

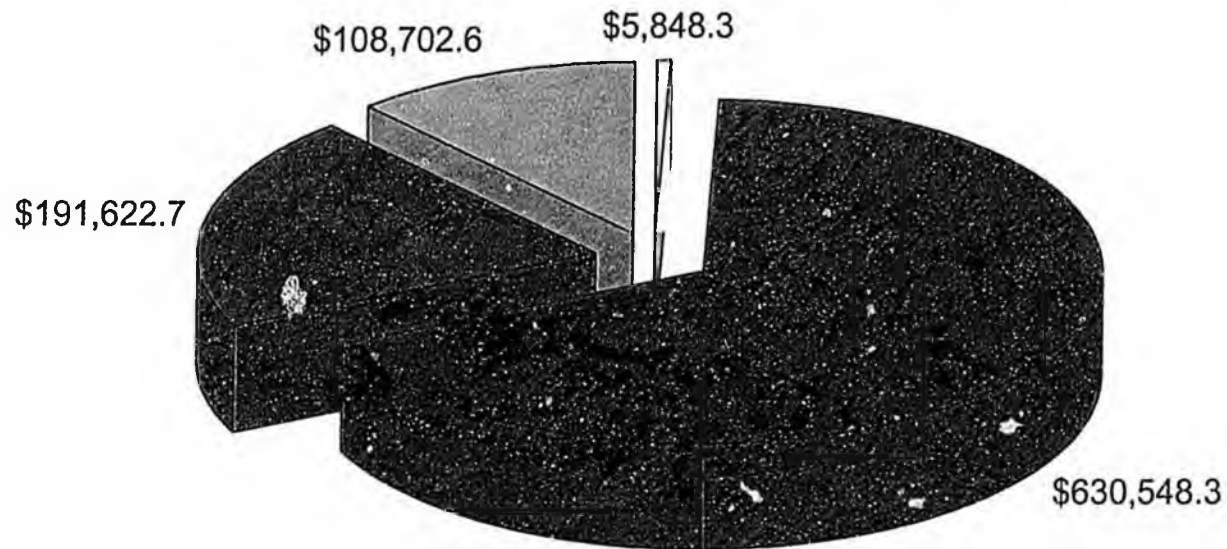
SB

105

SB 105
Amendment #1

- Page 4, Delete Line 27 and re-letter accordingly.

**Department of Health & Social Services Reorganization
FY 2004 Medicaid Services Distribution of Funds**

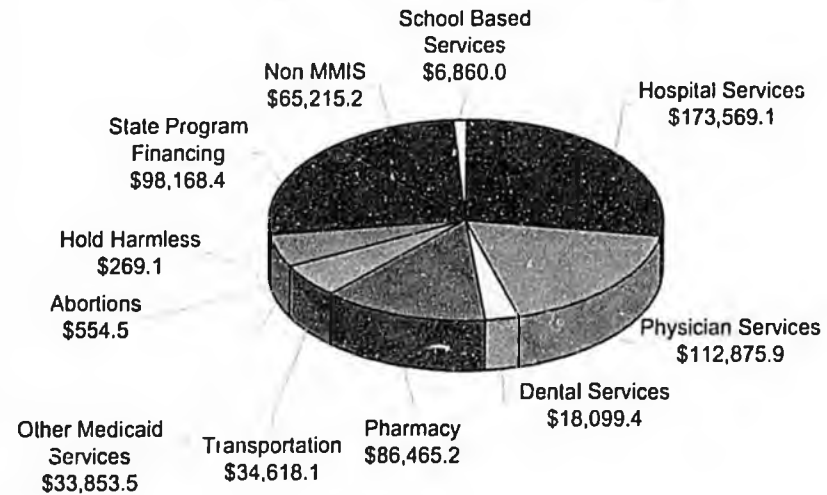


- Division of Children's Services (DCS)
- Division of Health Care Services (DHCS)
- ▣ Division of Senior & Disability Services (DSDS)
- ▤ Division of Behavioral Health (DEH)

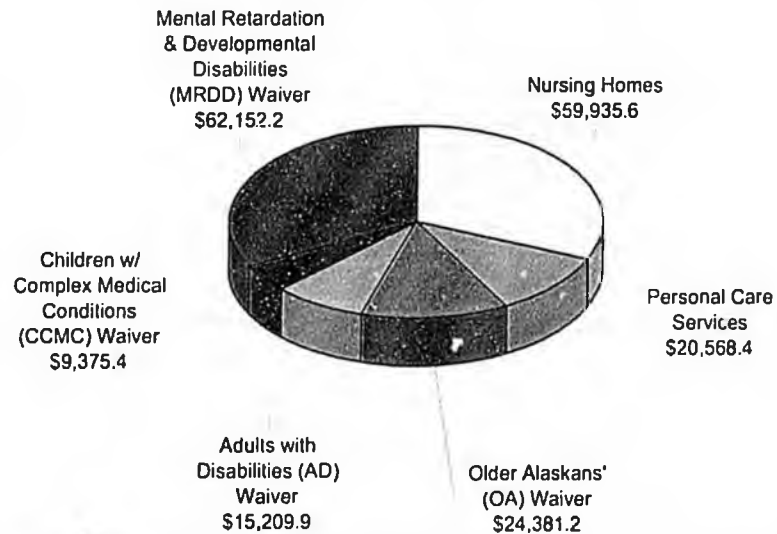
Division of Children's Services



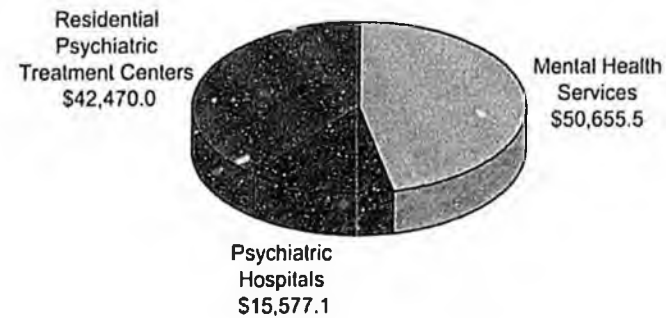
Division of Health Care Services

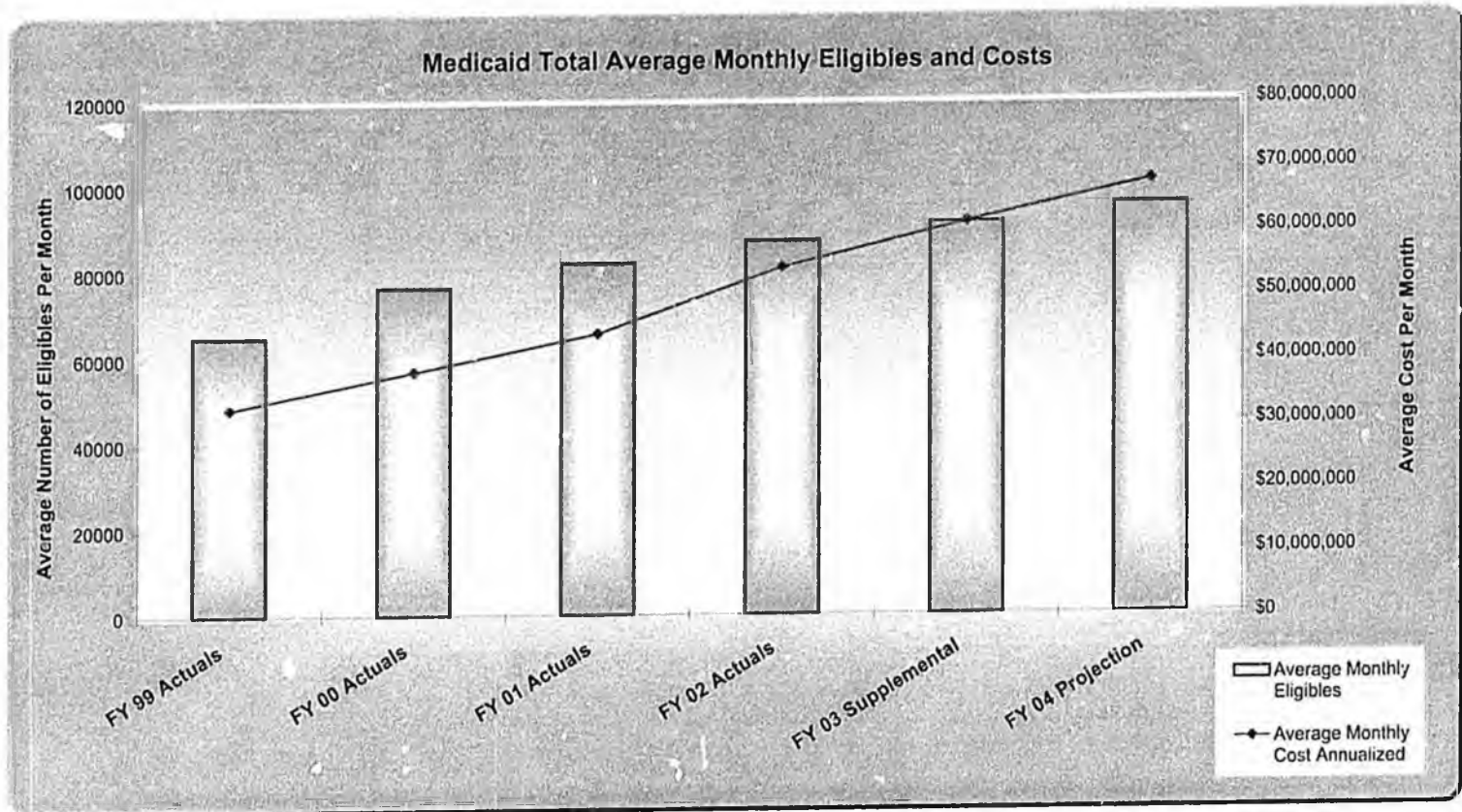


Division of Senior & Disability Services



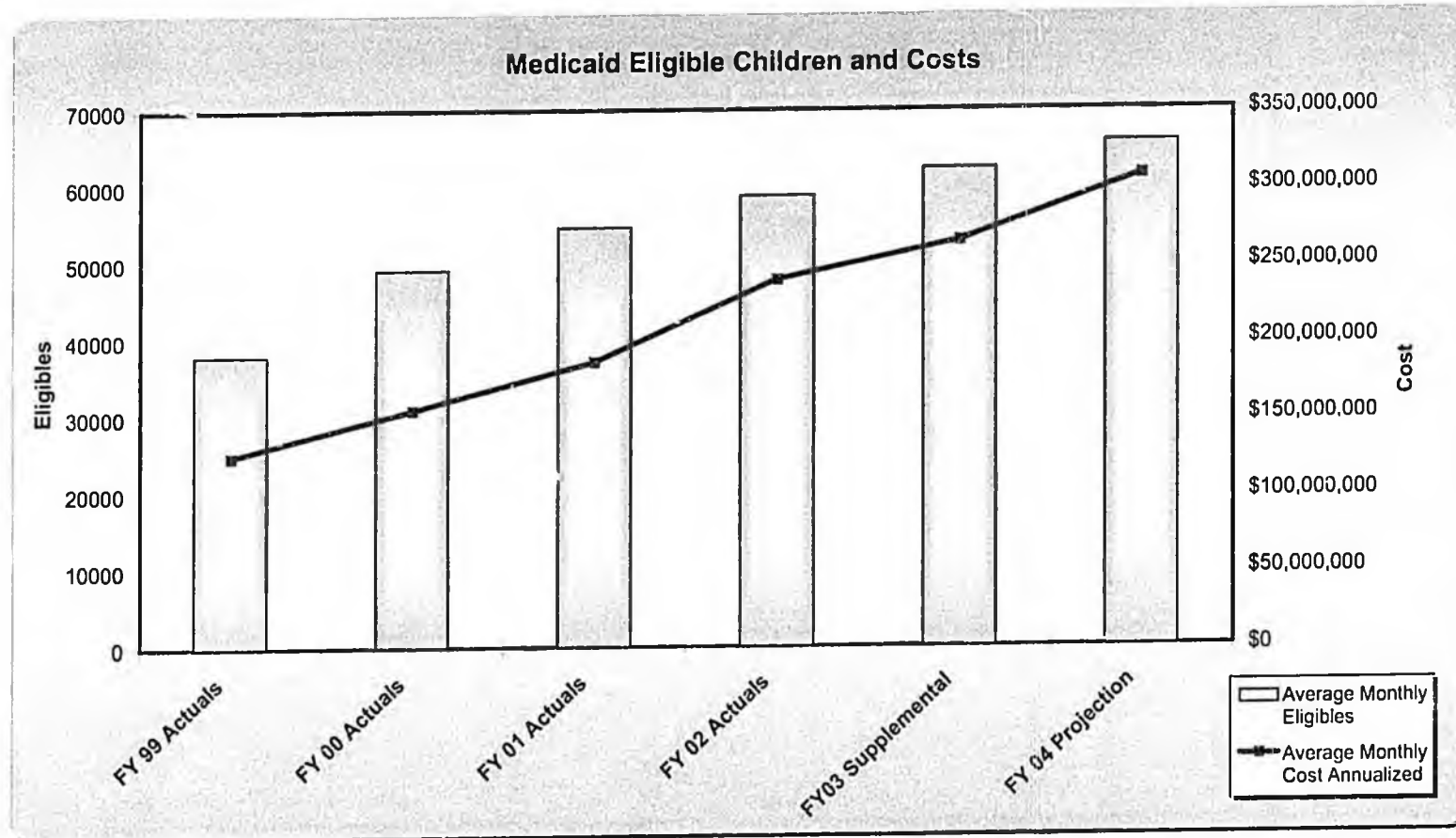
Division of Behavioral Health





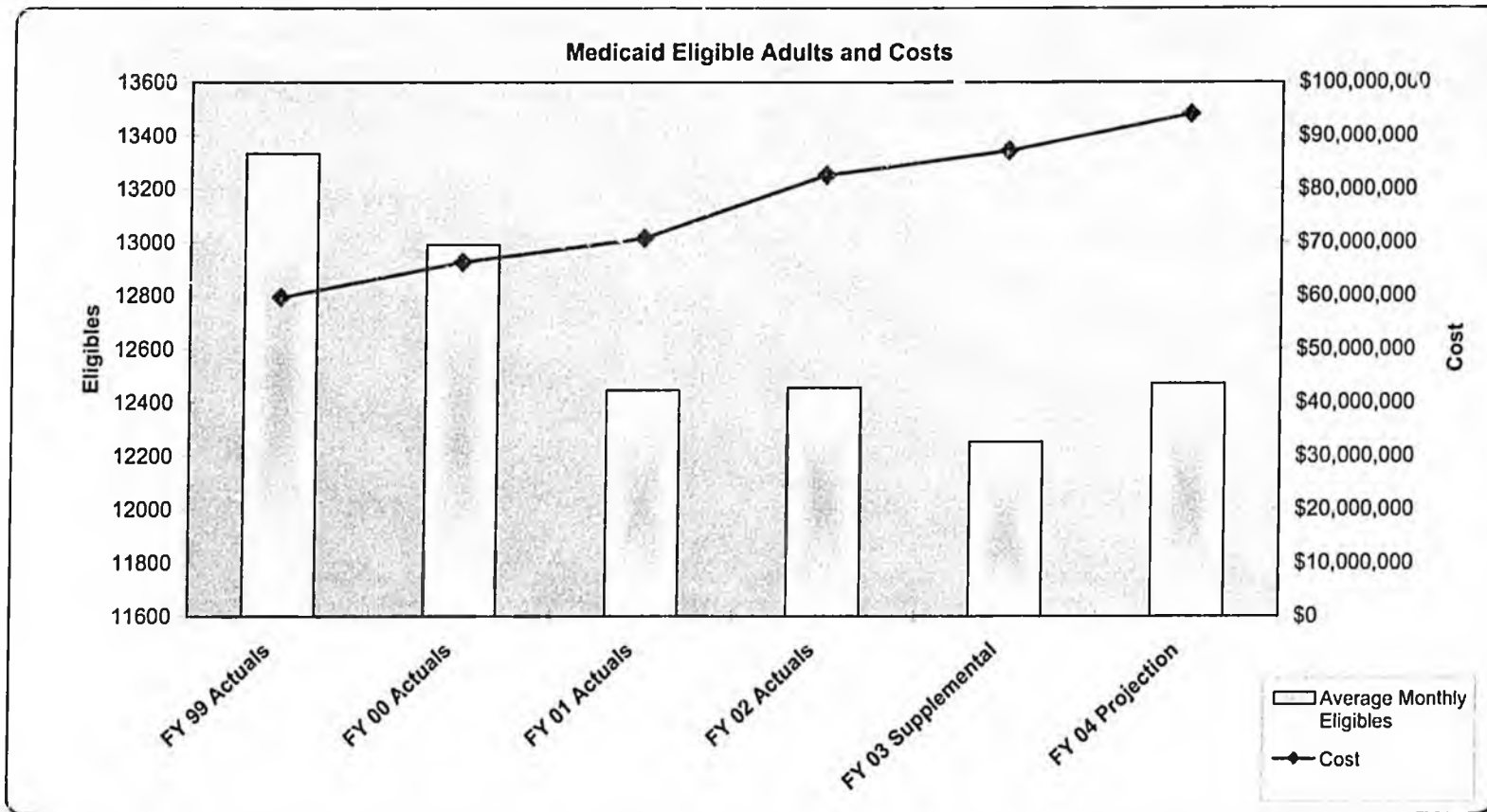
Total Services

	Average Monthly Eligibles	Eligible Rate of Growth	Average Monthly Cost Annualized	Expenditure Rate of Growth	Average CPMPM	CPMPM Rate of Growth	CPMP - Cost Per Member Per Month
FY 99 Actuals	65,451	4.32%	306,905,778	20.52%	\$494.85		Rate of Growth from Actuals
FY 00 Actuals	76,664	17.67%	455,591,752	17.75%	\$495.73	0.07%	Rate of Growth from Actuals
FY 01 Actuals	82,274	7.32%	525,843,557	15.42%	\$532.62	7.55%	Rate of Growth from Actuals
FY 02 Actuals	87,361	6.19%	648,959,988	23.41%	\$619.02	16.22%	Rate of Growth from Actuals
FY 03 Supplemental	91,521	4.76%	732,264,731	12.84%	\$666.75	7.71%	Rate of Growth from Actuals
FY 04 Projection	95,642	6.13%	808,594,135	11.96%	\$703.32	5.48%	Rate of Growth from Updated Projections



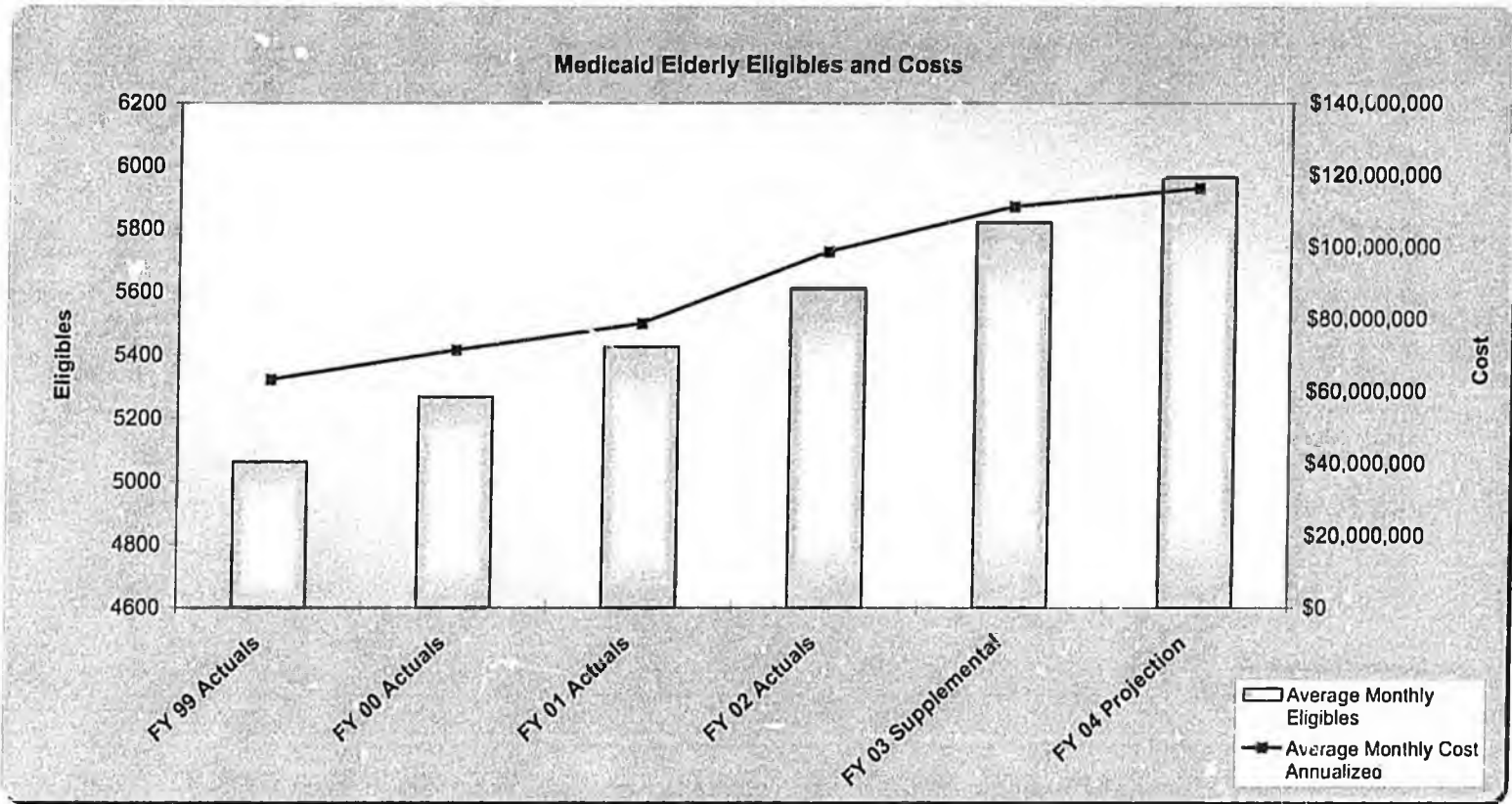
Total Children

	Average Monthly Eligibles	Eligible Rate of Growth	Average Monthly Cost Annualized	Expenditure Rate of Growth	Average CPMPM	CPMPM Rate of Growth	CPMP - Cost Per Member Per Month
FY 99 Actuals	38,001	5.23%	\$124,329,223	22.33%	\$272.65		Rate of Growth from Actuals
FY 00 Actuals	49,155	29.35%	\$154,625,058	24.37%	\$262.14	-3.85%	Rate of Growth from Actuals
FY 01 Actuals	54,602	11.08%	\$185,463,865	19.94%	\$283.05	7.98%	Rate of Growth from Actuals
FY 02 Actuals	58,749	7.5 %	\$238,817,428	28.77%	\$331.47	17.10%	Rate of Growth from Actuals
FY 03 Supplemental	62,268	5.99%	\$264,071,492	10.57%	\$353.41	6.62%	Rate of Growth from Actuals
FY 04 Projection	65,735	6.72%	\$306,716,404	19.95%	\$388.83	10.02%	Rate of Growth from Updated Projection



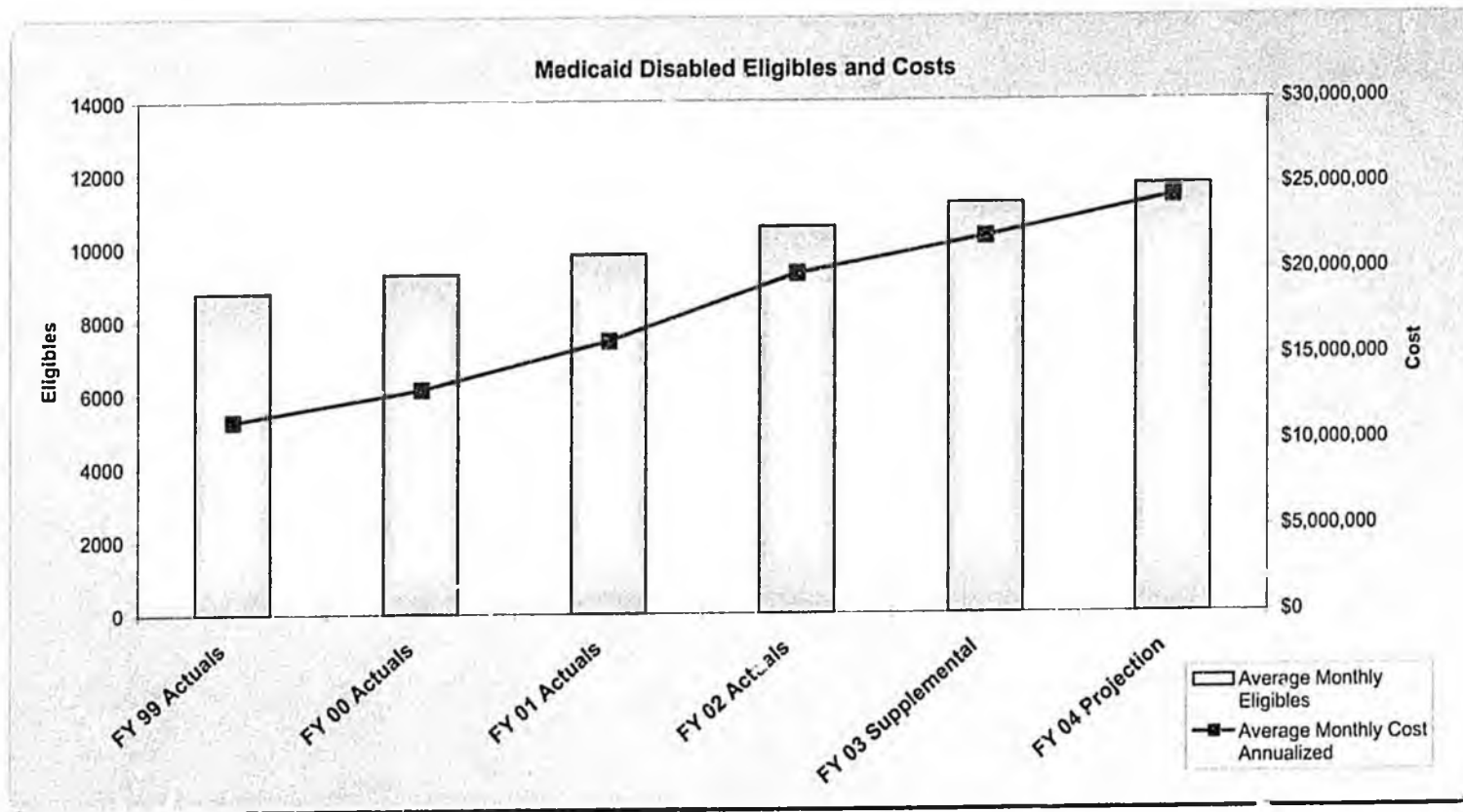
Adult Totals

	Average Monthly Eligibles	Eligible Rate of Growth	Average Monthly Cost Annualized	Expenditure Rate of Growth	Average CPMPM	CPMPM Rate of Growth	CPMP - Cost Per Member Per Month
FY 99 Actuals	13,303	1.04%	\$59,859,905	14.25%	\$372.87		Rate of Growth from Actuals
FY 00 Actuals	12,990	-2.57%	\$66,221,423	11.00%	\$424.81	13.93%	Rate of Growth from Actuals
FY 01 Actuals	12,445	-4.26%	\$70,684,200	6.74%	\$473.33	11.42%	Rate of Growth from Actuals
FY 02 Actuals	12,451	0.07%	\$82,319,165	16.73%	\$552.12	16.65%	Rate of Growth from Actuals
FY 03 Supplemental	12,252	-1.62%	\$67,103,260	5.57%	\$502.46	7.31%	Rate of Growth from Actuals
FY 04 Projection	12,471	3.95%	\$91,088,955	4.45%	\$628.21	6.03%	Rate of Growth from Updated Projection



Total Elderly

	Average Monthly Eligibles	Eligible Rate of Growth	Average Monthly Cost Annualized	Expenditure Rate of Growth	Average CPMPM	CPMPM Rate of Growth	CPMP - Cost Per Member Per Month
FY 99 Actuals	5,062	2.83%	\$63,269,319	13.00%	\$1,041.52		Rate of Growth from Actuals
FY 00 Actuals	5,268	4.06%	\$71,291,113	12.84%	\$1,129.36	8.43%	Rate of Growth from Actuals
FY 01 Actuals	5,426	3.00%	\$78,740,739	10.29%	\$1,209.33	7.08%	Rate of Growth from Actuals
FY 02 Actuals	5,612	3.42%	\$98,674,218	25.32%	\$1,462.78	20.96%	Rate of Growth from Actuals
FY 03 Supplemental	5,821	3.73%	\$111,184,414	6.86%	\$1,591.79	8.82%	Rate of Growth from Actuals
FY 04 Projection	5,964	3.82%	\$116,414,726	10.40%	\$1,626.54	2.18%	Rate of Growth from Updated Projection



Total Disabled

	Average Monthly Eligibles	Eligible Rate of Growth	Average Monthly Cost Annualized	Expenditure Rate of Growth	Average CPMPM	CPMPM Rate of Growth	CPMP - Cost Per Member Per Month
FY 99 Actuals	8,755	7.30%	\$11,5081,243	25.59%	\$1,295.63		Rate of Growth from Actuals
FY 00 Actuals	9,251	5.67%	\$11,7157,490	16.49%	\$1,417.49	10.24%	Rate of Growth from Actuals
FY 01 Actuals	9,501	5.95%	\$10,954,747	21.35%	\$1,623.54	14.54%	Rate of Growth from Actuals
FY 02 Actuals	10,550	7.54%	\$12,329,216	24.81%	\$1,882.55	15.95%	Rate of Growth from Actuals
FY 03 Supplemental	11,159	5.97%	\$20,904,965	19.64%	\$2,011.02	6.87%	Rate of Growth from Actuals
FY 04 Projection	11,727	6.40%	\$21,754,050	11.11%	\$2,052.94	3.54%	Rate of Growth from Updated Projection

Family Size					
	<u>100%</u>	<u>200%</u>	<u>192%</u>	<u>190%</u>	<u>188%</u>
1	\$924	\$1,847	\$1,775	\$1,756	\$1,738
2	\$1,245	\$2,498	\$2,391	\$2,366	\$2,341
3	\$1,565	\$3,130	\$3,005	\$2,974	\$2,943
4	\$1,886	\$3,772	\$3,622	\$3,584	\$3,546
5	\$2,207	\$4,414	\$4,238	\$4,194	\$4,150
6	\$2,528	\$5,055	\$4,854	\$4,804	\$4,753
7	\$2,849	\$5,697	\$5,471	\$5,414	\$5,357
8	\$3,170	\$6,339	\$6,087	\$6,023	\$5,960
Addl.	\$321	\$642	\$617	\$610	\$604

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
FAX: (907) 465-3068

March 6, 2003

Honorable Fred Dyson
Chairman
Senate Health, Education and Social Services Committee
Alaska State Capitol, Rm. 121
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Senator Dyson,

The Department of Health and Social Services respectfully requests a hearing in the Senate Health, Education and Social Services Committee on Senate Bill 105 "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 bill would "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.

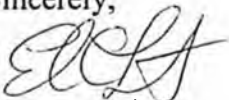
The next cost-of-living adjustment for Denali KidCare is scheduled to become effective on April 1, 2003. Therefore upon the July 1, 2003 effective date of this bill eligibility levels will be rolled-back by the 1.4% cost-of-living allowance implemented on April 1, 2003. For example, income eligibility 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. A fiscal note should already be on file with the committee.

Your favorable consideration of this request would be appreciated.

Sincerely,



Elmer A. Lindstrom
Special Assistant to the Commissioner

Cc: Mike Tibbles, Legislative Director
Office of the Governor

Virginia Stonkus, Acting Director
Division of Medical Assistance

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2003 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 1
 Bill Version: SB 105
 (S) Publish Date: 3/6/03
 Dept. Affected: Health & Social Services

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction):

Title INCOME ELIGIBILITY FOR CERTAIN
MEDICAID BENEFITS

BRU Medical Assistance
 Component Medicaid Services

Sponsor RULSE

Requester GOVERNOR

Component No. 2077

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

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

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims	(716.8)	(2,671.8)	(4,378.5)	(6,166.2)	(8,072.1)	(10,132.6)
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	(716.8)	(2,671.8)	(4,378.5)	(6,166.2)	(8,072.1)	(10,132.6)
CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
CHANGE IN REVENUES (0)						

FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts	(458.5)	(1,702.9)	(2,792.4)	(3,935.4)	(5,151.0)	(6,462.8)
1003 GF Match	(258.3)	(968.9)	(1,586.1)	(2,230.8)	(2,921.1)	(3,669.8)
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other(Specify Type-do not abbreviate)						
TOTAL	(716.8)	(2,671.8)	(4,378.5)	(6,166.2)	(8,072.1)	(10,132.6)

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:

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: Manager, Beneficiary Eligibility Policy Unit Date/Time 03/05/2003
 Approved by: Joel S. Gilbertson, Commissioner Date 03/05/2003
 Agency: Department of Health and Social Services

FISCAL NOTE

FN # 1

STATE OF ALASKA
2003 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. SB 105

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. 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.

The following table shows the total REDUCTION OF ELIGIBLES:

	FY04	FY05	FY06	FY07	FY08	FY09
Pregnant Women	31	80	127	174	219	263
Title XXI Children	61	157	250	342	431	519
Special Income	9	17	26	34	42	50
Total	101	254	403	550	692	832

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

SAVINGS (in thousands):

	FY04	FY05	FY06	FY07	FY08	FY09
Pg Women	\$ 124.4	\$ 466.6	\$ 806.2	\$ 1,202.7	\$ 1,647.8	\$ 2,155.5
Children	\$ 321.2	\$ 1,143.6	\$ 1,890.0	\$ 2,684.0	\$ 3,506.6	\$ 4,378.3
NIH/ICB	\$ 271.2	\$ 1,061.6	\$ 1,682.3	\$ 2,279.5	\$ 2,917.7	\$ 3,598.8
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.

Subject: SB105**Date: Wed, 26 Mar 2003 20:03:46 -0900****From: Cathy Giessel <cgiessel@mac.com>****To: Senator_Fred_Dyson@legis.state.ak.us**

Senator Dyson,

I was present at the LIO in Anchorage today for the HESS committee meeting.

I support what your committee is doing with SB 105, 109, and 108.

I just wanted to express one concern and that is with your amendment #2 to SB 105, to reduce the income amounts. I share your astonishment at the income caps. \$77,000 per year for a family of 8 is pretty high to me also! But with the quantities going into statute, I am concerned that lowering the 200% of poverty level criteria (in dollar amounts) will draw a lot of fire from liberals and others who do not want to see the dollar amounts in statute. I would urge you to reconsider letting the proposed levels go unchanged, in an effort to take a middle ground to those who would oppose the dollar amounts.

Instead I would advocate, with Senator Green, to implement the "asset test". As a nurse practitioner, I see families who have ample assets but by income qualify for Denali Kid Care (DKC) or Medicaid. It is a travesty! Mothers in full length fur coats with high diamond rings...and their child has Medicaid or DKC coverage!

I was interested in your discussion of the huge increase in enrollment in the Denali Kid Care program. As a health care provider at Alaska Native Medical Center, I was intrigued by the approach taken in that facility to personally encourage patients to enroll in DKC. All the children I cared for qualified for Indian Health Services, but, if the child did not have a 3rd party payer or Medicaid as well, a designated staff person met with them during their health care visit, to give them a DKC application and assist them in filling it out. I am wondering how much of the DKC enrollment increase is secondary to this population.

It is a tough job to hold down costs for these kinds of programs. I appreciate and respect your willingness to do the work you do.

Respectfully,

Cathy Giessel, MSN, FNP-CS
cgiessel@mac.com
12701 Ridgewood Rd
Anchorage, AK 99516

One way to keep momentum going is to have constantly greater goals. (M. Korda, American author)

2003 Federal Poverty Guidelines for Alaska

Family Size	Annual Poverty Guidelines Effective April 1, 2003			
	100%	150%	185%	200%
1	\$11,210	\$16,815	\$20,739	\$22,420
2	15,140	\$22,710	\$28,009	\$30,280
3	19,070	\$28,605	\$35,280	\$38,140
4	23,000	\$34,500	\$42,550	\$46,000
5	26,930	\$40,395	\$49,821	\$53,860
6	30,860	\$46,290	\$57,091	\$61,720
7	34,790	\$52,185	\$64,362	\$69,580
8	38,720	\$58,080	\$71,632	\$77,440
Addl.	3,930	\$5,895	\$7,271	\$7,860

Family Size							
	100%	120%	133%	135%	150%	155%	160%
1	\$934	\$1,121	\$1,243	\$1,261	\$1,401	\$1,448	\$1,495
2	\$1,262	\$1,514	\$1,679	\$1,704	\$1,893	\$1,956	\$2,019
3	\$1,590	\$1,907	\$2,114	\$2,146	\$2,384	\$2,463	\$2,543
4	\$1,917	\$2,300	\$2,550	\$2,588	\$2,875	\$2,971	\$3,067
5	\$2,245	\$2,693	\$2,985	\$3,030	\$3,367	\$3,479	\$3,591
6	\$2,572	\$3,086	\$3,421	\$3,472	\$3,858	\$3,986	\$4,115
7	\$2,900	\$3,479	\$3,856	\$3,914	\$4,349	\$4,494	\$4,639
8	\$3,227	\$3,872	\$4,292	\$4,356	\$4,840	\$5,001	\$5,163
Addl.	\$328	\$393	\$436	\$443	\$492	\$508	\$524

Family Size							
	165%	170%	175%	180%	182%	184%	185%
1	\$1,541	\$1,588	\$1,635	\$1,682	\$1,700	\$1,719	\$1,728
2	\$2,082	\$2,145	\$2,208	\$2,271	\$2,296	\$2,322	\$2,334
3	\$2,622	\$2,702	\$2,782	\$2,861	\$2,892	\$2,924	\$2,940
4	\$3,163	\$3,258	\$3,355	\$3,450	\$3,488	\$3,527	\$3,546
5	\$3,703	\$3,815	\$3,928	\$4,040	\$4,084	\$4,129	\$4,152
6	\$4,243	\$4,372	\$4,501	\$4,629	\$4,681	\$4,732	\$4,758
7	\$4,784	\$4,929	\$5,074	\$5,219	\$5,277	\$5,335	\$5,364
8	\$5,324	\$5,485	\$5,647	\$5,808	\$5,873	\$5,937	\$5,969
Addl.	\$540	\$557	\$574	\$590	\$596	\$603	\$606

Family Size								
	186%	188%	190%	192%	194%	196%	198%	200%
1	\$1,738	\$1,756	\$1,775	\$1,794	\$1,812	\$1,831	\$1,850	\$1,868
2	\$2,347	\$2,372	\$2,397	\$2,422	\$2,448	\$2,473	\$2,498	\$2,523
3	\$2,956	\$2,988	\$3,020	\$3,051	\$3,083	\$3,115	\$3,147	\$3,178
4	\$3,565	\$3,604	\$3,642	\$3,680	\$3,718	\$3,757	\$3,795	\$3,833
5	\$4,175	\$4,220	\$4,264	\$4,309	\$4,354	\$4,399	\$4,444	\$4,488
6	\$4,784	\$4,835	\$4,886	\$4,938	\$4,989	\$5,041	\$5,092	\$5,143
7	\$5,393	\$5,451	\$5,509	\$5,566	\$5,624	\$5,682	\$5,740	\$5,798
8	\$6,002	\$6,067	\$6,131	\$6,195	\$6,260	\$6,324	\$6,389	\$6,453
Addl.	\$610	\$616	\$622	\$629	\$635	\$642	\$649	\$655

Amendment # 2

Dyson

- Page 4
 - Line 9 -Delete 3130, Insert 3000
 - Line 11 --Delete 3772, Insert 3500
 - Line 13 --Delete 4414, Insert 4000
 - Line 14 -Delete 5055, Insert 4400
 - Line 15 -Delete 5697, Insert 4900
 - Line 17 -Delete 6339, Insert 5400
 - Line 19 -Delete 6339, Insert 5400
 - Line 19 -Delete 642, Insert 500

- Page 4
 - Line 27 -Delete 3130, Insert 3000
 - Line 31 --Delete 3772, Insert 3500
- Page 5
 - Line 2 --Delete 4414, Insert 4000
 - Line 3 -Delete 5055, Insert 4400
 - Line 4 -Delete 5697, Insert 4900
 - Line 6 -Delete 6339, Insert 5400
 - Line 8 -Delete 6339, Insert 5400
 - Line 8 -Delete 642, Insert 500

**SENATE COMMITTEE REPORT
First Committee of Referral**

TE: 3/6/03

FURTHER: Finance

Period of 5-Day Notice: _____
in accordance with Uniform Rule 23)

DATE TURNED
IN TO OFFICE: 4.07.03

Health, Education and Social Services Committee considered

SENATE BILL NO. 105

SB 105 MEDICAID:CHILDREN/PREGNANT WOMEN/FACILITY

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."

Committee recommends:

- be replaced with _____ CS SB 105 (HES)
- adopt previous _____ CS _____ (_____)
- attached amendment(s)
- adopt Letter of Intent by _____ Committee
- further referral to _____ Committee

Senate Bill:

- same title
- new title

House Bill:

- same title
- technical title
- new: SCR # _____

NEW FISCAL NOTE(S):

PREVIOUS FISCAL NOTE(S):

Department	Date	Fiscal	Zero	FN#

Department	Date	Fiscal	Zero	FN#
HSS	3/05	X		1

APPROPRIATION - no fiscal note

SIGNATURES AND RECOMMENDATIONS:	Do PASS	DO NOT PASS	No REC	AMEND
<i>[Signature]</i> Guess		✓		
<i>[Signature]</i> Green	✓			
<i>[Signature]</i> Dyson	✓			
<i>[Signature]</i> Wilken	✓			
<i>[Signature]</i> Davis		✓		
CHAR:				

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ALASKA PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION

Committed To Advancing Alaska's Public Health Since 1978

ALPHA

April 3, 2003

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 Alaskans, including assuring all Alaskans have access to health care. We are concerned that SB 105 takes us in the wrong direction.

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. SB 105 is an attempt to begin to reduce eligibility, first by eliminating the cost of inflation adjustments in the federal poverty level rates, and if proposed amendments are approved, reducing the eligibility further below 200% federal poverty level. With a stroke of a pen, SB 105 has a negative impact on the health of pregnant women and children in Alaska, not to mention others receiving medical assistance support. A small cost savings to the state, the impact of health outcomes of losing insurance is "penny wise, yet pound foolish..."

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.

In the Governor's transmittal letter he 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 of pregnant women and children.

We urge you to 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 now 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, thereby 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 takes steps 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
Alaska Public Health Association

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