SB

105

HFIN

FILE

HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

(11)

Date Referred to Committee: April 23, 2003 — FURTHER REFERRALS:

Date of Committee Action: 4/30/03

The FINANCE Committee considered: CSSB 105(HES) am(efd fld)

CS FOR SENATE B. NO. 105(HES) am(efd fld)

MEDICAID:CHILDREN/PREGNANT WOMEN/FACILITY

"An Act relating to eligibility requirements for medical assistance for certain children, pregnant women, and persons in a medical or intermediate care facility."

Recommends it be replaced with [✓] HCS *or* [ ] CS for SSB 105 (HES)

For Senate Bills with new title: [ ] Technical Title [ ] New Title: HCR_____ [ ] Same Title [ ] New Title

[ ] attach amendments

[ ] add new referral to _____Committee

[ ] Letter of Intent_____Committee

List of Abbrev for Depts.:
ADM
CED
COR
CRT
EED
DEC
DFG
GOV
HSS
LEG
LAW
LWF
MVA
DNR
DPS
REV
DOT
UA

NEW FISCAL NOTES *Assigned by Chief Clerk's Office				
List by Dept(s):	*FN#	Fiscal	Indet.	Zero
HSS		✓		

PREVIOUS FISCAL NOTES				
List by Dept(s):	FN#	Fiscal	Indet.	Zero

Signing with recommendations	Printed Last Name	DP	DNP	NR	AM
	Hawker	✓			
	STOLTZE				✓
	Tenke		✓		
	CROTY		✓		
	MOSES			✓	
	CHENAULT				✓
	Whitaker	✓			
	FOSTER	X			
Chair:	HARRIS	✓			
Chair:	Williams	✓			

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2003 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number:
Bill Version: HCS SB105 (HES)
( ) Publish Date:
Dept. Affected: Health & Social Services

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction):

Title: ELIMINATE CERTAIN COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENTS IN MEDICAID

BRU: Medical Assistance

Component: Medicaid Services

Sponsor: HOUSE (RLS) BY REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR

Requester:

Component No. 2077

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

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Miscellaneous						
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CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
CHANGE IN REVENUES (0)						

FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

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Other(Specify Type-do not abbreviate)						
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Estimate of any current year (FY2003) cost:
Mark this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2004 budget proposal: X

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: *(Attach a separate page if necessary)*

This bill is intended to reduce Medicaid spending by freezing the income eligibility standard at the 2003 level for individuals whose Medicaid eligibility is determined under the 300% Special Income eligibility category for nursing home or HCB waiver recipients and by freezing the income eligibility standard at what is essentially the 2002 Federal Poverty Guidelines (FPG) for Alaska for the Denali KidCare program for children and pregnant women. See assumptions on the next page.

The Governor's FY2004 budget includes a decrement of $223.0 general fund match.

Prepared by: Jon Sherwood — Phone 465-5820
Division: Medical Assistance — Date/Time
Approved by: Elmer A. Lindstrom, Special Assistant to the Commissioner — Date 04/29/2003
Agency: Department of Health and Social Services

STATE OF ALASKA
2003 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO.HCS SB105 (HES)

ANALYSIS CONTINUATION

ASSUMPTIONS

The number of individuals potentially eligible in future years will be significantly reduced. Many will remain eligible in the first year, but since much of the nursing home and waiver population relies heavily on Social Security retirement income, Social Security Disability Insurance payments, and pension programs that use an annual COLA increase, more will lose eligibility in future years as their countable income eventually exceeds the frozen 2003 standard.

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Annually we anticipate both the FPG and the SSI standard to grow at an average of 2.24%. Assuming an equal distribution of income within each eligibility category, we determined the number of individuals whose income would be expected to be above the frozen standard. This results in the number of eligibles who would no longer be eligible for Medicaid or Denali KidCare.

The following table shows the total REDUCTION OF ELIGIBLES:

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Total	$ 716.8	$ 2,671.8	$ 4,378.5	$ 6,166.2	$ 8,072.1	$10,132.6

A federal match rate of 58.39% was used for Pregnant Women and Nursing Home recipients; 70.87% was used for DKC children.

THE
FOLLOWING
DOCUMENT(S)
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ALASKA PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION

Committed To Advancing Alaska's Public Health Since 1978

ALPHA

April 30, 2003 (H) Finance re: SB 105

Mr. Chairman, members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today. For the record, my name is Marie Lavigne and I am the Executive Director of the Alaska Public Health Association. I am honored to be here today representing close to two hundred public health professionals from across Alaska who are deeply committed to developing sound public health policy to improve the health of all Alaskan's, including assuring all Alaskan's have access to health care.

The Alaska Public Health Association applauds the success of Denali Kid Care Program in improving the health of pregnant women and children in Alaska and we urge you to continue eligibility for this program at the fullest level possible.

Public health research on the health impact of uninsured children is noteworthy:

- Uninsured children who need medical and surgical care are 4 times more likely to go without the care they need than insured children with the same health needs. And when they do get care, they are sicker and more likely to be seen in the emergency room.
- Uninsured children are 4½ times more likely to do without needed prescriptions and eye glasses, and 5 times more likely to be unable to receive needed dental care.
- Uninsured children are 1 1/2 times more likely to arrive to kindergarten without their required immunizations. They're 8 times more likely to not have had well child check up.
- Uninsured pregnant women are less likely to receive prenatal care, placing them at risk to deliver early, low-birth weight babies; and at the greatest risk for fetal/maternal death.

The Governor's transmittal letter accompanying SB 105 states "While the cost savings associated with this bill are modest in the short-term, this measure will significantly reduce future year costs." From a public health perspective, any short term savings does not compare to the greater long term costs to the health and well-being of pregnant women and children.

To succeed in lowering the enrollment in the Medical assistance programs, consider this issue from a different perspective. SB 105 is seeking to lower the enrollment in medical assistance programs by reducing eligibility for the pregnant women and children who qualify at the upper levels of the income eligibility – up to 200% of the poverty level. Yet the most effective approach the legislature can take is to assist employers and working families to get affordable health insurance, reducing the number of pregnant women and children needing coverage by Denali Kid Care.

While there are many factors contributing to 1 in 5 Alaskans lacking health insurance coverage, one of the greatest barriers is access to affordable health insurance. A study by the Anchorage Access to Health Care Coalition released this fall indicates of the 16,000 adults in Anchorage who are uninsured – 71% are working adults, the majority in business with less than 10 employees. We need the legislature to takes to join with businesses in addressing the issue of affordable health care insurance. In the meantime we urge you to keep the eligibility for the medical assistance programs at the full 200% of the federal poverty level to maximize the health of pregnant women and children. Thank you.

Marie J. Lavigne, Executive Director

P.O. Box 9-1825 Anchorage, AK 99509 907/332-1030 *e-mail:* publichealth@alaska.net www.alaskapublichealth.org

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPT. OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

FRANK H. MURKOWSKI, GOVERNOR

P.O. BOX 110601
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811-0601
PHONE: (907) 465-3030
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April 23, 2003

Honorable Bill Williams
Co-Chair
House Finance Committee
Alaska State Capitol, Rm. 511
Juneau, AK 99811

RE: Hearing request for HCS CSSB 105(HES)

Dear Representative Williams,

The Department of Health and Social Services respectfully requests a hearing in the House Finance Committee on HCS CSSB105(HES) "An Act relating to eligibility requirements for medical assistance for certain children, pregnant women, and persons in a medical or intermediate care facility; and providing for an effective date."

This would lower and "freeze" income levels for eligibility for Denali Kid Care and would "freeze" income levels for Medicaid under the special income limit for nursing homes and home and community based waiver services.

Under current law, income standards for these eligibility categories increase every year by the amount of cost-of-living adjustments to the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program or the federal poverty guidelines for Alaska. This bill will eliminate these annual cost-of-living adjustments and put in statute fixed dollar income levels for these programs based on the SSI standard that became effective on January 1, 2003 or the federal poverty guideline for Alaska that became effective on April 1, 2002.

The Senate reduced these fixed income levels for the Denali Kid Care program at 175% of the federal poverty guideline, and the H-HES Committee amended the bill back to the Governor's originally proposal. The version before the House keeps the Denali Kid Care income eligibility limit at 200%. Setting this program income standard at 200% will allow the department to maintain current Medicaid benefits to over 26,000 beneficiaries while fixing levels to realize significant cost savings in subsequent years.

Pregnant women who establish eligibility before June 30, 2003 will remain eligible for nine months notwithstanding the passage of this legislation. Likewise, children who

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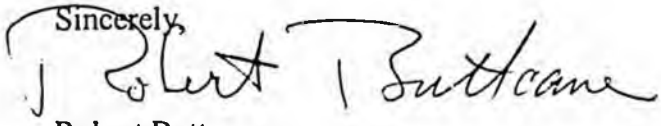
establish eligibility before June 30, 2003 are protected for a period of 6 months under existing continuous eligibility rules.

A fiscal note on for HCS CSSB105(HES) is being prepared now and will be to your committee by Friday morning. I am including a copy of the bill and a copy of the Governor's transmittal letter for your review.

Your favorable consideration of this request is appreciated.

Sincerely,



Robert Buttcane
Acting Assistant to the Commissioner

Cc: Representative Pete Kott
Speaker of the House

Mike Tibbles, Legislative Director
Office of the Governor

Joel Gilbertson
Commissioner

John Gaisford, Director
Division of Medical Assistance

23-GS1128\H
Lauterbach
4/17/03

HOUSE CS FOR CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 105(HES)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE HOUSE HEALTH, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Offered:
Referred:

Sponsor(s): SENATE RULES COMMITTEE BY REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

"An Act relating to eligibility requirements for medical assistance for certain children, pregnant women, and persons in a medical or intermediate care facility; and providing for an effective date."

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

*** Section 1.** AS 47.07.020(b) is amended to read:

(b) In addition to the persons specified in (a) of this section, the following optional groups of persons for whom the state may claim federal financial participation are eligible for medical assistance:

(1) persons eligible for but not receiving assistance under any plan of the state approved under 42 U.S.C. 1381 - 1383c (Title XVI, Social Security Act, Supplemental Security Income) or a federal program designated as the successor to the aid to families with dependent children program;

(2) persons in a general hospital, skilled nursing facility, or intermediate care facility, who, if they left the facility, would be eligible for assistance

1 under one of the federal programs specified in (1) of this subsection;
2 (3) persons under age 21 who are under supervision of the department,
3 for whom maintenance is being paid in whole or in part from public funds, and who
4 are in foster homes or private child-care institutions;
5 (4) aged, blind, or disabled persons, who, because they do not meet
6 income and resources requirements, do not receive supplemental security income
7 under 42 U.S.C. 1381 - 1383c (Title XVI, Social Security Act), and who do not
8 receive a mandatory state supplement, but who are eligible, or would be eligible if
9 they were not in a skilled nursing facility or intermediate care facility to receive an
10 optional state supplementary payment;
11 (5) persons under age 21 who are in an institution designated as an
12 intermediate care facility for the mentally retarded and who are financially eligible as
13 determined by the standards of the federal program designated as the successor to the
14 aid to families with dependent children program;
15 (6) persons in a medical or intermediate care facility whose income
16 while in the facility does not exceed **$1.656 a month** [300 PERCENT OF THE
17 SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME BENEFIT RATE UNDER 42 U.S.C. 1381
18 - 1383c (TITLE XVI, SOCIAL SECURITY ACT)] but who would not be eligible for
19 an optional state supplementary payment if they left the hospital or other facility;
20 (7) persons under age 21 who are receiving active treatment in a
21 psychiatric hospital and who are financially eligible as determined by the standards of
22 the federal program designated as the successor to the Aid to Families with Dependent
23 Children program;
24 (8) persons under age 21 and not covered under (a) of this section, who
25 would be eligible for benefits under the federal program designated as the successor to
26 the aid to families with dependent children program, except that they have the care and
27 support of both their natural and adoptive parents;
28 (9) pregnant women not covered under (a) of this section and who
29 meet the income and resource requirements of the federal program designated as the
30 successor to the aid to families with dependent children program;
31 (10) persons under age 21 not covered under (a) of this section who the

department has determined cannot be placed for adoption without medical assistance because of a special need for medical or rehabilitative care and who the department has determined are hard-to-place children eligible for subsidy under AS 25.23.190 - 25.23.220;

(11) persons who can be considered under 42 U.S.C. 1396a(e)(3) (Title XIX, Social Security Act, Medical Assistance) to be individuals with respect to whom a supplemental security income is being paid under 42 U.S.C. 1381 - 1383c (Title XVI, Social Security Act) because they meet all of the following criteria:

(A) they are 18 years of age or younger and qualify as disabled individuals under 42 U.S.C. 1382c(a) (Title XVI, Social Security Act);

(B) the department has determined that

(i) they require a level of care provided in a hospital, nursing facility, or intermediate care facility for the mentally retarded;

(ii) it is appropriate to provide their care outside of an institution; and

(iii) the estimated amount that would be spent for medical assistance for their individual care outside an institution is not greater than the estimated amount that would otherwise be expended individually for medical assistance within an appropriate institution;

(C) if they were in a medical institution, they would be eligible for medical assistance under other provisions of this chapter; and

(D) home and community-based services under a waiver approved by the federal government are either not available to them under this chapter or would be inappropriate for them;

(12) disabled persons, as described in 42 U.S.C. 1396a(a)(10)(A)(ii)(XIII), who are in families whose income, as determined under applicable federal regulations or guidelines, is less than 250 percent of the official poverty line applicable to a family of that size according to the federal Office of Management and Budget, and who, but for earnings in excess of the limit established under 42 U.S.C. 1396d(q)(2)(B), would be considered to be individuals with respect to whom a supplemental security income is being paid under 42 U.S.C. 1381 - 1383c; a

1 person eligible for assistance under this paragraph who is not eligible under another
2 provision of this section shall pay a premium or other cost-sharing charges according
3 to a sliding fee scale that is based on income as established by the department in
4 regulations;
5 (13) persons under age 19 who are not covered under (a) of this section
6 and whose household income does not exceed
7 **(A) $1,847 a month if the household consists of one person;**
8 **(B) $2,489 a month if the household consists of two persons;**
9 **(C) $3,130 a month if the household consists of three**
10 **persons;**
11 **(D) $3,772 a month if the household consists of four**
12 **persons;**
13 **(E) $4,414 a month if the household consists of five persons;**
14 **(F) $5,055 a month if the household consists of six persons;**
15 **(G) $5,697 a month if the household consists of seven**
16 **persons;**
17 **(H) $6,339 a month if the household consists of eight**
18 **persons;**
19 **(I) $6,339 a month, plus an additional $642 a month for**
20 **each extra person above eight persons who is in the household if the**
21 **household consists of nine persons or more** [200 PERCENT OF THE
22 FEDERAL POVERTY GUIDELINE AS DEFINED BY THE FEDERAL
23 OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET AND REVISED UNDER 42
24 U.S.C. 9902(2)];
25 (14) pregnant women who are not covered under (a) of this section and
26 whose household income does not exceed
27 **(A) $2,489 a month if the household consists of two persons;**
28 **a pregnant woman in a household alone is considered to be a household of**
29 **two persons;**
30 **(B) $3,130 a month if the household consists of three**
31 **persons;**

1 **(C) $3,772 a month if the household consists of four**
2 **persons;**
3 **(D) $4,414 a month if the household consists of five persons;**
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8 **persons;**
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10 **each extra person above eight persons who is in the household if the**
11 **household consists of nine persons or more** [200 PERCENT OF THE
12 FEDERAL POVERTY LINE AS DEFINED BY THE FEDERAL OFFICE OF
13 MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET AND REVISED UNDER 42 U.S.C.
14 9902(2)].
15 * **Sec. 2.** AS 47.07.042(d) is amended to read:
16 (d) In addition to the requirements established under (a) and (b) of this section,
17 the department may require premiums or cost-sharing contributions from recipients
18 who are eligible for benefits under AS 47.07.020(b)(13) and whose household income
19 is **greater than the applicable amount set out in (e) of this section** [BETWEEN 150
20 AND 200 PERCENT OF THE FEDERAL POVERTY GUIDELINE]. If the
21 department requires premiums or cost-sharing contributions under this subsection, the
22 department
23 (1) shall adopt in regulation a sliding scale for those premiums or
24 contributions based on household income;
25 (2) may not exceed the maximums allowed under federal law; and
26 (3) shall implement a system by which the department or its designee
27 collects those premiums or contributions.
28 * **Sec. 3.** AS 47.07.042 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:
29 (e) In (d) of this section, the term "applicable amount" means
30 (1) $1,385 a month if the household consists of one person;
31 (2) $1,867 a month if the household consists of two persons; a

1 pregnant woman in a household alone is considered to be a household of two persons;
2 (3) $2,348 a month if the household consists of three persons;
3 (4) $2,829 a month if the household consists of four persons;
4 (5) $3,310 a month if the household consists of five persons;
5 (6) $3,792 a month if the household consists of six persons;
6 (7) $4,273 a month if the household consists of seven persons;
7 (8) $4,754 a month if the household consists of eight persons;
8 (9) $4,754 a month, plus an additional $482 a month for each extra
9 person above eight persons who is in the household if the household consists of nine
10 persons or more.
11 * **Sec. 4.** This Act takes effect July 1, 2003.

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2003 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number:
Bill Version: HCS SB105 (HES)
( ) Publish Date:
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Prepared by: Jon Sherwood — Phone 465-5820
Division: Medical Assistance — Date/Time
Approved by: Elmer A. Lindstrom, Special Assistant to the Commissioner — Date 04/29/2003
Agency: Department of Health and Social Services

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STATE OF ALASKA
2003 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 2
Bill Version: CSSB 105(HES)
(S) Publish Date: 4/9/03

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): 04/07/2003

Dept. Affected: Health & Social Services

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Sponsor: HOUSE (RLS) BY REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR

Requester:

Component No. 2077

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Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	**(7,151.3)**	**(11,930.0)**	**(14,351.5)**	**(16,848.3)**	**(19,480.8)**	**(22,269.1)**
CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
CHANGE IN REVENUES (0)						

FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts	(4,972.6)	(8,220.5)	(9,836.6)	(11,506.6)	(13,264.5)	(15,123.3)
1003 GF Match	(2,178.7)	(3,709.5)	(4,514.9)	(5,341.7)	(6,216.3)	(7,145.8)
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other(Specify Type-do not abbreviate)						
TOTAL	**(7,151.3)**	**(11,930.0)**	**(14,351.5)**	**(16,848.3)**	**(19,480.8)**	**(22,269.1)**

Estimate of any current year (FY2003) cost:
Mark this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2004 budget proposal: X

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: *(Attach a separate page if necessary)*

This bill is intended to reduce Medicaid spending by freezing the income eligibility standard at the 2003 level for nursing home or HCB waiver recipients whose Medicaid eligibility is determined under the 300% Special Income eligibility category and, for the Denali KidCare program for children and pregnant women, by reducing the income eligibility standard from 200% to 175% of the 2003 Federal Poverty Guidelines (FPG) for Alaska and freezing it there. See assumptions on the next page.

The Governor's FY2004 budget includes a decrement of $223.0 general fund match.

Prepared by: Jon Sherwood — Phone 465-5820
Division: Medical Assistance — Date/Time 04/07/2003
Approved by: Elmer A. Lindstrom, Special Assistant to the Commissioner — Date 04/08/2003
Agency: Department of Health and Social Services

(Revised 9/2002 OMB)

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FISCAL NOTE
FN #2

STATE OF ALASKA
2003 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. CSSB 105(HES)

ANALYSIS CONTINUATION

ASSUMPTIONS

The number of individuals potentially eligible in future years will be significantly reduced. Many will remain eligible in the first year, but since much of the nursing home and waiver population relies heavily on Social Security retirement income, Social Security Disability Insurance payments, and pension programs that use an annual COLA increase, more will lose eligibility in future years as their countable income eventually exceeds the frozen 2003 standard.

FY 2004 savings will be limited by the fact that as we phase in implementation pregnant women who are already eligible continue to be eligible through their pregnancy and post-partum period. Children on DKC will continue to be eligible through their 6 months continuous eligibility period. After June 30, 2003 the number of new eligible children and pregnant women will be reduced because of the reduction to 175% of the FPG. The impact on the nursing home and HCB waiver populations will not take effect until January 2004.

Annually we anticipate both the FPG and the SSI standard to grow at an average of 2.24%. Assuming an equal distribution of income within each eligibility category, we determined the number of individuals whose income would be expected to be above the frozen standard. This results in the number of eligibles who would no longer be eligible for Medicaid or Denali KidCare because of the frozen standard. In addition, the number of new eligible children and pregnant women will be reduced because of the reduction to 175% of the FPG.

The following table shows the total REDUCTION OF ELIGIBLES:

	FY04	FY05	FY06	FY07	FY08	FY09
Pregnant Women	123	140	157	173	189	205
Title XXI Children	1213	1380	1544	1704	1861	2014
Special Income	9	17	26	34	42	50
Total	1345	1537	1727	1911	2092	2269

Final fiscal impact is determined by multiplying the number of eligibles by the following average annual expenditures per individual in that eligibility category. Resulting savings are:

SAVINGS (in thousands):

	FY04	FY05	FY06	FY07	FY08	FY09
PR Woman	$493.7	$816.5	$996.6	$1,195.8	$1,422.0	$1,680.2
Children	$6,386.4	$10,051.9	$11,672.6	$13,373.0	$15,141.1	$16,990.1
NH/HCB	$271.2	$1,061.6	$1,682.3	$2,279.5	$2,917.7	$3,598.8
Total	$7,151.3	$11,930.0	$14,351.5	$16,848.3	$19,480.8	$22,269.1

A federal match rate of 58.39% was used for Pregnant Women and Nursing Home recipients; 70.87% was used for DKC children.

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STATE OF ALASKA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
JUNEAU

March 5, 2003

The Honorable Gene Therriault
President of the Senate
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 107
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear President Therriault:

Under the authority of article III, section 18, of the Alaska Constitution, I am transmitting a bill to "freeze" income levels for eligibility for Denali Kid Care and for Medicaid under the special income limit for nursing homes and home and community based waiver services.

Under current law, income standards for these eligibility categories increase every year by the amount of cost-of-living adjustments to the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program or the federal poverty guidelines. This bill will eliminate these annual cost-of-living adjustments and put in statute fixed dollar income levels for these programs based on the SSI standard that became effective on January 1, 2003 or the federal poverty guideline for Alaska that became effective on April 1, 2002.

The next cost-of-living adjustment for Denali KidCare is scheduled to become effective on April 1, 2003. Therefore upon the July 1, 2003 effective date of this bill eligibility levels will be rolled-back by the 1.4% cost-of-living allowance implemented on April 1, 2003. For example, income eligibility for a family of three with children on Denali Kid Care will decrease from $3,179 per month to $3,130 per month on July 1, 2003.

The number of persons who lose eligibility on July 1, 2003 by virtue of this provision cannot be estimated with precision; but should be very small. For example pregnant women who establish eligibility between April 1, 2003 and June 30, 2003 will remain eligible for nine months notwithstanding the passage of this legislation.

While the cost savings associated with this bill are modest in the short-term; this measure will significantly reduce future year costs. In this time of fiscal austerity, I believe this proposal strikes the appropriate balance between maintaining health care coverage for lower income Alaskans while also addressing our need for fiscal restraint.

I urge your prompt and favorable action on this measure.

Sincerely,

Frank H. Murkowski
Governor

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ALASKA

RESOLUTION 03-02

A RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO SB 105 AND HB 172: MEDICAID: CHILDREN/PREGNANT WOMEN/FACILITY

WHEREAS, the League of Women Voters of Alaska believes that a basic level of quality health care at an affordable cost should be available to all U.S. residents; and

WHEREAS, SB 105 and HB 172 propose to freeze eligibility for Denali Kid Care by changing the program need standard from a percentage of the Federal Poverty Level to a fixed dollar amount, thus eliminating inflation proofing of eligibility levels which results in a larger percentage of children becoming ineligible for Medicaid; and

WHEREAS, uninsured children and uninsured pregnant women are less likely to receive timely and adequate health care and are placed at risk; and

WHEREAS, there is no affordable health care insurance available to small business where many uninsured people work; and

WHEREAS, other solutions are available, such as patient copayment; which can cut costs without cutting services,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the League of Women Voters of Alaska request the Alaska State Legislature vote against SB 105 and HB 172.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the delegates to the League of Women Voters 2003 Convention, Juneau, Alaska, this 13th day of April, 2003.

Cheryl A. Jebe

Cheryl Jebe, President
League of Women Voters of Alaska

LEGAL SERVICES

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MEMORANDUM April 17, 2003

SUBJECT: Whether a concurrent resolution is needed to authorize a change in the bill title (HCS CSSB 105(HES))

TO: Representative Peggy Wilson
Attn: Jean Ellis

FROM: Terri Lautenbach
Legislative Counsel

Enclosed is a draft HCS for SB 105.

The bill title is different than the bill title passed by the Senate. However, this change to the title of the bill is merely a technical change (recognizing that a special effective date is in the HCS) and would not require a concurrent resolution to suspend the Uniform Rules regarding changes to the title of a bill in the second house. The Uniform Rules specifically exempt technical title changes from the rule against title changes in the second house. See, Rule 41(b), Uniform Rules of the Alaska State Legislature.

If I may be of further assistance, please advise.

TML:med
03-410.med

Enclosure