

HB

105

HFIN

FILE

HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

(11)

Date Referred to Committee: February 11, 2005

FURTHER REFERRALS:

Date of Committee Action: 4/16/06

The FINANCE Committee considered:

HB 105

HOUSE BILL NO. 105

MEDICAID FOR ADULT DENTAL SERVICES

"An Act relating to coverage for adult dental services under Medicaid; and providing for an effective date."

Recommends it be replaced with [] HCS or [] CS for HB 105 (FIN)
 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 Finance Committee

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

<u>NEW FISCAL NOTES</u>				
*Assigned by Chief Clerk's Office				
List by Dept(s):	*FN#	Fiscal	Indet.	Zero
<u>DEPT</u>				
<u>DHSS</u>		✓		

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

<u>Signing with recommendations</u>	Printed Last Name	DP	DNP	NR	AM
<u>Moffatt</u>	Hawker	*			
<u>Bruce Weyhrauch</u>	Weyhrauch	X			
<u>Kelly</u>	Kelly			X	
<u>Kertula</u>	Kertula	✓			
<u>Stacy Meyer</u>	Stacy Meyer	✓			
Chair: <u>K. Meyer</u>	Meyer				✓
Chair:					✓

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Representative Mike Chenault
Co-Chairman
(907) 465-3779

Fax: (907) 465-2833

Representative_Mike_Chenault@legis.state.ak.us

145 Main St, Loop #223
Kenai, Alaska 99611



Representative Kevin Meyer
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716 W. 4th Avenue
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

State Capitol, Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Letter of Intent
House Finance Committee
CS HB 105 (FIN) Medicaid for Adult Dental
Adopted April 6, 2006

By adopting this bill, it is the intent of the House Finance Committee to increase adult dental care services for an eligible recipient of Medicaid under AS 47.07 to ensure that services critical to a recipient are implemented first, while controlling the overall growth of the costs of the increase in services.

It is the intent of the House Finance Committee that the Department of Health and Social Services implement the increase in adult dental care services authorized by HB 105 by adopting regulations consistent with the department's obligation to contain the costs of increased services in order to provide these services within appropriation limits.

It is also the intent of the House Finance Committee that the department implement measures to contain costs, which may include, but are not limited to, establishing the scope of services that are eligible for payment of preventative and restorative dental care for eligible recipients.

Handwritten signature of Representative Kevin Meyer in black ink.

Representative Kevin Meyer
Co-Chairman, House Finance Committee

Handwritten signature of Representative Mike Chenault in black ink.

Representative Mike Chenault
Co-Chairman, House Finance Committee

THE
FOLLOWING
DOCUMENT(S)
ARE
POOR
ORIGINAL
COPIES

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2006 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: _____
 Bill Version: _____
 () Publish Date: HB105CS(FIN)-DHSS-DHCS-04-06-06
 Dept. Affected: Health & Social Services

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): _____
 Title: ADULT DENTAL COVERAGE UNDER MEDICAID

RDU: Health Care Services
 Component: Medicaid Services

Sponsor: (RLS) BY REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR

Requester: HOUSE (FIN)

Component No.: 2077

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

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

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2	FY 2012
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims	2,633.0	10,292.0	10,133.8			
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	2,633.0	10,292.0	10,133.8	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
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CHANGE IN REVENUES (0)						
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FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts	1,988.3	7,557.8	7,323.8			
1003 GF Match	219.7	1,309.2	1,385.0			
1004 GF						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
1091 MHTAAR	425.0	1,425.0	1,425.0			
Other(Specify Type-do not abbreviate)						
TOTAL	2,633.0	10,292.0	10,133.8	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2006) cost: _____

Mark this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2007 budget proposal:

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Historically Medicaid Dental Benefits for recipients 21 years or older, have been limited to immediate relief of pain and acute infection. Routine preventive or restorative services have not been covered.

Under this bill, Dental Benefits for Adults would be expanded to include preventive and restorative care up to a cap of \$1,150 per person annually. Examples of services that could be provided at that level are: one exam, 4 bitewing radiographs, cleaning and about 8 restorations or extractions, or: one exam and an upper or lower full denture.

This bill has a sunset clause in FY2009. (cont. on page 2)

Prepared by: Sherry Hill, Special Assistant
 Division: Office of the Commissioner
 Approved by: Karleen Jackson, Commissioner
 Agency: Department of Health and Social Services

Phone: 465-1618
 Date/Time: 04/06/2006
 Date: 04/06/2006

FISCAL NOTE
FN #

STATE OF ALASKA
2006 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

ANALYSIS CONTINUATION

It is estimated that approximately 41,000 individuals would be eligible for the expanded Medicaid Dental Benefits, including adults with disabilities and seniors. Not all eligible individuals will seek dental benefits, and those that do will utilize services at varying rates.

Of the 41,000 eligible persons, about 25% are Alaska Native and 28% are Mental Health Trust clients. Fifty percent of the eligible Alaska Natives would utilize the service from the outset as most are already connected with tribal dental programs and have good access to care. About 35% of the Mental Health Trust clients are expected to access dental care initially given that the Trust and grantee programs serving these clients will advocate for them and assist clients in getting appointments. Participation in the program by non-Native, non-Trust adults will ramp up slowly with 15% of eligible persons utilizing the service in the first year, 25% in the second year, and 35% in the third year. Overall there will be an estimated 12,000 participants in the first year (29% of eligible adults), 14,000 in the second year (34%), and 15,800 in the third year (39%).

Based on the assumptions below on utilization of dental benefits, the weighted average benefit for a full fiscal year is about \$730 per recipient. Of adult recipients that access dental care it is estimated that:

- o 15% will receive up to \$250 in benefits
- o 25% will receive up to \$500 in benefits
- o 25% will receive up to \$750 in benefits
- o 20% will receive up to \$1,000 in benefits
- o 15% will receive the maximum \$1,150 in benefits.

These utilization rates are based on provider capacity (the extent of dental access through tribal and community health center dental programs, and the extent of private dental participation in the Medicaid program) Because of the limited number of dentists and available appointments for new clients, some adults will only be able to get in to see the dentist once or twice in a year. Treatment needs also affect utilization rates (not all eligible individuals will seek dental benefits, and those that do will utilize services at varying rates.)

It is anticipated that the program will be operational the last quarter of FY07 so costs in that year are 25% of the full year's costs and adjusted 20% higher to allow for pent up demand. A 3% growth in utilization is included in FY08 & FY09 to reflect possible increases in eligible adults and/or an increased percentage of adults accessing the dental services in the first few years. Adults on the program for several years would eventually have their major treatment needs met and move to a "maintenance" level of care (e.g., routine exam and cleanings but less restorative needs and less dental emergencies).

It is anticipated that this service expansion will reduce dental emergency services; however there will always be adults who avoid the dentist until there is an acute need. Because the service would not be implemented until the 4th quarter of FY07, claims for emergency dental services will likely remain the same in FY07. In the second year emergency dental services would be reduced 25%, or about \$500.0. In the third year emergency dental services would be 50% of current costs, or about \$1,000.0

Factoring in those individuals who are eligible for 100% federal reimbursement, the federal contribution (through FY 2009) will cover approximately 72-76% of the cost.

24-GH1081AF
Mischel
4/5/06

adopted 4/6/06

CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 105()
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY

Offered:
Referred:

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

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act relating to coverage for adult dental services under Medicaid; and providing
2 for an effective date."

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

4 * Section 1. The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section
5 to read:

6 PURPOSE; INTENT. (a) The purpose of this Act is to increase adult dental care
7 services for an eligible recipient of Medicaid under AS 47.07 to ensure that services critical to
8 a recipient are implemented first, while controlling the overall growth of the costs of the
9 increase in services.

10 (b) It is the intent of the legislature that the Department of Health and Social Services
11 implement the increase in adult dental care services authorized by this Act through the
12 adoption of regulations consistent with the department's obligation to contain the costs of the
13 increased services in order to provide the services within appropriation limits. It is further the
14 intent of the legislature that the Department of Health and Social Services implement

1 mechanisms to contain costs, which may include establishing a maximum amount of benefits
2 for each eligible recipient in a fiscal year for the services and specifying the scope of the
3 services.

4 * **Sec. 2.** AS 47.07 is amended by adding a new section to read:

5 **Sec. 47.07.067. Payment for adult dental services.** (a) The department shall
6 pay for preventative and restorative adult dental services provided under
7 AS 47.07.030(b) and under regulations adopted by the commissioner in conformity
8 with applicable federal requirements and this chapter. Regulations adopted under this
9 section must include the following:

10 (1) a maximum amount of benefits for preventative and restorative
11 adult dental services of \$1,150 for each eligible recipient in a fiscal year; this
12 paragraph does not apply to minimum treatment for the immediate relief of pain and
13 acute infection provided by a licensed dentist; and

14 (2) specification of the scope of coverage for preventative and
15 restorative adult dental services.

16 (b) As used in this section, "minimum treatment" means the application or
17 prescription of a medication or material deemed necessary by the dentist for the
18 palliative treatment of pain or for the reduction of the spread of infection.

19 * **Sec. 3.** AS 47.07.900 is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:

20 (20) "adult dental services" means minimum treatment for the
21 immediate relief of pain and acute infection provided by a licensed dentist.

22 * **Sec. 4.** AS 47.07.900(1) is repealed.

23 * **Sec. 5.** AS 47.07.067, as added in sec. 2 of this Act, is repealed June 30, 2009.

24 * **Sec. 6.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
25 read:

26 **TRANSITION: REGULATIONS.** The Department of Health and Social Services may
27 proceed to adopt regulations necessary to implement the changes made by this Act. The
28 regulations take effect under AS 44.62 (Administrative Procedure Act), but not before the
29 effective date of the statutory changes.

30 * **Sec. 7.** Section 3 of this Act takes effect July 1, 2009.

31 * **Sec. 8.** Section 6 of this Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).

1

* Sec. 9. Except as provided in secs. 7 and 8 of this Act, this Act takes effect July 1, 2006.

relegated

4/6

*Weyhrauch
Amendments*

24-GH1081F
Mischel
4/5/06

CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 105()

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY

Offered:
Referred:

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

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

"An Act relating to coverage for adult dental services under Medicaid; and providing for an effective date."

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

* Section 1. The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to read:

~~PURPOSE. INTENT~~ *It is the intent of the Committee*
(a) The purpose of this Act is to increase adult dental care services for an eligible recipient of Medicaid under AS 47.07 to ensure that services critical to a recipient are implemented first, while controlling the overall growth of the costs of the increase in services.

also
committee
adopting
It is the intent of the ~~legislature~~ *committee* that the Department of Health and Social Services implement the increase in adult dental care services authorized by ~~this Act~~ *HB 105* through the ~~adoption of~~ *by* regulations consistent with the department's obligation to contain the costs of the increased services in order to provide the services within appropriation limits. It is ~~the~~ *Committee's* intent of the ~~legislature~~ that the Department of Health and Social Services implement

measure
~~mechanisms~~ to contain costs, which may include ^{but not be limited to,} establishing a maximum amount of benefits for each eligible recipient in a fiscal year for the services and specifying the scope of the services.

~~* Sec. 2. AS 47.07 is amended by adding a new section to read:~~

~~Sec. 47.07.067. Payment for adult dental services. (a) The department shall pay for preventative and restorative adult dental services provided under AS 47.07.030(b) and under regulations adopted by the commissioner in conformity with applicable federal requirements and this chapter. Regulations adopted under this section must include the following:~~

~~(1) a maximum amount of benefits for preventative and restorative adult dental services of \$1,150 for each eligible recipient in a fiscal year; this paragraph does not apply to minimum treatment for the immediate relief of pain and acute infection provided by a licensed dentist; and~~

~~(2) specification of the scope of coverage for preventative and restorative adult dental services.~~

~~(b) As used in this section, "minimum treatment" means the application or prescription of a medication or material deemed necessary by the dentist for the palliative treatment of pain or for the reduction of the spread of infection.~~

~~* Sec. 3. AS 47.07.900 is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:~~

~~(20) "adult dental services" means minimum treatment for the immediate relief of pain and acute infection provided by a licensed dentist.~~

~~* Sec. 4. AS 47.07.900(1) is repealed.~~

~~* Sec. 5. AS 47.07.067, as added in sec. 2 of this Act, is repealed June 30, 2009.~~

~~* Sec. 6. The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to read:~~

~~TRANSITION: REGULATIONS. The Department of Health and Social Services may proceed to adopt regulations necessary to implement the changes made by this Act. The regulations take effect under AS 44.62 (Administrative Procedure Act), but not before the effective date of the statutory changes.~~

~~* Sec. 7. Section 3 of this Act takes effect July 1, 2009.~~

~~* Sec. 8. Section 6 of this Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).~~

passed file

4/6/2006
(2:27 PM)

AMENDMENT

Rep.
BY Meyer *By Request*

OFFERED IN THE HOUSE FINANCE
COMMITTEE
TO: CSHB 105

1 Page 2, line 6, following "for":
2 Insert: "minimum treatment and for"
3

4 Page 2, lines 11 - 13, following "year;":
5 Delete "this paragraph does not apply to minimum treatment for the immediate relief of
6 pain and acute infection provided by a licensed dentist;"
7

8 Page 2, line 17
9 After "by"
10 Insert "a licensed"
11 Delete "the"

12
13 Page 2, line 18:
14 Delete "palliative treatment"
15 Insert "immediate relief"

16
17 Page 2, line 18
18 After "pain"
19 Delete "or for the reduction of the"
20 Insert "and or reduce the"

21

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2006 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: _____
 Bill Version: HB105CS(HES)-DHSS-DHCS-01-25-06
 () Publish Date: _____
 Dept. Affected: Health & Social Services
 RDU Health Care Services
 Component Medicaid Services

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): _____
 Title ADULT DENTAL COVERAGE UNDER MEDICAID

Sponsor (RLS) BY REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR

Requester HOUSE (FIN)

Component No 2077

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

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

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims	3,469.4	11,548.1	11,912.5	11,081.4	10,814.9	11,166.7
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	3,469.4	11,548.1	11,912.5	11,081.4	10,814.9	11,166.7

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
CHANGE IN REVENUES (0)						

FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts	2,285.1	7,608.7	7,790.9	7,212.5	7,058.8	7,356.6
1003 GF Match	759.3	2,514.4	2,696.6	2,818.9	3,056.1	3,460.1
1004 GF						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
1092 MHTAAR	425.0	1,425.0	1,425.0	1,050.0	700.0	350.0
Other(Specify Type-do not abbreviate)						
TOTAL	3,469.4	11,548.1	11,912.5	11,081.4	10,814.9	11,166.7

Estimate of any current year (FY2006) cost: _____

Mark this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2007 budget proposal:

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Historically Medicaid Dental Benefits for recipients 21 years or older, have been limited to immediate relief of pain and acute infection. Routine preventive or restorative services have not been covered.

Under this bill, Dental Benefits for Adults would be expanded to include preventive and restorative care up to a cap of \$1,150 per person annually. Examples of services that could be provided at that level are: one exam, 4 bitewing radiographs, cleaning and about 8 restorations or extractions, or: one exam and an upper or lower full denture.

con't on next page

Prepared by: Janet Clarke, Assistant Commissioner
 Division: Finance and Management Services
 Approved by: Karleen Jackson, Commissioner
 Agency: Department of Health and Social Services

Phone: 907-261-1630
 Date/Time: 01/24/2006
 Date: 01/25/2006

FISCAL NOTE
FN #

STATE OF ALASKA
2006 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. HB105CS(HES)-DHSS-DHCS-01-25-06

ANALYSIS CONTINUATION
Analysis Con't

It is estimated that approximately 41,000 individuals would be eligible for the expanded Medicaid Dental Benefits, including adults with disabilities and seniors. Not all eligible individuals will seek dental benefits, and those that do will utilize services at varying rates. Of the 41,000 eligible persons, 50% of Alaska Native adults and 35% of non-Native adults are expected to access dental care - about 15,800 individuals.

Based on the assumptions below on utilization of dental benefits, the weighted average benefit for a full fiscal year is about \$730 per recipient.

- Of adult recipients that access dental care it is estimated that:
 - 15% will receive up to \$250 in benefits
 - 25% will receive up to \$500 in benefits
 - 25% will receive up to \$750 in benefits
 - 20% will receive up to \$1,000 in benefits
 - 15% will receive the maximum \$1,150 in benefits.

The SFY08 estimated expenditure for a full year (\$11,548.1) represents the costs for the 15,800 individuals projected to receive the additional benefit at an estimated weighted average cost of \$730.

These utilization rates are based on provider capacity (the extent of dental access through tribal and community health center dental programs, and the extent of private dental participation in the Medicaid program) and treatment needs (not all eligible individuals will seek dental benefits, and those that do will utilize services at varying rates.)

Factoring in those individuals who are eligible for 100% federal reimbursement, the federal contribution (through FY 2012) will cover approximately 66% of the costs. State GF will constitute about 25% and Mental Health Trust about 9% of the matching funds.

It is anticipated that the program will be operational the last quarter of FY07 so costs in that year are calculated at approximately 25% of FY08 costs and adjusted higher to allow for pent up demand.

A 3% growth in utilization is included to reflect possible increases in eligible adults and/or an increased percentage of adults accessing the dental services. This utilization is partially offset by projected lower expenses in FY10, FY11 & FY12 under the assumption that adults on the program for several years would eventually have their major treatment needs met and move to a "maintenance" level of care (e.g., routine exam and cleanings but less restorative needs and less dental emergencies).

It is anticipated that this service expansion will reduce dental emergencies, however there will always be adults who avoid the dentist until there is an acute need. Because the service would not be implemented until the 4th quarter of FY07, claims for emergency dental services will likely remain the same in FY07.

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

Alaska Commission on Aging

February 7, 2005

The Honorable Peggy Wilson, Chair
House H.E.S.S. Committee
State Capitol Room 108
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Re: HB 105, Adult Dental Services Medicaid Program

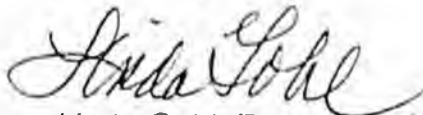
Dear Representative Wilson:

The members of the Alaska Commission on Aging would like to voice their support for passage of the Governor's Medicaid for Adult Dental Services Bill, HB 105. The Commission is charged with making recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature with respect to legislation, regulations and appropriations for programs and/or services that support the health and well-being of older Alaskans.

While HB 105 proposes dental coverage for all adults who are Medicaid eligible and not just for seniors, the Commission believes this bill will be particularly helpful to our most needy and vulnerable older Alaskans who receive their medical care through Medicaid services. There is extensive research which shows a correlation between good dental health and longevity. Dental health has also been linked to overall physical and emotional well-being. The Governor's proposed bill would fill an important gap in Alaska's continuum of care for older Alaskans as it will provide preventative care and one set of dentures per year, which would add up to cost savings in the future.

The members of the Commission on Aging respectfully ask your consideration and support for passage of HB105 and sufficient funding to ensure this program is successful.

Sincerely,



Linda Gohl, Executive Director
Alaska Commission on Aging

FRANK H. MURKOWSKI
GOVERNOR

P.O. BOX 110593

JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811-0693

PHONE (907) 465-3250

FAX (907) 465-1398



FRANK H. MURKOWSKI, GOVERNOR
State of Alaska

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL EDUCATION.

P.O. Box 240249 • Anchorage, Alaska 99524-0249 • Phone: 907-269-8990 • Fax: 907-269-8985 • Toll Free 800-3-269-8990

February 10, 2005

The Honorable Representative Peggy Wilson, Chair
House Committee on Health, Education & Social Services
State Capital, Room 108
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Re: HB 105 Adult Dental Services

Dear Representative Wilson:

The Governor's Council on Disabilities & Special Education is in full support of HB 105 which will provide critical dental care for adults through Medicaid. This bill will include preventive and restorative dental services to a capped amount of \$1,150 per year. This legislation is among the top three legislative priorities for the Council, which has long advocated for dental coverage.

Adult individuals with developmental disabilities are among those currently not receiving dental services. As most individuals with developmental disabilities are Medicaid recipients, this service is currently unavailable to the majority of those the Council represents. In addition, the limited amount of financial resources people with developmental disabilities can earn and save, makes it very difficult to afford any dental care.

Healthy teeth are essential for proper nutrition and good general health, as well as for employability and general appearance. Some individuals with developmental disabilities take medications that complicate their dental health, so this population in particular, has a high need for dental care. With the commitment of a \$5 million contribution from the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority over five years as well as the federal match, the State is able to minimize its cost. Over time, the State's investment, coupled with the Trust funded donated dental and dental training programs, will significantly reduce the cost for emergency dental services.

In summary, the Council urges adoption of the Governor's legislation to include adult preventive dental coverage under Medicaid.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Beth Edmands".

Beth Edmands
Chair

Creating Change That Improves The Lives Of People With Disabilities



TANANA CHIEFS CONFERENCE
Health Services Dental Clinic
Dr. Michael Kwasinski, Director
Chief Peter John Tribal Building
122 First Ave.
Fairbanks, AK 99701
(907) 452-8251 Fax: 459-3837
Toll Free in Alaska 1-800-478-7822

10 February 2005

TO: Fairbanks Legislative Information
FROM: Dr. Michael Kwasinski, Director TCC Dental Clinic
RE: Medicaid Adult Dental Services - HB 105

Medicaid adult dental services now only cover services for pain or acute infection. Many times by the time a tooth hurts or is infected, it is too late to do anything but, extract the tooth. Once individuals begin losing their teeth self-sufficiency often becomes more of an obstacle, particularly in the job market. Also, it is more difficult to eat a balanced diet, possibly leading to other health problems. Only very soft foods are eaten; leaving out fruits and vegetables and many times meat. This is especially difficult with a subsistence diet.

TCC Dental Services supports the expansion of adult dental services covered by Medicaid, HB 105. Access to dental exams, x-rays, fillings, and dentures would assist in preventing the loss of teeth due to infection. Dental cleaning would prevent the loss of teeth due to periodontal disease. Medicaid recipients would be better able to maintain a healthy diet and keep an adequate presentation of their smile, important to self-esteem and self-sufficiency in today's competitive work force.

Please feel free to contact me at 907-4552-8251 x3207 for further clarification. Thank you.

CAPT Michael Kwasinski DDS
U.S.P.H.S. Dental Corps

Our Vision

Healthy People across Generations.

Our Mission

TCC Health Services, in partnership with those we serve, promotes and enhances spiritual, physical, mental and emotional wellness through education, prevention and the delivery of quality services.



NFDH

NATIONAL FOUNDATION
OF DENTISTRY
FOR THE HANDICAPPED

A charitable affiliate of the
American Dental Association

1400 14th Street
Suite 100
Denver, Colorado 80202
Phone: 303/934-5360
Fax: 303/934-5290
www.nfdh.org

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Chairman

Gary Pinner
Vice Chairman

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Treasurer/Accounts Secretary

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Secretary

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President of CDO

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Linda Childers
Cynthia Johnson, DDC, F.A.
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Thomas Hoyer, DDM, MS
Thomas Goyette, DDM
Richard Hough, DDS

Robert Thore, DDD
George Olin
Jeffrey Peterson
Francis Fennel, PhD
William Powell, DDM, MS
James Bruchman, DDM
Anthony Vulpes, DDS
William Wolf

Don Brown, DDS
Cynthia Knight, DDC

Markus M. M...
ADA President
American Dental Association (ADA)
American Dental Trade Association
Fidgen Pediatric Company
Fisher Food, Inc. (M...)
Kemp International
ADA - Alaska

**National Foundat
Dentistry for the
Handicapped**

Fax

To:	Milia Ryan	From:	Fred Leviton
Fax:	907 268-8905	Date:	February 10, 2005
Phone:		Pages:	Cover
Re:	Testimony on HB 105	CC:	[Click here and type name]

The House Committee on Education and Social Services

The Foundation of Dentistry for the Handicapped (FDH) supports HB 105 that would increase dental services for Alaska's Medicaid recipients. Since 1984, our organization - with the Alaska Dental Society- has provided dental care to many Medicaid recipients who are disabled or elderly through a network of 77 dentists throughout Alaska who each donate treatment for one or two such individuals each year through the Alaska Donated Dental Services (DDS) program.

Because of their ages or disabilities, these people cannot work or earn minimal incomes and cannot afford dental care. Mr. M. from Anchorage is one of the disabled and aged people helped through the DDS program. This 38 year-old man has struggled with three serious and persistent mental illnesses for most of his adult life - Schizoaffective Disorder, Depression, and Anxiety Disorder. Making his life even more difficult, he also is challenged with Glaucoma. Mr. M. applied for help because he was experiencing constant pain and difficulty chewing due to the poor condition of his teeth. His total monthly income from SSI, Alaska Public Assistance, and a part time job is \$949, which is barely enough to pay for his housing, food, medications, and transportation. Paying for costly dental treatment was out of the question for him.

Through a caring dentist who volunteers for the DDS program, Mr. M. was referred to a generous

volunteer dentist who donated the care he so desperately needed: several extractions, restorations, scaling, and a partial denture.

Since 1994, over 1,000 people have applied for help through the DDS program because they had no where else to turn for needed care for seriously-neglected problems. Though some are not qualified for Medicaid because their income is a little too high for eligibility, many others are Medicaid recipients who were suffering because Medicaid has not paid for needed dental care.

Even if the state were to include such treatment in the public aid program, many others would not qualify and we could still serve some through the Donated Dental Services program. Many others who we cannot help and are so vulnerable would benefit enormously from the passage of HB 105 as I could get care before their problems progressed to where Mr. M. found himself needing over \$5,000 worth of treatment and suffering so much. We hope the Legislature can pass HB 105.



April 3, 2006

The Honorable Mike Chenault, Co-Chair
House Finance Committee
Alaska State Capitol, Room 505
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

The Honorable Kevin Meyer, Co-Chair
House Finance Committee
Alaska State Capitol, Room 515
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

RE: HB 105 (Governor Murkowski)—Support

Dear Co-Chairs Chenault and Meyer:

On behalf of the members of AARP in Alaska, we encourage you and your colleagues on the House Health, Education and Social Services Committee to support HB 105, introduced by the House Rules Committee at the request of Governor Murkowski.

Under Alaska's current Medicaid program, the only dental coverage offered adult beneficiaries is for emergency care. HB 105 would offer funding, albeit annually capped at \$1,150, which would begin to address preventive and restorative care. Currently, for example, an older Alaskan on Medicaid who resides in a long term care facility and needs dentures would not be able to secure them under the program. Older persons who have dental problems, missing teeth, or are in need of dentures often have accompanying nutrition problems. These nutrition problems can exacerbate other health issues and create an overall deterioration in health status. We believe dental care is essential to quality health care. Funding for dental care should be considered sensible prevention with the long term possibility of saving Medicaid funds that would not be need to be spent on more serious health care problems resulting from poor oral health status.

We urge an "AYE" vote on HB 105.

Should you have any questions about our position, please feel free to contact me (586-3637) or Patrick Luby, AARP Advocacy Director (907-762-3314).

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Marie Darlin, Coordinator
AARP Capital City Task Force
415 Willoughby Avenue, Apt. 506
Juneau, AK 99801
586-3637 (voice)
463-3580 (fax)

CC: Vice-Chair Bill Stoltze
Representative Richard Foster
Representative Mike Hawker
Representative Jim Holm
Representative Mike Kelly
Representative Bruce Weyhrauch
Representative Beth Kerttula
Representative Reggie Joule
Representative Carl Moses
Governor Frank Murkowski
Commissioner Karleen Jackson

Louanne Christian

From: Rep. Kevin Meyer
Sent: Wednesday, April 05, 2006 10:33 AM
To: Louanne Christian
Subject: FW: Support of HB 105 - Medicaid for Adult Dental Services

Please add this to members' packets for HB 105. Thank you!

From: Meredith Parham [mailto:mparham@akanhs.org]
Sent: Wednesday, April 05, 2006 8:51 AM
To: Rep. Kevin Meyer
Subject: Support of HB 105 - Medicaid for Adult Dental Services

Dear Rep. Meyer:

As a parent of an adult child with a dual diagnosis (mental health and development mental disabilities) who receives Medicaid benefits, I urge your support of HB105 (Medicaid for Adult Dental Services). My daughter must take medications that leave her more vulnerable than the general public for ongoing dental/periodontal problems. Her resources are quite limited, since she relies on her SSA, SSDI, and APA benefits for income (she has not yet gained the skills to enable her to hold employment). Other than me, she has no relatives to assist her. Dental care in Alaska is especially expensive and paying for the preventive dental care recommended by her dentist in order to allay future major dental problems is a continuing problem.

Thank you.

Meredith Parham, Executive Assistant
Anchorage Neighborhood Housing Services
mparham@akanhs.org
Phone: (907) 677-8422
Fax: (907) 677-8452

THE CONTENTS OF THIS EMAIL MESSAGE, INCLUDING ANY ATTACHMENTS, ARE INTENDED SOLELY FOR THE USE OF THE DESIGNATED RECIPIENT AND MAY CONTAIN INFORMATION THAT IS PRIVILEGED, CONFIDENTIAL AND PROTECTED FROM DISCLOSURE BY APPLICABLE LAW. IF YOU ARE NOT THE DESIGNATED RECIPIENT (OR AN EMPLOYEE OR AGENT RESPONSIBLE FOR DELIVERING THIS MESSAGE TO THE DESIGNATED RECIPIENT), DISSEMINATION, DISTRIBUTION, COPYING OR USE OF THE CONTENTS OF THIS MESSAGE AND/OR ITS ATTACHMENTS IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED. IF YOU HAVE RECEIVED THIS EMAIL IN ERROR, PLEASE IMMEDIATELY NOTIFY THE SENDER BY REPLY EMAIL AND PERMANENTLY DELETE ALL COPIES OF THE ORIGINAL EMAIL AND ANY ATTACHMENTS. THANK YOU.

Louanne Christian

From: Rebecca Simpson [Rebecca_Simpson@assetsinc.org]

Sent: Wednesday, April 05, 2006 9:25 AM

To: Louanne Christian

Subject: HB105

Please list my letter as one asking the House of Representatives to support HB 105. People with disabilities (who happen to utilize Medicaid) do not have the financial means to have regular preventative dental care, so they end up losing their teeth and/or living with pain. At a minimum, people with disabilities or who happen to be poor, have enough of a stigma to deal with in life...lack of dental care is another way people are treated with a lack of respect and dignity.

Please pass the message for the Representatives to support HB 105 and give people a little bit of their dignity back.

Sincerely,
Rebecca L. Simpson
voter

Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation
CHR Togiak
P.O. Box 211
Togiak, AK 99678
Phone: 493-5185 Fax: 493-5183 Email: hgregorio@bbahc.org

April 5, 2006

TO: Representative Mike Chenault, House Finance Committee Co-Chair
House Finance Committee Members

FROM: Helen Gregorio, CHR Togiak
Helen Gregorio

RE: Support for HB 105/SB 79-Medicaid for Adult Dental Services

I am writing in support of House Bill 105/Senate Bill 79 to support 40,000 adults in our state in need of continued Dental services through Medicaid. I work as a Community Health Representative for my village and serve two other surrounding villages providing health promotion education among our people. Many of our people often delay dental care services until it gets so severe that teeth often have to be extracted. This makes it difficult especially for our elders to enjoy some of our native foods such as dried fish and meat. Continued and improved dental coverage under Medicaid would greatly enhance the lives and welfare of our people.

I strongly urge you to support HB 105/SB 79 and thank you for your consideration of my
Please include this letter in all committee member packets for the hearing.

Caring service with cultural sensitivity.

abha

Alaska Behavioral Health Association

April 5, 2006

Representative Meyer, Co-Chair
House Finance Committee
Fax: 907-465-3476


Dear Representative Meyer,

On behalf of our membership, I am writing to ask your support for HB 105 Medicaid for Adult Dental Services for the following reasons.

- **Prevention = reduction in Medicaid expenses for adult emergency care.** Currently, Medicaid dental services are limited to expensive emergency care for relief of pain and acute infection only and often include extraction of permanent teeth. Lack of prevention leads to costly care and future emergencies.
- **Possible reduction in Medicaid expenses for clients with chronic diseases.** Studies show links between oral health and other systemic/chronic disease including diabetes and cardiovascular disease.
- **Possible reduction in Medicaid expenses for children with poor birth outcomes.** Maternal periodontal disease is linked with pre-term, low birth-weight (PTLBW) births. One recent study indicated women with periodontal disease are 7.5 times more likely to have a PTLBW baby.
- **Annual maximum cap would control costs.** An annual per adult cap (\$1,150 per adult) encourages the dentist and client to discuss priorities and treatment options and allows Alaskans to receive a complete set of dentures over a two-year period.

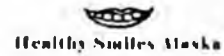
Thank you for consideration and support of this legislation.

In Health,



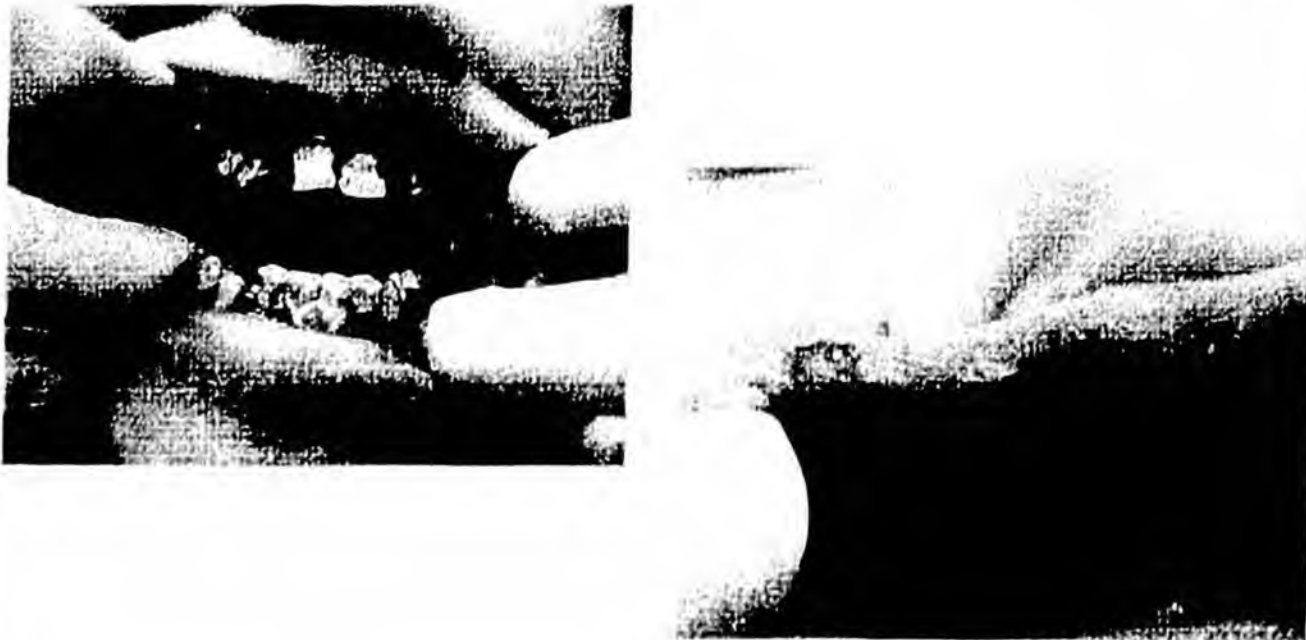
Steve Horn
Executive Director

ALASKA'S ORAL HEALTH NETWORK



**STOP THE EPIDEMIC
....Support HB105**

Oral disease.....Alaska's "silent epidemic"... Dental caries and periodontal disease are infectious diseases...transmissible from parent to child, from spouse to spouse. Stop the Epidemic...Support HB105. Improve Access to Dental Care for Adults.



ALASKA'S ORAL HEALTH NETWORK

903 West Northern Lights Blvd
Suite 200
Anchorage, AK 99503

Phone 907 929 2722
Fax 907 929 2734
E-mail drkathinkawhite@yahoo.com

***Improving Access to
Dental Care in Alaska***



Alaska Primary Care Association, Inc.
903 West Northern Lights, Suite 200
Anchorage, Alaska 99503
Phone: (907) 929-2722
Fax: (907) 929-2734

Alaska Primary Care Association

Co-Chairs Chenault and Meyers and Members
House Finance Committee
Alaska State Legislature
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Re: Support for HB 105 Medicaid for Adult Dental Services

April 5, 2006

Dear Co-Chair Chenault, Co-Chair Meyers and Members of the House Finance Committee,

Alaska Primary Care Association (APCA) represents 24 health care organizations and 115 Community Health Center (CHC) sites and other safety net providers throughout Alaska. CHCs are not-for-profit safety net providers and operate on very slim margins. The great majority of our sites are located in rural and remote areas of the state where the need for better dental care access is great. The passage of HB 105 Medicaid for Adult Dental Care would greatly benefit our currently dentally underserved population.

We are submitting this letter on behalf of our members to ask for your support for HB 105. Please help provide increased access and dental care for our most vulnerable population by passing this important piece of legislation.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Respectfully,


Shelley Hughes
Policy Analyst



Alaska Primary Care Association, Inc.
903 West Northern Lights, Suite 200
Anchorage, Alaska 99503
Phone: (907) 929-2722
Fax: (907) 929-2734

**Alaska Primary Care Association
Board of Directors**

RESOLUTION 2006-06

Title: Support of HB 105 / SB 79 Adult Dental Medicaid Enhancement

WHEREAS, the Alaska Primary Care Association (APCA) promotes access to dental care for all Alaskans, works to close disparity gaps in dental health throughout Alaska, and supports efforts which will improve overall dental health in Alaska; and

WHEREAS, a number of Alaskans that our member organizations are entrusted to serve are eligible for Medicaid and would be positively impacted by the passage of this legislation; and

WHEREAS, currently Medicaid only covers emergency dental services and does not cover preventative and restorative dental services; and

WHEREAS, these dental services currently covered by Medicaid are limited to expensive emergency care for relief of pain and acute infection only and often include extraction of permanent teeth and expensive emergency travel; and

WHEREAS, many Alaskans eligible for Medicaid that our member organizations are entrusted to serve are afflicted with an unusually high rate of dental disease which is not being properly addressed partly due to the current level of Medicaid dental coverage; and

WHEREAS, the American Dental Association recommends adult preventive and restorative dental services be included in all state Medicaid programs, and Community Health Centers and other safety net providers share this service expansion initiative and stand ready to implement increased dental care to those most in need; and

WHEREAS, the APCA promotes overall health for all Alaskans and studies show links between oral health and other systemic/chronic disease including diabetes and cardiovascular disease,¹ that maternal periodontal disease is linked with pre-term, low birth-weight (PTLBW) births with our recent study indicating women with periodontal disease being 7.5 times more likely to have

a PTLBW baby,² that cancer treatment and medications that reduce saliva flow can further elevate risk for oral diseases,³ and that mothers/caregivers with active dental decay increase risks of early childhood caries in infants due to transmission of bacteria.⁴

WHEREAS, recipients who receive rehabilitative dental treatment (including fillings, extractions, and dentures) are "...twice as likely to receive favorable or neutral employment outcomes as they were to receive unfavorable employment outcomes"⁵ and this would have positive impact on the general welfare and wellness of Alaskan communities; and

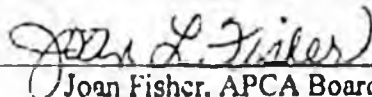
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Alaska Primary Care Association supports passage of HB 105 / SB 79 Adult Dental Medicaid Enhancement and supports legitimate and appropriate efforts necessary by its staff and members to ensure its passage.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall be the policy of APCA until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.

SUBMITTED BY: Shelley Hughes, APCA Policy Analyst

DONE AND DATED this 15 day of March, in the year 2006.

SIGNED BY



Joan Fisher, APCA Board President

¹ Okero, CA et al., "Tooth Loss and Heart Disease: Findings from the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System" *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*, 2005; 29:5 (supplement 1)

² Lieff S, Hurd H, McKaig R et al., "Periodontitis and Preterm Low Birth Weight in Pregnant Women" *Journal of Dental Research*, 2000;79(supplemental):608

³ "Oral Health for Older Americans", Centers for Disease Control (2004), Retrieved February 13, 2006 from: <http://www.cdc.gov/OralHealth/factsheets/adult-older.htm>

⁴ Li Y et al., "Characterization of Maternal Mutans Streptococci Transmission in an African American Population." *Dental Clinics of North America* 2003; 47(1):87-101.

⁵ "Dental Treatment Highly Effective in Helping Welfare Recipients Gain Employment". University of California - San Francisco School of Dentistry, press release, March 10, 2004.

Louanne Christian

From: idah [idah@awrconline.org]
Sent: Friday, April 07, 2006 12:37 PM
To: Rep. Kevin Meyer
Cc: Louanne Christian
Subject: HB 105 and SB 79 Please include this in all committee member packets.

Dear Representative Kevin Meyer:

I am writing in support of HB 105 and SB 79, "Medicaid for Adult Dental Services."

As you know, prevention and restorative services are less costly than emergency services for dental care or any other emergency services. Welfare recipients often suffer from poor dental care, and are twice as likely to receive favorable employment outcomes with healthy teeth and smiles. In addition, their overall health will also be positively impacted with good dental hygiene. Many clients can't afford dental care or health care in general and wait until the last moment to seek help merely because they can't afford the preventative and restorative care that prevents emergency calls.

I believe Medicaid for Adult Dental Services will save the State funds that could be used to address other issues in the long term. I therefore, respectfully request your support for HB 105 and SB 79.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Ida Hildebrand
Executive Director
AWRC



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the

House Finance

committee name

Committee on

HB 105

bill # / subject

, dated

4/6/2006

public hearing date

I support ^{HB} 105

As Executive Director of Central Peninsula Health Centers (Aspen Dental Center), I see on a daily basis the pain and often despair of adults with dental pain who have not had the financial resources for preventive care and now do not have resources for restorative work. As a member also of the AK Mental Health Board, and recognizing that a high percent of our patients suffer symptoms of depression, I am very concerned for the Medicaid population.

Signature

Stan Steadman

Testifier

Aspen Dental Center / Central Peninsula

Representing (optional)

395 Main St Loop

Address

907-335-2022 / 262-2365 Hm

Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Finance Committee
committee name

Committee on HB-105, dated 4/6/2006
bill # / subject public hearing date

I am in support of bill # HB-105 and that adult patients can use medicaid for preventive and restorative dental services. By allowing medicaid dental adult patients to receive preventive services it will lower the cost of emergency care services, because dental problems will be treated in their early stages of development. By receiving this dental care adult patients will have more confidence in themselves, which will be reflected in their jobs and lifestyle.

Signed: Michelle Maguire
Testifier

Self
Representing (optional)

47105 Milky Way Kenai, AK, 99611
Address

(907) 262-3964
Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Finance Committee
committee name

Committee on HB 105 Adult Dental dated 4-6-06
bill # / subject Medicaid services public hearing date

My name is Jennifer McElroy. I am a Dental Hygienist, ^{representing myself} working in the Kenai/Soldotna area, in a Community health setting. I see, first hand, the extensive need for more comprehensive services for adult Medicaid recipients. Patients return on a daily basis to address emergency needs - like extractions, temporary fillings and infections affecting their overall health. I support HB 105 and would ask others to consider the ^{many} benefits this bill would have for people who are under ~~insured~~ ^{covered}. Just today a 7-year patient argued that he did not need to brush his teeth because his mother did not have hers - she is 34.
Thank You.

Signed: Jennifer L. McElroy, RDH
Testifier
Self

Representing (optional)
373 W. Katmai Soldotna AK 99669
Address
907-252-0624
Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Finance Committee
committee name

Committee on HB 105, dated 4-6-06
bill #/subject public hearing date

I support Bill #B 105 Because.

- (1) it will save money
- reduce emergency dental care
 - reduce ER visits for pain/infection (emergency room)
 - reduce hospital admissions for serious facial pharyngeal abscesses, even myocardial infarctio.
 - reduce hospital length of stay for seriously ill who get secondary pulmonary infection from bad teeth in hospital
 - it will reduce morbidity in at risk populations (mentally ill, premature, diabetics, immune compromised, elderly)
- (2) it will benefit the population
- prevent suffering, illness, death
 - prevent loss of teeth, with resulting low self esteem, loss of proper nutritional status.
 - help people get jobs.

Signed: M.M. Sotash MD.

Testifier

Self

Representing (optional)

PO BOX 4098, Soldotna, AK.

Address

907-263-6105

Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Finance Committee
committee name

Committee on HB 105/Medicaid for Adult, dated 4/6/06
bill # / subject Dental Services public hearing date

I would like to express my support for HB 105/Medicaid for adult dental services. As a resident of Soldotna, Alaska I see and speak to people regularly who have no access to dental services for preventive or restorative work. Their alternatives are to wait until it is bad enough to have a tooth pulled in an emergency setting or do nothing at all. Providing limited preventive & restorative dental services for Medicaid recipients would be a great first step in addressing the unmet dental needs in our state.

Having a full set of teeth makes people more employable and therefore more likely to transition from Medicaid to employer sponsored insurance. Also, preventive dental services will save Medicaid in the long run by preventing costly emergency dental needs & chronic disease.

Signed: Kris Fedin
Testifier

Representing (optional)
305 Kobuk Ct. Soldotna 99669
Address
907 262-1021
Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Finance Committee
committee name

Committee on NR-105, dated 4-6-2006
bill #/ subject public hearing date

I STRONGLY SUPPORT THIS BILL BECAUSE THE NEED ON THE KENAI PENINSULA FOR DENTAL CARE FOR ADULTS WITH NO INSURANCE IS SO GREAT. IT IS EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO OBTAIN EMPLOYMENT IF YOU HAVE SIGNIFICANT DENTAL ISSUES. ALSO, DENTAL PROBLEMS LEAD TO OTHER HEALTH PROBLEMS. SINCE MOST EMPLOYERS ON THE PENINSULA DO NOT CARRY DENTAL INSURANCE FOR THEIR EMPLOYEES, MOST PEOPLE WHO ARE EMPLOYED CANNOT AFFORD TO PAY FOR DENTAL SERVICES. THEREFORE, THEY FOREGO PREVENTIVE CARE + RESTORATIVE CARE + EVENTUALLY HAVE THEIR TEETH PULLED. BUT THEY HAVE NO RESOURCES TO BUY FALSE TEETH -- they have to live without teeth -- NOT GOOD!

Signed: Betty J Coats
Testifier

Self
Representing (optional)

369 Banner Lane, Soldotna, AK 99669
Address

(907) 262-0676
Phone number

often associated with periodontal disease.
In addition to the cost effectiveness of HB105,
this bill will go a long way toward providing
parity & dignity to all residents of Alaska.