

FOURTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5

Opposing proposed federal medicaid

6

funding reductions and requesting the

7

Governor and the members of Alaska's

8

delegation in Congress to take action to

9

oppose the reductions.

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

11 WHEREAS President Reagan has proposed a general reduction of
12 \$1,000,000,000 in the medicaid program in federal fiscal year 1986 and
13 similar reductions each year thereafter in exchange for allowing the states
14 an undefined "increased administrative flexibility"; and

15 WHEREAS President Reagan's proposal would result in Alaska's federal
16 medicaid funds being reduced by more than \$2,000,000 in federal fiscal year
17 1986 alone, a reduction of approximately six percent from present funding;
18 and

19 WHEREAS Alaska's small rural hospitals cannot shift hospital costs to
20 other payors to alleviate the effect of reduced medicaid funding, as can
21 the predominantly large, urban hospitals throughout the rest of the nation;
22 and

23 WHEREAS if President Reagan's medicaid proposal is accepted by
24 Congress, the state will be forced to reduce significantly its already
25 limited medicaid program by eliminating services and eligible groups; and

26 WHEREAS Alaska's medicaid program is smaller than the programs of 40
27 other states in the nation and the services that it provides are those that
28 are critically needed; and

29 WHEREAS the proposed funding cuts would not eliminate as many

1 critically needed services from the programs of most of the other states in
2 the nation as it would in Alaska and the other states with smaller
3 programs; and

4 WHEREAS President Reagan's proposed funding reduction does not provide
5 that the funding for non-critical services throughout the nation will be
6 reduced before the funding for critical services is reduced; and

7 WHEREAS federal medicaid officials have not yet responded to the
8 state's specific program concerns and request for clarification regarding
9 the medicaid budget proposal, and they have not yet specified the nature of
10 the "increased administrative flexibility" to be given to the states;

11 BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that it respectfully
12 requests the Governor and the members of Alaska's delegation in Congress to
13 take appropriate steps to notify President Reagan and the members of Con-
14 gress of the opposition of the Alaska State Legislature to the proposed
15 federal medicaid reduction, and to take appropriate action to ensure that
16 President Reagan's proposal fails to pass Congress in its present form.

17 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Ronald
18 Reagan, President of the United States; to the Honorable George Bush,
19 Vice-President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; to
20 the Honorable Strom Thurmond, President Pro Tempore of the U.S. Senate; to
21 the Honorable Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr., Speaker of the U.S. House of Repre-
22 sentatives; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank
23 Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative,
24 members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.

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23 Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative,
24 members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.



STATE OF NEW JERSEY
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
CN-001
TRENTON
08625

THOMAS H. KEAN
GOVERNOR

February 22, 1985

TO ALL GOVERNORS:

There is no budget proposal that strikes harder at states' ability to care for the disadvantaged than the proposed cap on Medicaid, which would reduce federal expenditures by \$1.1 billion by imposing, for the first time, a ceiling on federal matching payments to states. Essentially, this proposal transforms an entitlement program into a block grant. If a state's medical care needs rise above the amount of the capped federal payment, the state would have to absorb the additional costs or cut Medicaid services.

There has always been virtually unanimous agreement among the Governors that cuts in the Medicaid program are unacceptable. Therefore, I am asking you to sign a letter to all members of Congress, expressing our opposition to this proposal. A copy of this letter is attached. We will be circulating the original for signature during the NGA meeting. I hope to be able to announce at the closing plenary session that all of the Governors have gone on record in opposition to the Medicaid cap.

Please call me if you have any questions, or have your staff contact Alie Randlett or Howard Shapiro in my Washington Office, at (202) 638-0631.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "T. H. Kean".

Thomas H. Kean
Chairman
Committee on Human Resources



National Governors' Association

John Carlin
Governor of Kansas
Chairman

Raymond C. Scheppach
Executive Director

February 26, 1985



TO MEMBERS OF THE 99TH CONGRESS:

We are writing to express our strong opposition to funding reductions in the Medicaid program. There is no budget proposal that strikes harder at the nation's commitment to care for the disadvantaged than the proposed cap on Medicaid. This would impose, for the first time, a restrictive ceiling on federal funding that is unrelated to the needs of the poor. Under this proposal, most states will have to cut Medicaid services if their medical care needs rise above the amount of the capped federal payment.

Medicaid provides health care for the most vulnerable citizens, the poor, young children, the elderly and disabled. By a broad range of measures, from infant mortality and low birth weight to the incidence of illness such as rheumatic fever, poor children are in greater need of medical services than are other children. Medicaid is critical to meeting these needs, as it provides 55 percent of total public expenditures on personal health care for all children. For the elderly and disabled, Medicaid is virtually the only source of coverage for long-term care, which constitutes the largest single cause of catastrophic health expenses.

These poor and disadvantaged people are being caught in a squeeze. On the one hand, Medicaid coverage has been reduced substantially. Due to fiscal pressures on state governments and federal eligibility cutbacks, the proportion of poor and near-poor persons covered by Medicaid has fallen to under 50 percent from 63 percent in 1975. On the other hand, health care providers, under pressure from private purchasers of insurance, are less willing to finance a portion of care for the uninsured poor (so-called "indigent care") through the informal shifting of charges to private insurers. In short, there is less care for the poor through both the formal public, and the informal private, mechanisms.

Some of our states, such as those in the farm belt, are experiencing deteriorating economies, and their Medicaid costs will rise above the proposed capped payment. Other states have large poor populations and limited resources to fund medical services, and their Medicaid costs will rise above the capped payment. Still other states have disproportionate increases in the

growth of their elderly population, and their Medicaid costs will rise above the capped payment. Most states are subject to unpredictable economic downturns even when the national economy is strong; when this happens, Medicaid costs can quickly exceed state funding capacity.

For all of our states, reductions in federal Medicaid funding will force us to reduce basic medical care. This is unacceptable to us, and we believe it should be unacceptable to the Congress.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Tom Kean

Tom Kean

Richard W. Riley

Alphonse

Kansas

New Jersey

Arizona

SOUTH CAROLINA

Oklahoma

Massachusetts

Bill Allain

Mississippi

Bob Coakley

Florida

Frank W. Dick

Minnesota

Harry Hughes

MARYLAND

R. P. Jones

Colorado

Madeline W. Jones

Vermont

Anthony A. Lane

WISCONSIN

Bice Sheffield

Alaska

Richard J. Celeste

Ohio

Mark White

TEXAS

Ed Alvesten

Montana

B. O. K.

Calif.

Ben Bennett

Arizona

Edmund Edmund

LOUISIANA

Charles A. R. R.

VIRGINIA

John J. Blum

Michigan

John J. Brown

IDAHO

Joseph E. Brennan

Maine

~~John J. ...~~
Mike Pharis

Joe ... Harris

George ...
New ...

Mark ...

Edward D. DiPete

~~...~~

Washington
Massachusetts

Georgia

GUAM

Hawaii

NEW YORK

...

R. I.

Alaska

~~Boyd~~

CNAI

Juan Luis

U.S.U.I.

Michael R. Cutler

Delaware

John H. ...

NH



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Office of the Secretary

Washington, D.C. 20201

55R25 ~~File Medicaid~~

MAR 11 1986

MAR 19 1986

The Honorable Bettye Fahrenkamp
Chair
Senate Health, Education and Social Services
Committee
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Senator Fahrenkamp:

Thank you for taking the time to visit with me last Monday. I enjoyed our meeting and I hope that your experience as the Chair of HESS will be rewarding. During my own service in the California Assembly, I retained my assignments to the Education and Welfare Committees for the entire eight years I was there, and I wouldn't have traded those assignments for any others.

Enclosed is a copy of the materials that were distributed at the meeting of the National Governors Association here in Washington at the end of February. The letter by Governor Tom Kean of New Jersey was signed by 40 of the Nation's 55 governors (including the governors of territories). Please note that the letter was addressed to the Members of Congress, not to the Administration. I'm told that Governor Sheffield signed the letter.

Please also note one caution with respect to the NGA analysis. Properly, the estimates are qualified to show that they were extrapolated from other data. The method which NGA has used to arrive at its figures is proper in that the analysis states how the estimates were derived. But our own estimators still do disagree with NGA's figures. Still, the NGA estimates do tend to show the effect of the proposed medicaid cap and the proportional relationship with other states.

I hope that when next you are in Washington, you will call me so that I can get the benefit of an up-date from you. In the meantime, please accept my appreciation for your hospitality.

Sincerely,

Dixon Arnett

Deputy Under Secretary for
Intergovernmental Affairs

Enclosure



National Governors' Association

John Carlin
Governor of Kansas
Chairman

Raymond C. Scheppach
Executive Director

February 26, 1985

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Members of the 99th Congress

February 26, 1985

Page 2

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For all of our states, reductions in federal Medicaid funding will force us to reduce basic medical care. This is unacceptable to us, and we believe it should be unacceptable to the Congress.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

COMMITTEE REPORT

SENATE

FURTHER:

4/24/85

Date

4-26-85

Mr. President

The Committee on HESS considered SJR 25

Opposing proposed federal medicare funding reductions and requesting the Governor and the members of Alaska's delegation in Congress to take action to oppose the reductions.

and (a majority of the committee) (the committee) reports it back with the following recommendations:

- do pass
- do pass with attached amendment(s)
- replace with/or adopt CS for _____
- new title _____
- same title and recommends _____
- and attached a "LETTER OF INTENT" NEW FISCAL NOTE
- reports it back without recommendation
- recommends referral to _____ Committee

MEMBERS SIGNING
DO PASS

MEMBERS HAVING
OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

Debra Schuchman
Chairman

Debra Schuchman
Chairman recommendation