

**SB 78
LETTERS OF
SUPPORT &
OPPOSITION
(FILE 2)**

<TARGET><BILL>SB 78</BILL><SUBJECT>SB 78 LETTERS OF
SUPPORT and OPPOSITION (FILE
2)</SUBJECT><COMM>SHSS29</COMM></TARGET>



Enriching Our Native Way of Life

February 24, 2015

Governor Bill Walker
Alaska State Capitol Building
P.O. Box 110001
Juneau, AK 99811-0001

Dear Governor Walker:

Bristol Bay Native Corporation (BBNC) supports Medicaid expansion. Medicaid expansion is critical to improving access to health care for thousands of Alaskans. Expansion will also bring the state close to a billion dollars in new federal spending over the short-term and will support programmatic reforms that will save the state additional Medicaid dollars over the long-term. Accordingly, BBNC encourages you to expand the Medicaid program.

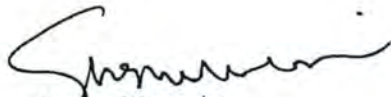
Studies suggest that expanding Medicaid will greatly reduce the number of uninsured Alaskans and will save lives - by some estimates 30 lives a year. Without insurance many individuals are forced to ignore health issues until they become unbearable and they are forced to seek care in an emergency room. Medicaid expansion will allow these individuals to seek medical attention much earlier and in a primary care setting.

Expansion will also increase the level of substance abuse treatment and care available to many Alaskans. A disproportionate number of Alaska Natives are incarcerated for offenses that are more often than not either directly or indirectly related to alcohol and substance abuse. While incarcerated individuals can often receive substance abuse treatment while they are in state custody, there is no continuing treatment available once these individuals are released. Medicaid expansion will increase the amount of drug and alcohol counseling available outside of incarceration and should reduce recidivism rates. This is of critical importance to rural Alaska.

Medicaid expansion also makes sense from a finance perspective. In 2011, Alaska hospitals provided 90 million dollars in uncompensated emergency room care. These are costs that the state's health care system had to absorb and spread to other patients (and their insurers) through higher health care rates. Other states that have expanded Medicaid have seen their uncompensated hospital costs fall by as much as 30%. Should Alaska hospitals see a similar reduction in uninsured costs, more than 10 million dollars per year in uninsured costs could be avoided.

Alaska currently faces numerous social and fiscal challenges. Medicaid expansion offers a rare opportunity to address one of the social challenges while also bringing new federal funding to the state. From this perspective, the decision to expand the state's Medicaid program should be any easy one. We encourage your administration to work with the legislature to get this important task completed. Alaska and Alaskans stand to benefit greatly.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jason Metrokin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

Jason Metrokin
President & CEO



March 6, 2015

Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 110001
Juneau, AK 99811-0001

Dear Governor Walker,

Bering Straits Native Corporation supports your efforts to expand Medicaid in July 2015 for the benefit of Alaskans and the Alaska economy.

Nearly 42,000 of our fellow Alaskans will be eligible for health coverage under Medicaid expansion. Expansion improves health outcomes by reducing the number of uninsured Alaskans by half, improving preventative and primary care access, and providing substance abuse treatment and mental health counseling.

There are significant economic benefits associated with Medicaid expansion, which will bring more than \$1 billion in new federal revenue to our state, 4,000 new jobs, \$1.2 billion more in wages and salaries paid to Alaskans, and \$2.49 billion in increased economic activity over the first five years. We should view Medicaid expansion as an economic driver that will positively impact our state's economy as we are faced with declining oil prices and the resulting budget challenges.

In addition to new federal revenue, savings to the state budget have also been identified in the Department of Corrections, the Chronic & Acute Medical Assistance (CAMA) Program and behavioral health grants. In FY2016, the state would realize \$6.1 million in savings. Medicaid expansion is healthy for Alaskans and healthy for the state's budget. We encourage the continued internal evaluation to identify other potential savings and offsets attributable to expansion and reform.

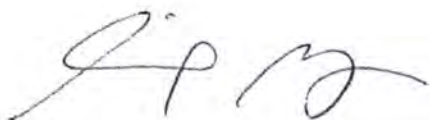
Federal funds will pay for 100% of services provided to the expansion population through 2016 and will transition to 90% in 2020 and beyond. We support Governor Walker's position that Alaska's participation is contingent on the federal match remaining at 90%.

Medicaid expansion will serve as a catalyst for meaningful Medicaid reform. We are pleased to hear that the Department of Health & Human Services has issued an RFP for technical assistance related to reform efforts. Though reform of the current Medicaid program should be

of utmost importance, reform efforts should not delay health care coverage for those Alaskans who would be eligible for Medicaid under expansion.

Bering Straits Native Corporation endorses Medicaid expansion, recognizing we all have an interest in ensuring that Alaskans are as productive as possible so they can contribute to our communities and economy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Schubert', written in a cursive style.

Gail R. Schubert,
President & CEO

Presented by: The Manager
Introduced: 03/16/2015
Drafted by: A. G. Mead

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA

Serial No. 2724

A Resolution Urging the Alaska Legislature to Expand Medicaid Coverage to Improve the Health of Alaskans and Alaska's Economy.

WHEREAS, nearly 42,000 of our family members, friends and neighbors statewide have the opportunity to gain health care coverage under Medicaid expansion; and

WHEREAS, approximately 2,400 Juneau residents are eligible for coverage under Medicaid expansion, and 1,140 of those are expected to enroll; and

WHEREAS, Medicaid expansion will improve health outcomes by reducing the number of uninsured Alaskans by half, improving preventive and primary care access, providing substance abuse treatment and mental health counseling, and reducing the mortality rate; and

WHEREAS, Medicaid expansion brings over \$1 billion in new federal revenue into Alaska over the first five years; and

WHEREAS, Juneau enrollees alone bring in \$8.3 million in just the first year; and

WHEREAS, studies project expansion will likely yield 4,000 new jobs, \$1.2 billion more in wages and salaries paid to Alaskans, and \$2.49 billion in increased economic activity throughout the State; and

WHEREAS, Medicaid currently accounts for 23% of Bartlett Regional Hospital's patient mix; and

WHEREAS, with expansion the State would save \$6.1 million in FY2016 by using federal funds to pay for health services currently paid for with state general funds, reducing the need to cut public services; and

WHEREAS, federal funds will pay for 100% of services provided to the expansion population through 2016 and will transition to 90% in 2020 and beyond; and

WHEREAS, the State's continued participation is contingent upon maintaining the 90% match; and

WHEREAS, Medicaid expansion will significantly reduce the burden of uncompensated care, which was over \$90 million at non-tribal Alaska hospitals in 2013; and

WHEREAS, Bartlett Regional Hospital suffers charity care and bad debt expenses of \$10 - \$13 million per year; and

WHEREAS, Medicaid expansion will serve as a catalyst for meaningful Medicaid reform; and

WHEREAS, leveraging the federal resources that come with expansion is the State's biggest opportunity to finance reform efforts; and

WHEREAS, the State has the option of various Medicaid expansion demonstration projects it may also consider as part of reform.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA:

Section 1. The City and Borough of Juneau endorses Medicaid expansion, recognizing we all have an interest in ensuring that Alaskans are as productive as possible so they can contribute to our communities and economy.

Section 2. The City and Borough of Juneau strongly urges the Alaska Legislature to expand Medicaid for the benefit of Alaskans and the Alaska economy to take effect in July 2015 and, while reform efforts are of tremendous importance, this work should not delay health care coverage for those Alaskans who would be eligible for Medicaid under expansion.

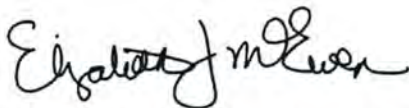
Section 3. Effective Date. This resolution shall be effective immediately after its adoption.

Adopted this 16th day of March, 2015.



Merrill Sanford, Mayor

Attest:



Elizabeth J. McEwen, Acting Clerk





Catholic Social Services

3710 East 20th Avenue, Anchorage, AK 99508 • (907) 222-7300 • Fax (907) 258-1091 • www.cssalaska.org

3-9-15

Brother Francis Shelter

Charlie Elder House

Clare House

Family Disability Services

Homeless Family Services

Pregnancy Support &
Adoption Services

Refugee Assistance &
Immigration Services

St. Francis House

Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 110001
Juneau, AK 99811-0001

Dear Governor Walker,

Catholic Social Services supports efforts to expand Medicaid in July 2015 for the benefit of Alaskans, in particular for the vulnerable Alaskans who we serve.

Nearly 42,000 of our fellow Alaskans will be eligible for health coverage under Medicaid expansion. Expansion improves health outcomes by reducing the number of uninsured Alaskans by half, improving preventative and primary care access, and providing substance abuse treatment and mental health counseling.

There are significant economic benefits associated with Medicaid expansion, which is expected to bring more than \$1 billion in new federal revenue to our state, 4,000 new jobs, \$1.2 billion more in wages and salaries paid to Alaskans, and \$2.49 billion in increased economic activity over the first five years.

Federal funds will pay for 100% of services provided to the expansion population through 2016 and will transition to 90% in 2020 and beyond. Medicaid expansion will serve as a catalyst for meaningful Medicaid reform.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration on this issue. The mission of Catholic Social Services is to compassionately serve the poor and those in need; strengthen individuals and families; and advocate for social justice. We believe our support of Medicaid expansion speaks to every element of our mission.

Sincerely,

Lisa D.H. Aquino, MHS
Executive Director

*Providing Help
Creating Hope*





LEADER in All We Do

March 6, 2015

Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 110001
Juneau, AK 99811-0001

Dear Governor Walker,

This letter is written on behalf of Doyon, Limited as a statement of support for your efforts to expand Medicaid for the benefit of Alaskans and the Alaska economy.

Doyon's mission is to continually enhance its position as a financially strong Native corporation in order to promote the economic and social well-being of its shareholders and future shareholders, to strengthen its Native way of life, and to protect and enhance its land and resources.

Through Medicaid Expansion, over 40,000 of our fellow Alaskans will be eligible for health coverage. This improves health outcomes by reducing the number of uninsured, improves preventative and primary care access, and provides substance abuse treatment and mental health counseling.

Medicaid expansion also provides significant associated economic benefits, including but not limited to more than \$1 billion in new federal revenue to our state, 4,000 new jobs, \$1.2 billion more in wages and salaries paid to Alaskans, and \$2.49 billion in increased economic activity over the first five years.

Doyon, Limited endorses Medicaid expansion, recognizing we all have an interest in ensuring that Alaskans are as productive as possible so they can contribute to our communities and economy. Again, thank you for the work you are doing on behalf of all Alaskans. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please do not hesitate to contact me at (907) 459-2000.

Sincerely,

Aaron M. Schutt
President and CEO



Congregation Sukkat Shalom "Shelter of Peace"

A RESOLUTION URGING THE ALASKA LEGISLATURE TO IMPROVE THE HEALTH AND WELL BEING OF ALASKANS, ALLOWING THEM BENEFITS SHARED BY OUR MEMBERSHIP AND THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE ALASKA LEGISLATURE BY EXPANDING MEDICAID

WHEREAS the Jewish virtue of "tikkun olam", repairing our world, calls upon us to fix the injustice of inequality and suffering; and

WHEREAS, the Jewish tradition of "tzedakah", giving to others less fortunate, is not considered charity but "the right thing to do"; and

WHEREAS, the majority of the membership of our congregation and the entire membership of our State Legislature are blessed with the benefit of insurance coverage so that we have access to preventive and healing health care for our families and our children; and

WHEREAS, we have knowledge that tens of thousands of Alaskans do not share our same access to health care; and

WHEREAS, nearly 42,000 other Alaskans would have the opportunity to gain health care coverage under Medicaid expansion; and

WHEREAS, Medicaid expansion will improve health outcomes by reducing the numbers of uninsured Alaskans by half, improving preventive and primary care access, providing substance abuse treatment and mental health counseling, and reducing the mortality rate; and

WHEREAS, Medicaid expansion would help Alaska economically by bringing in over \$1 billion in new federal revenue over the first five years; and

WHEREAS, the State would save \$6.1 million in 2016 by using federal funds to pay for health services currently paid for with state general funds; and

WHEREAS, federal funds will pay for 100% of services provided to the expansion population through 2016 and will transition to 90% in 2020 and beyond;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, as an act of "tikkun olam", healing the world, Congregation Sukkat Shalom urges Medicaid expansion in Alaska and deems it imperative that the Alaska Legislature expands Medicaid to take effect in July, 2015.

3/16/15

211 Cordova St. ☆ PO Box 22071 ☆ Juneau, AK 99802

Introduced by: Smith, Mayor
Date: 02/05/13
Action: Adopted
Vote: 8 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent

**KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH
RESOLUTION 2013-014**

**A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE STATE OF ALASKA ADMINISTRATION AND
ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE FULLY CONSIDER THE BENEFITS TO THE
RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH WHEN
CONSIDERING THE EXPANSION OF MEDICAID UNDER THE AFFORDABLE
CARE ACT**

WHEREAS, the Affordable Care Act provides for expansion of Medicaid benefits by increasing the eligibility income level; and

WHEREAS, significant numbers of Kenai Peninsula Borough residents would become newly eligible for benefits if the State opted to agree to the Medicaid expansion; and

WHEREAS, the increase in eligible beneficiaries would provide increased care and improved health for many borough residents; and

WHEREAS, borough hospitals would see an increase in reimbursed care and a decrease in charity care; and

WHEREAS, other health care providers would see a similar benefit; and

WHEREAS, the increase in Medicaid funding would provide better health for our residents and an economic boost to the borough; and

WHEREAS, a preliminary evaluation by Northern Economics predicts for each \$1 in State funding related to Medicaid expansion, \$15.5 in new federal funds will be generated; and

WHEREAS, the evaluation also finds a net reduction of State costs because increased Medicaid eligibility will displace other costs borne by the State;

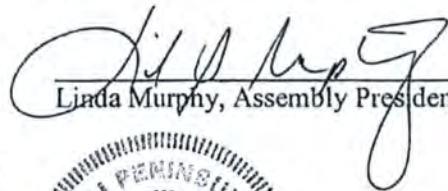
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH:

SECTION 1. That the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly requests the State of Alaska Administration and the State Legislature to weigh heavily the great benefits that would accrue to the residents of the borough and to the borough economy while deciding whether to expand our Medicaid program.

SECTION 2. That copies of this Resolution be provided to Governor Sean Parnell and all members of the Legislature representing the Kenai Peninsula Borough.

SECTION 3. That this resolution takes effect immediately upon its adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH THIS 5TH DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2013.


Linda Murphy, Assembly President

ATTEST:


John Blankenship, MMC, Borough Clerk



Yes: Haggerty, Johnson, McClure, Pierce, Smith, Tauriainen, Wolf, Murphy
No: None
Absent: Smalley



March 16, 2015

Honorable Bill Walker
Governor, State of Alaska
PO Box 110001
Juneau, AK 99511-0001

Dear Governor Walker,

On behalf of Alaska's 13,000 education support professionals and teachers, in order to improve the health, safety, and well-being of our 130,000 public school students, I am writing to affirm NEA-Alaska's support of Medicaid expansion in Alaska.

Some may not see Medicaid expansion as an education issue. As someone who taught in our schools for over 30 years with some of Anchorage's most at-risk students, including at Clark Middle School and the McLaughlin Youth Center, I can tell you that the lack of access to quality, affordable healthcare in our communities directly impacts too many Alaskan children. When I taught at Clark and McLaughlin, I went to work every day to help as many of my students as possible to succeed and turn their lives around. I wish I could tell you that all of them did, but that is not the world we live in.

In 2014, NEA-Alaska partnered with the Anchorage Chamber of Commerce, Alaska PTA, United Way of Anchorage, Citizens for the Educational Advancement of Alaska's Children, and a number of other partners to commission a statewide study by Northern Economics on the social and environmental issues that are impacting student learning and achievement in Alaska. The results were clear: parents and teachers alike found that student learning was severely impacted by a number of issues outside the classroom, such as poverty, drug and alcohol abuse, and domestic violence. These issues leave children without safe and supportive home environments, which can lead to chronic absence, a lack of academic preparation, and low levels of student achievement.

Too many of my students had the deck stacked against them by these social and economic factors. Would Medicaid expansion solve all these issues? No, but it would surely help some of our most disadvantaged students. Medicaid expansion is no silver bullet, but it would reduce the number of uninsured Alaskans by half – extending health coverage to more than 40,000 low-income Alaskans. Many of these new enrollees will *not* have dependent children (some will, but many low-income children are already covered by Medicaid and Denali KidCare), but expanding health coverage in low-income communities and neighborhoods will improve the quality of life for all the children who live in them.

By most estimates, Medicaid expansion will bring \$1.1 billion in new federal revenue into Alaska. It will create 4,000 new jobs, \$1.2 billion more in wages and salaries, and \$2.49 billion in increased economic activity across Alaska. In addition, Medicaid expansion will create millions in cost savings for the state of Alaska at a time when we are searching for ways to close a projected \$3.5 billion budget deficit.

Honorable Bill Walker
March 16, 2015
Page 2

As educators, we are deeply committed to the success of every one of our students. Medicaid expansion will be good for the state, it will be good for the economy, but for us this issue comes down to one simple statement: Medicaid expansion will be good for our students.

Thank you for taking action on one of the most important public policy issues that will affect Alaska's students this legislative session.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ron Fuhrer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R" and a long, sweeping underline.

Ron Fuhrer
President

cc: Alaska Legislature

Nondalton Tribal Council
P.O. Box 49
Nondalton, A.K. 99640
Ph. (907) 294-2257
Fax (907) 294-2271
nondaltontribe@yahoo.com

Resolution 03-05-15-1

TITLE: A RESOLUTION URGING THE ALASKA LEGISLATURE TO EXPAND MEDICAID COVERAGE TO IMPROVE THE HEALTH OF ALASKANS AND TO IMPROVE THE ALASKAN ECONOMY.

- WHEREAS,** nearly 42,000 of our family members, friends and neighbors have the opportunity to gain health care coverage under expansion; and
- WHEREAS,** Medicaid expansion will improve health outcomes by reducing the number of uninsured Alaskans by half, improving preventive and primary care access, providing substance abuse treatment and mental health counseling, and reducing the mortality rate; and
- WHEREAS,** Medicaid expansion brings over \$1 billion in new federal revenue into Alaska over the first five years; and
- WHEREAS,** studies project expansion will likely yield 4,000 new jobs, \$1.2 billion more in wages and salaries paid to Alaskans, and \$2.49 billion in increased economic activity throughout the state; and
- WHEREAS,** with expansion the State would save \$6.1 million in FY2016 by using federal funds to pay for health services currently paid for with state general funds; and,
- WHEREAS,** federal funds will pay for 100% of services provided to the expansion population through 2016 and will transition to 90% in 2020 and beyond; and
- WHEREAS,** the State's continued participation is contingent upon maintaining the 90% match; and
- WHEREAS,** Medicaid expansion will significantly reduce the burden of uncompensated care, which was over \$90 million at non-tribal Alaska hospitals in 2013; and
- WHEREAS,** Medicaid expansion will serve as a catalyst for meaningful Medicaid reform; and

WHEREAS, leveraging the federal resources that come with expansion is the State's biggest opportunity to finance reform efforts; and

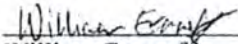
WHEREAS, the State has the option of various Medicaid expansion demonstration projects it may also consider as part of reform; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, Nondalton Tribal Council endorses Medicaid expansion, recognizing we all have an interest in ensuring that Alaskans are as productive as possible so they can contribute to our communities and economy; and

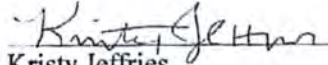
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Nondalton Tribal Council strongly urges the Alaska Legislature to expand Medicaid for the benefit of Alaskans and the Alaska economy to take effect in July 2015 and, though reform efforts should be of utmost importance, this work should not delay health care coverage for those Alaskans who would be eligible for Medicaid under expansion.

CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the Nondalton Tribal Council at a duly called regular meeting of the Nondalton Tribal Council and was adopted by a vote of 7 for, and 0 against with 0 abstention 0 absent, this 1st day of March, 2015.



William Evanoff,
President



Kristy Jeffries,
Secretary

Nondalton Tribal Council
P.O. Box 49
Nondalton, A.K. 99640
Ph. (907) 294-2257
Fax (907) 294-2271
nondaltontribe@yahoo.com

March 3, 2015

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
State Senate
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Murkowski,

Nondalton Tribal Council strongly urges the Alaska Legislature to expand Medicaid in July 2015 for the benefit of Alaskans and the Alaska economy.

Nearly 42,000 of our fellow Alaskans will be eligible for health coverage under Medicaid expansion. Expansion improves health outcomes by reducing the number of uninsured Alaskans by half, improving preventative and primary care access, and providing substance abuse treatment and mental health counseling.

There are significant economic benefits associated with Medicaid expansion, which will bring more than \$1 billion in new federal revenue to our state, 4,000 new jobs, \$1.2 billion more in wages and salaries paid to Alaskans, and \$2.49 billion in increased economic activity over the first five years. We should view Medicaid expansion as an economic driver that will positively impact our state's economy as we are faced with declining oil prices and the resulting budget challenges.

In addition to new federal revenue, savings to the state budget have also been identified in the Department of Corrections, the Chronic & Acute Medical Assistance (CAMA) Program and behavioral health grants. In FY2016, the state would realize \$6.1 million in savings. Medicaid expansion is healthy for Alaskans and healthy for the state's budget. We encourage the continued internal evaluation to identify other potential savings and offsets attributable to expansion and reform.

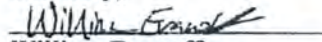
Federal funds will pay for 100% of services provided to the expansion population through 2016 and will transition to 90% in 2020 and beyond. We support Governor Walker's position that Alaska's participation is contingent on the federal match remaining at 90%.

Medicaid expansion will serve as a catalyst for meaningful Medicaid reform. We are pleased to hear that the Department of Health & Human Services has issued an RFP for technical assistance related to reform efforts. Though reform of the current Medicaid

program should be of utmost importance, reform efforts should not delay health care coverage for those Alaskans who would be eligible for Medicaid under expansion.

Nondalton Tribal Council endorses Medicaid expansion, recognizing we all have an interest in ensuring that Alaskans are as productive as possible so they can contribute to our communities and economy.

Sincerely,



William Evanoff,

President

Resolution in Support of Medicaid Expansion

by Anchorage Human and Social Services Executive Directors

February, 2015

Whereas, the health and wellness of Alaskans is a Constitutional priority and is vital to each individual, family, community and our entire State;

Whereas, Alaskans have identified 25 Leading Health Priorities providing a science-based framework to guide efforts toward improving health and ensuring health equity for all Alaskans which includes access to health care;

Whereas, an estimated 40,000 of the most vulnerable Alaskans are uninsured and potentially eligible for Medicaid (*Source: Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium. Healthier Alaskans Create a Healthier State Economy. Anchorage, AK, 2013.*);

Whereas, the State of Alaska budget deficit, due to significantly lower oil prices and declining oil production, calls for all Alaskans to work together to achieve consensus on priorities, long term financial sustainability, program performance and leveraging revenue sources;

Whereas, routine preventive care contributes to life time good health; early treatment of illness and injury make it more likely for an individual to regain their health; and, treatment in an Emergency Room is most expensive;

Whereas, access to primary care and medication is particularly significant for individuals with chronic disease such as cancer, diabetes and cardiovascular disease; and Medicaid patients are 15% more likely to be tested than uninsured. Medicaid beneficiaries with heart disease are twice as likely to take their medication appropriately, compared to those who are uninsured, and are also more likely to have their blood pressure controlled and to have been checked for high cholesterol compared to the uninsured. [*Cancer Action Network, American Diabetes Association, American Heart Association, American Stroke Association, Medicaid: An Important Source of Health Care Coverage for Patients with Chronic Disease.*];

Whereas, lack of health insurance contributes to family stress and financial instability including 154,900 Alaskans served annually by the Food Bank of Alaska network of over 300 partners:

- 56% making choices between medications/meals
- 26% of households report at least one member with diabetes
- 47% of households report at least one member with high blood pressure
- 34% have no health insurance of any kind, including Medicaid
- 56% of households report having unpaid medical bills
- 53% of clients served have incomes that are at or below the federal poverty level (\$15,510 or less for household of two)
- 27% have incomes between \$1-\$10,000 annually; 29% have incomes of \$10,001-\$20,000 annually

Whereas, good health and wellness are supporting factors in children staying and succeeding in school; adults getting and keeping a job; and, in healthy, competitive communities;

Whereas, the State of Alaska has an opportunity now to develop an Alaska Medicaid Expansion Program which meets the needs of vulnerable Alaskans, communities and Alaska as well as being an effective component of the Alaska health care system and is funded by the Federal government at least at 90% and has the potential to provide additional offsets to program expansion administration;

Whereas, Medicaid Expansion would provide a revenue stream covering a portion of the health care costs of vulnerable Alaskans and in doing so support financial stability and organization sustainability of the Alaska health safety net: community health centers, community mental health centers, tribal clinics, rural hospitals, urban hospitals;

Whereas, in FY2014, as partners in caring for vulnerable Alaskans, coalition members contributed directly to customer health or provided supports to increase the likelihood of short term and lifelong health and wellness. We

- provided 18,805 customers health care services 26,529 customers health screenings; 68,841 customers health education; \$17,690,505 donated logistical or financial assistance; 14,848 with a patient centered medical home; and, 31,793 or 84% of customers surveyed demonstrated/reported healthy behaviors and 8,073 or 84% met the terms of their health treatment plan; and,
- Served 994,312 meals/snacks/ box lunches; sheltered 17,103 homeless individuals/families; provided 24,695 households prevention services and/or income boosts; distributed 540,037 pounds of food; and 1,484 or 64% of participating customers demonstrating improved coping skills, better ability to return to daily life, *ability to return to work and/or home after completing crime or violence prevention and/or stabilization programs* and 1,532 or 70% of participating customers had increased self-sufficiency levels after exiting a program operating in the community; and,
- 1,037 children 0-5 screenings; 1,684 children provided with quality care and education services; 109,165 free books distributed to children 0-5; and, 2,167 or 89% of participating parents/families had increased knowledge of parenting and child development
- 20,948 of youth participating in activities that promote youth development; 196 or 67% participating youth decreasing substance use; 6,000 or 69% youth more engaged with education, learning and school; and, 10,860 or 74% youth with conflict resolution skills (*Note: the information above is a sample based on data provided is based on annual reporting by partner agencies to United Way of Anchorage.*); and,
- We, our partners, business people, teachers, students and parents have been working together to increase the Anchorage School District graduation to 90% by the year 2020, and have together increased graduation rates from 59% in 2005 to 74% in 2014 which contributes as a positive determinant in lifelong health.

Therefore, we the undersigned non-profits support the following Medicaid Expansion strategies:

- Approve Medicaid Expansion
- Fix and clear backlogs for
 - the State of Alaska Medicaid eligibility determination system, Alaska's Resource for Integrated Eligibility Services (ARIES), and;
 - the payment system, Medicaid Management Information System (MMIS) prior to Medicaid Expansion
- Accept federal money for Medicaid Expansion
- Approve supplemental funding for Medicaid Expansion administration

And;

Commit to being partners in this effort by continuing to care for vulnerable Alaskans and by working with the Governor, State of Alaska Legislature, the State of Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, the business community and other stakeholders to develop a sustainable Alaska Medicaid Expansion Program.

Hilary A. Morgan, Co-Chair

CEO, YWCA Alaska

Signatories

Abused Women's Aid in Crisis, Inc. (AWAIC)

AK Child & Family

Alaska Injury Prevention Center

Alison Kear, Chief Executive Officer, Covenant House Alaska

American Diabetes Association

Anchorage Neighborhood Health Center

Anchorage Youth Development Coalition (AYDC)

Barbara Dubovich, Chief Executive Officer, Camp Fire USA Alaska Council

CCS Early Learning

Food Bank of Alaska

Jerry A. Jenkins, Chief Executive Officer, Anchorage Community Mental Health Services (and Fairbanks Community Mental Health Services)

Lisa Aquino, Executive Director, Catholic Social Services

Francine Harbor, NAMI

Nine Star Education and Employment Services

Pauline P. Smith, Executive Director, Alaska Literacy Program

RurAL CAP

Stephanie Berglund, CEO, thread

Volunteers of America Alaska

YWCA Alaska

RESOLUTION 2015-10**A RESOLUTION OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA
URGING THE ALASKA LEGISLATURE TO EXPAND MEDICAID COVERAGE TO
IMPROVE THE HEALTH OF ALASKANS AND TO IMPROVE
THE ALASKAN ECONOMY.**

WHEREAS, nearly 42,000 of our family members, friends and neighbors have the opportunity to gain health care coverage under expansion; and

WHEREAS, Medicaid expansion will improve health outcomes by reducing the number of uninsured Alaskans by half, improving preventive and primary care access, providing substance abuse treatment and mental health counseling, and reducing the mortality rate; and

WHEREAS, Medicaid expansion brings over \$1 billion in new federal revenue into Alaska over the first five years; and

WHEREAS, studies project expansion will likely yield 4,000 new jobs, \$1.2 billion more in wages and salaries paid to Alaskans, and \$2.49 billion in increased economic activity throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, with expansion the State would save \$6.1 million in FY2016 by using federal funds to pay for health services currently paid for with state general funds; and,

WHEREAS, federal funds will pay for 100% of services provided to the expansion population through 2016 and will transition to 90% in 2020 and beyond; and

WHEREAS, the State's continued participation is contingent upon maintaining the 90% match; and

WHEREAS, Medicaid expansion will significantly reduce the burden of uncompensated care, which was over \$90 million at non-tribal Alaska hospitals in 2013; and

WHEREAS, Medicaid expansion will serve as a catalyst for meaningful Medicaid reform; and

WHEREAS, leveraging the federal resources that come with expansion is the State's biggest opportunity to finance reform efforts; and

WHEREAS, the State has the option of various Medicaid expansion demonstration projects it may also consider as part of reform; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Assembly of the City and Borough of Sitka endorses Medicaid expansion, recognizing we all have an interest in ensuring that Alaskans are as productive as possible so they can contribute to our communities and economy; and

Resolution 2015-10

Page 2.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Assembly of the City and Borough of Sitka strongly urges the Alaska Legislature to expand Medicaid for the benefit of Alaskans and the Alaska economy to take effect in July 2015 and, though reform efforts should be of utmost importance, this work should not delay health care coverage for those Alaskans who would be eligible for Medicaid under expansion.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED by the assembly of the City and Borough of Sitka, Alaska on this 10th day of March 2015.


Matt Hunter, Deputy Mayor

ATTEST:


Colleen Ingman, MMC
Municipal Clerk



RESOLUTION 2015-07

**TITLE: TANGIRNAQ NATIVE VILLAGE aka WOODY ISLAND TRIBAL COUNCIL
RESOLUTION URGING THE ALASKA LEGISLATURE TO EXPAND MEDICAID
COVERAGE TO IMPROVE THE HEALTH OF ALASKANS AND TO IMPROVE THE
ALASKAN ECONOMY.**

WHEREAS, nearly 42,000 of our family members, friends and neighbors have the opportunity to gain health care coverage under expansion; and

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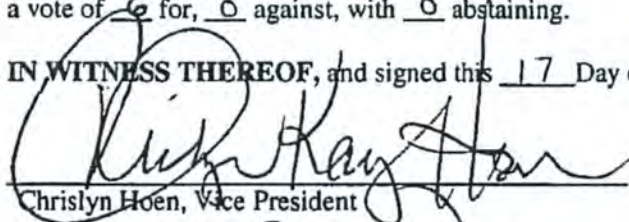
WHEREAS, the State has the option of various Medicaid expansion demonstration projects it may also consider as part of reform; and

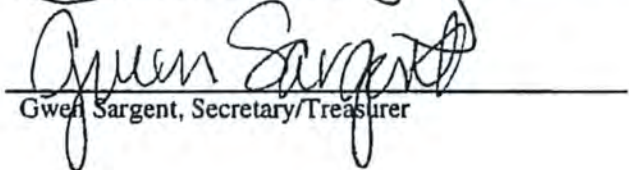
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, TANGIRNAQ NATIVE VILLAGE endorses Medicaid expansion, recognizing we all have an interest in ensuring that Alaskans are as productive as possible so they can contribute to our communities and economy; and

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly adopted at a meeting of the Tangirnaq Native Village, aka Woody Island Tribal Council at which time a quorum of Council members were in attendance. This resolution was adopted by a vote of 6 for, 0 against, with 0 abstaining.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, and signed this 17 Day of March, 2015.


Chrislyn Hoen, Vice President


Gwen Sargent, Secretary/Treasurer

701 West 8th Avenue, Suite 230
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
tel 907.263.3800
fax 907.263.3801
www.unitedwayofanchorage.org



February 17, 2015

Governor Bill Walker
Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 110001
Juneau, AK 99811-0001

Dear Governor Walker,

Thank you for your efforts to expand Medicaid in Alaska under the Affordable Care Act.

United Way of Anchorage has consistently supported Medicaid expansion. Access to health care is a core goal for us, and access to insurance coverage is a critical aspect of all Alaskans planning for and taking care of their health needs. To that end, UWA has served for two years as a navigator under the Affordable Care Act, and Alaska 2-1-1 has been a focal point for getting Alaskans connected with information and assistance for ACA and other enrollment opportunities.

Going forward, we appreciate that Medicaid expansion is not just a yes/no policy decision. It begins with that, certainly, but it will take a cross-sector, systematic approach to make it happen as smoothly as possible. We stand ready to assist you and the State.

Similarly, we offer you our partnership in helping improve other health and quality of life outcomes for Alaskans. In these tough financial times, we must break down the siloes among the sectors to join forces and resources around a shared vision for Alaskans to lead stable, healthy, and safe lives. Alaska 2-1-1 serves clients statewide, with over 3000 resources in the database, and robust provider partnerships throughout the state. That, coupled with United Way of Anchorage's focus on multi sector, data driven, results-focused collaboration, is a platform for the public private partnerships we all need to measurably improve the lives of Alaskans.

Best regards,



Michele Brown
President

cc Commissioner Valerie Davidson

LIVE UNITED.

Randy Ruaro

From: Bette Seaman <betteseaman@gci.net>
Sent: Tuesday, March 10, 2015 10:09 PM
To: Sen. Bert Stedman
Subject: Medicaid expansion

Dear Senator Stedman,

I would like to share 3 things that are important to me.

First and foremost is expansion of Medicaid. Our little hospital in Homer doesn't have a choice as to whether to take risks. By law, anyone who walks through the doors must receive care regardless of the ability to pay. So the people taking the risk are you and I, tax payers of the city and the borough. Since I participate in discharge planning, I am aware of people every week who have no coverage and will probably have no ability to pay for their care.

I will give you one specific example from this fall, of a patient stuck in the donut hole, too rich for Medicaid, too poor for Federal subsidy for healthcare. Since I am a diabetes educator, I will draw from one of those situations.

A young woman, about 24, took a leap of faith and moved from Anchorage to Homer to live with her boyfriend. She got a ½ time job that is expected to become full time this spring. Everything was going well. Then she started not feeling well, did not go to doctor since she had no health care, finally ended up in the ER with diabetic ketoacidosis. This is a life-threatening situation that requires admission to an ICU bed, insulin drip and careful management of electrolytes. She was diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes. She now requires 2 kinds of insulin every day or she will die. She will need to check her blood glucose 6-10 times a day to make sure her glucose is not too high or low. She will need doctor's appointments. She will need education. Our diabetes ed program applied for a grant from the hospital Foundation, and they pay for education for underinsured individuals, so at least we were able to educate her. A vial of insulin costs \$200. We found a mail order source for a less expensive meter and strips, they will cost about \$50-\$100 a month. If she doesn't do these things, her risk for the bad consequences of high blood glucose are much higher, things like retinopathy (and blindness), nephropathy (and dialysis). Etc. Her ICU and ER bills must be well into the thousands. She will probably be on a payment plan, and then at some point the hospital (you and I) will have to write off this bill.

There are many people in this situation. It is so demoralizing not to be able to pay your bills. I hate it when a carpenter or fisherman is admitted with a broken bone that requires surgery to stabilize, and all he is worried about is how is he going to pay the bill, especially now that he has a broken bone and can't work. These are people that do work, but they are young and don't make much money yet.

The other issues are public radio and daylight savings. I believe intelligent, local radio is very important to every community in Alaska, and worthy of funding! As far as Daylight Savings, I hate it! I don't even care whether we choose to be always 4 hours from East Coast or always on Hawaii time; either would be great!

Thank you for all the time and energy to give to us. I really do appreciate it.
Bette Seaman, RDN, CDE

Randy Ruaro

From: Emily Barker <greenesque@ymail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 09, 2015 9:43 AM
To: Sen. Kevin Meyer; Sen. John Coghill; Sen. Berta Gardner; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. Mia Costello; Sen. Mike Dunleavy; Sen. Dennis Egan; Sen. Johnny Ellis; Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Charlie Huggins; Sen. Pete Kelly; Sen. Anna MacKinnon; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Gary Stevens; Sen. Bill Stoltze; Sen. Bill Wielechowski
Subject: In consideration of the Medicaid Expansion

Hello.

My name is Emily Webb. I am 22 years old. I am a hardworking stay at home mom whose husband works a job at a small aviation business. He makes less than \$1000 per month. The company is so small that we do not get benefits.

My father is a state retiree, having served as a Firefighter, Fire chief, and Fire Training Administrator for 30 years. My mother is a nurse at the Alaska Native Medical Center, serving in their Emergency room saving countless lives and helping their massive transition over to electronic charting.

I was raised well, but due to the Alaskan darkness, was diagnosed with seasonal affective disorder in my teens. Winter depression is crippling to me as my brain struggles to create the necessary hormones needed to function. Under ideal circumstances, I can manage my depression with counselling and access to psychiatric medication. This year, however, i cannot do this. I have no medical access.

I am uninsured.

After I quit school in order to raise my 14 month old daughter, despite being under 26, my parents medical insurance refused to cover me after I went below full time student status. The insurance company can do this because they were grandfathered into the system via the Alaskan Legislature. They are not required to keep me on their policy even though the laws should say otherwise.

When we applied for financial aid with insurance, my family is also considered **too poor** to qualify for federal subsidies in order to aid us in obtaining insurance. We were instead given a letter stating that we cannot be fined for lack of insurance. That is nice that we wont be fined, but that still leaves me, a young mother of a one year old baby girl, lacking in basic medical access due to finances.

When we applied for medicaid, we were denied because I am an adult without disability who is not pregnant.

I have slipped through the cracks. Without the medicaid expansion, if anything were to happen, if I were to get into a car accident or break my leg or get ill, my family could not afford it. The debt would be crippling to our family. We have already encountered situations where i have refused needed care due to finances. I live in a constant state of fear that something will happen to me, driving our family into massive debt or rendering me unable to care for my baby girl. That anxiety lingers in my mind every day.

My husband's job has us living in Income based housing as he finishes his Air Traffic Control degree and awaits to be hired by the FAA. We are not just slumming around. We live in poverty now, but our overall life plan has us giving back. We do not believe in my obtaining a job personally due to what we view as appropriate

parenting practices. Additionally, the jobs that I am most qualified for are jobs that would pay me the same as quality childcare would cost, so we opt for me to stay home.

My family is a young family that works hard in order to better our situation. We work hard toward education and the betterment of our selves. My husband is currently applying for the FAA this month as an Air Traffic Controller, but even if he gets hired, there are months of waiting and worrying ahead until he can be taken on for training. We have slipped through the cracks. We are in a loophole that needs to be closed. We desperately urge you to consider the medicaid expansion seriously so that if anything were to happen, we would not need to be afraid of seeking medical attention.

My life, the life of a 22 year old young mother, is on the line.

Emily

Randy Ruaro

From: Nancy Courtney <cabowabo1@gci.net>
Sent: Thursday, March 12, 2015 7:14 PM
To: Sen. Kevin Meyer; Rep. Mike Chenault
Cc: Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. John Coghill; Sen. Mia Costello; Sen. Mike Dunleavy; Sen. Dennis Egan; Sen. Johnny Ellis; Sen. Berta Gardner; Sen.Cathy.Geissel@akleg.gov; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Charlie Huggins; Sen. Pete Kelly; Sen. Anna MacKinnon; Sen.Leslie.McGuire@akleg.gov; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Gary Stevens; Sen. Bill Stoltze; Sen. Bill Wielechowski; Rep. Matt Claman; Rep.Jim.Glover@akleg.gov; Rep. Harriet Drummond; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Neal Foster; Rep. Les Gara; Rep. Lynn Gattis; Rep. Max Gruenberg; Rep. David Guttenberg; Rep. Mike Hawker; Rep. Bob Herron; Rep. Shelley Hughes; Rep. Craig Johnson; Rep. Andy Josephson; Rep. Scott Kawasaki; Rep. Wes Keller; Rep. Sam Kito; Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins; Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux; Rep. Bob Lynn; Rep. Charisse Millett; Rep. Cathy Munoz; Rep. Benjamin Nageak; Rep. Mark Neuman; Rep. Kurt Olson; Rep. Daniel Ortiz; Rep. Lance Pruitt; Rep. Lora Reinbold; Rep. Dan Saddler; Rep. Paul Seaton; Rep. Louise Stutes; Rep. David Talerico; Rep. Geran Tarr; Rep. Steve Thompson; Rep. Cathy Tilton; Rep. Chris Tuck; Rep. Liz Vazquez; Rep. Tammie Wilson; Rep. Adam Wool; bill.walker@alaska.gov; val.davidson@alaska.gov
Subject: Public Comment in support of Medicaid Expansion

March 12, 2015

The Honorable Kevin Meyer
President, Alaska State Senate

The Honorable Mike Chenault
Speaker, Alaska State House

Dear President Meyer and Speaker Chenault,

I am writing in support of Medicaid expansion in Alaska. In these times of severe budget shortfalls and unwanted but necessary budget cuts, Medicaid expansion is a win-win for all Alaskans.

As you know, the federal match for expansion is 100% through calendar year 2016. The only funds the State will need to expend are implementation funds, which I understand the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority has committed to pay the first year. The State of Alaska would be egregiously remiss to forgo 100% federal matching funds to bring health care coverage to over 40,000 of Alaska's working poor.

In watching the legislative debate on Medicaid expansion, a main concern legislators have is that the federal government will break its promise of 100%, 95%, 94%, 93% and 90% match over the next five years. I find it odd that the State of Alaska does not waiver to accept 90% federal highway matching funds to build our highways without fear of losing the match funding. Why should we fear losing similar federal match funding for health care? And if the federal government were to break its commitment, the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services will have mechanisms in place to end the expansion program and the State will not be left holding the bag to fund the program.

In closing, one of Governor Walker's primary commitments is to expand Medicaid so that over 40,000 of Alaska's working poor can get health care coverage. A majority of Alaskans voted for Governor Walker to lead our state because of his commitment to expand Medicaid. Alaska's legislators are elected to serve and do what's best for all Alaskans and you should support Medicaid expansion as the majority of Alaskans who voted Governor Walker into office do.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this critical matter that will benefit the health and economy for all Alaskans. I respectfully request your vote in support of Medicaid expansion.

Nancy Courtney

5001 Pond Vista Drive, Juneau, Alaska 99801

(907) 321-2285; cabowabo1@gci.net

Senate District Q/House District 34

cc: Senate and House Legislators

Governor Walker

Commissioner Davidson

Randy Ruaro

From: Hilary Morgan <hmorgan@ywcaak.org>
Sent: Thursday, March 12, 2015 10:49 AM
To: Hilary Morgan
Subject: Resolution in Support of Medicaid Expansion
Attachments: Resolution in Support of Medicaid Expansion FINAL.docx

Dear Governor Walker, Lieutenant Governor Mallott, Commissioner Davidson, and Alaska State Legislators,

Please accept this letter of support of Medicaid expansion in the State of Alaska from the Anchorage Human and Social Services Executive Directors.

Thank you.

Respectfully,

Hilary Morgan, CEO
YWCA Alaska
Ph. 907-644-9601

PICK.CLICK.GIVE.

Consider choosing YWCA Alaska when you

apply for your 2015 PFD!

Resolution in Support of Medicaid Expansion

by Anchorage Human and Social Services Executive Directors

February, 2015

Whereas, the health and wellness of Alaskans is a Constitutional priority and is vital to each individual, family, community and our entire State;

Whereas, Alaskans have identified 25 Leading Health Priorities providing a science-based framework to guide efforts toward improving health and ensuring health equity for all Alaskans which includes access to health care;

Whereas, an estimated 40,000 of the most vulnerable Alaskans are uninsured and potentially eligible for Medicaid (*Source: Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium. Healthier Alaskans Create a Healthier State Economy. Anchorage, AK, 2013.*);

Whereas, the State of Alaska budget deficit, due to significantly lower oil prices and declining oil production, calls for all Alaskans to work together to achieve consensus on priorities, long term financial sustainability, program performance and leveraging revenue sources;

Whereas, routine preventive care contributes to life time good health; early treatment of illness and injury make it more likely for an individual to regain their health; and, treatment in an Emergency Room is most expensive;

Whereas, access to primary care and medication is particularly significant for individuals with chronic disease such as cancer, diabetes and cardiovascular disease; and Medicaid patients are 15% more likely to be tested than uninsured. Medicaid beneficiaries with heart disease are twice as likely to take their medication appropriately, compared to those who are uninsured, and are also more likely to have their blood pressure controlled and to have been checked for high cholesterol compared to the uninsured. [*Cancer Action Network, American Diabetes Association, American Heart Association, American Stroke Association, Medicaid: An Important Source of Health Care Coverage for Patients with Chronic Disease.*];

Whereas, lack of health insurance contributes to family stress and financial instability including 154,900 Alaskans served annually by the Food Bank of Alaska network of over 300 partners:

- 56% making choices between medications/meals
- 26% of households report at least one member with diabetes
- 47% of households report at least one member with high blood pressure
- 34% have no health insurance of any kind, including Medicaid
- 56% of households report having unpaid medical bills
- 53% of clients served have incomes that are at or below the federal poverty level (\$15,510 or less for household of two)
- 27% have incomes between \$1-\$10,000 annually; 29% have incomes of \$10,001-\$20,000 annually

Whereas, good health and wellness are supporting factors in children staying and succeeding in school; adults getting and keeping a job; and, in healthy, competitive communities;

Whereas, the State of Alaska has an opportunity now to develop an Alaska Medicaid Expansion Program which meets the needs of vulnerable Alaskans, communities and Alaska as well as being an effective component of the Alaska health care system and is funded by the Federal government at least at 90% and has the potential to provide additional offsets to program expansion administration;

Whereas, Medicaid Expansion would provide a revenue stream covering a portion of the health care costs of vulnerable Alaskans and in doing so support financial stability and organization sustainability of the Alaska health safety net: community health centers, community mental health centers, tribal clinics, rural hospitals, urban hospitals;

Whereas, in FY2014, as partners in caring for vulnerable Alaskans, coalition members contributed directly to customer health or provided supports to increase the likelihood of short term and lifelong health and wellness. We

- provided 18,805 customers health care services 26,529 customers health screenings; 68,841 customers health education; \$17,690,505 donated logistical or financial assistance; 14,848 with a patient centered medical home; and, 31,793 or 84% of customers surveyed demonstrated/reported healthy behaviors and 8,073 or 84% met the terms of their health treatment plan; and,
- Served 994,312 meals/snacks/ box lunches; sheltered 17,103 homeless individuals/families; provided 24,695 households prevention services and/or income boosts; distributed 540,037 pounds of food; and 1,484 or 64% of participating customers demonstrating improved coping skills, better ability to return to daily life, *ability to return to work and/or home after completing crime or violence prevention and/or stabilization programs and 1,532 or 70% of participating customers had increased self-sufficiency levels after exiting a program operating in the community; and,*
- *1,037 children 0-5 screenings; 1,684 children provided with quality care and education services; 109,165 free books distributed to children 0-5; and, 2,167 or 89% of participating parents/families had increased knowledge of parenting and child development*
- 20,948 of youth participating in activities that promote youth development; 196 or 67% participating youth decreasing substance use; 6,000 or 69% youth more engaged with education, learning and school; and, 10,860 or 74% youth with conflict resolution skills *(Note: the information above is a sample based on data provided is based on annual reporting by partner agencies to United Way of Anchorage.); and,*
- We, our partners, business people, teachers, students and parents have been working together to increase the Anchorage School District graduation to 90% by the year 2020, and have together increased graduation rates from 59% in 2005 to 74% in 2014 which contributes as a positive determinant in lifelong health.

Therefore, we the undersigned non-profits support the following Medicaid Expansion strategies:

- Approve Medicaid Expansion
- Fix and clear backlogs for
 - the State of Alaska Medicaid eligibility determination system, Alaska's Resource for Integrated Eligibility Services (ARIES), and;
 - the payment system, Medicaid Management Information System (MMIS) prior to Medicaid Expansion
- Accept federal money for Medicaid Expansion
- Approve supplemental funding for Medicaid Expansion administration

And;

Commit to being partners in this effort by continuing to care for vulnerable Alaskans and by working with the Governor, State of Alaska Legislature, the State of Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, the business community and other stakeholders to develop a sustainable Alaska Medicaid Expansion Program.

Hilary A. Morgan, Co-Chair

CEO, YWCA Alaska

Signatories

Abused Women's Aid in Crisis, Inc. (AWAIC)

AK Child & Family

Alaska Injury Prevention Center

Alison Kear, Chief Executive Officer, Covenant House Alaska

American Diabetes Association

Anchorage Neighborhood Health Center

Anchorage Youth Development Coalition (AYDC)

Barbara Dubovich, Chief Executive Officer, Camp Fire USA Alaska Council

CCS Early Learning

Food Bank of Alaska

Jerry A. Jenkins, Chief Executive Officer, Anchorage Community Mental Health Services (and Fairbanks Community Mental Health Services)

Lisa Aquino, Executive Director, Catholic Social Services

Francine Harbor, NAMI

Nine Star Education and Employment Services

Pauline P. Smith, Executive Director, Alaska Literacy Program

RurAL CAP

Stephanie Berglund, CEO, thread

Volunteers of America Alaska

YWCA Alaska

Randy Ruaro

From: Michele Brown <mbrown@ak.org>
Sent: Monday, March 16, 2015 10:14 AM
To: Sen. Bert Stedman
Subject: Support of Medication Expansion

Dear Senator Stedman,

The time for Medicaid Expansion is now. The reasons to do so are well known:

- **People:** Nearly 42,000 uninsured Alaskans are eligible for basic health care coverage
- **Revenue:** \$1.1 Billion in new Federal revenue for Alaska
- **Jobs:** Up to 4,000 new jobs
- **Wages:** \$1.2 Billion in more in wages and salaries

The reasons against doing so are speculative, and can be addressed when and if they occur.

In the meantime, Alaska is losing out on substantial revenue. The 100% federal contribution is time-bound. Alaska has already lost funds for calendar year 2014 and the first quarter of 2015. We have also lost job growth and health care and services for thousands of Alaskans. Yet, Alaskans are already paying into the national system without receiving the full benefits.

The Healthy Alaskans 2020 report sets a priority to reduce the percentage of adults reporting that they could not afford to see a doctor in the last 12 months. This is a priority because access to health care is a critical societal infrastructure for a high functioning workforce and community. Alaska routinely invests in capital infrastructure expenditures even when future funding is speculative. Unlike road projects, which could be a waste of resources if the expected federal contribution was not fulfilled, access to health care is immediately important and valuable. Even if the worst were to happen and Medicaid expansion eligibility were restricted in the future, it is still better to have had short term health care.

Medicaid Expansion provides downward pressure on health care costs by lowering uncompensated care and helps all Alaskans. This is critical to ensure that the health infrastructure currently provided around the state remains strong and affordable to other users.

Please act now to authorize Medicaid expansion. We offer you our partnership in helping improve health and quality of life outcomes for Alaskans. Together, we can join forces and leverage resources around a shared vision for Alaskans to lead stable, healthy, and safe lives.

Best regards,



Michele Brown / President / United Way of Anchorage

701 W. 8th Avenue, Suite 230, Anchorage, AK 99501 / P: 907. 263.3820 / F: 907.263.3801

Visit us at liveunitedanc.org / Like us on Facebook



United Way of Anchorage



Randy Ruaro

From: Janice Hotch <janice.hotch@ak.net>
Sent: Friday, March 13, 2015 2:03 PM
To: Sen. Kevin Meyer; Sen. John Coghill; Sen. Berta Gardner; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. Mia Costello; Sen. Mike Dunleavy; Sen. Dennis Egan; Sen. Johnny Ellis; Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Charlie Huggins; Sen. Pete Kelly; Sen. Anna MacKinnon; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Gary Stevens; Sen. Bill Stoltze; Sen. Bill Wielechowski
Cc: kaaxkwhei@gmail.com; Edward Hotch; rpeteron@cchita.org; 'Barbara Fujimoto'; 'Alice Bagoyo'; 'Andrea Cadiante-Laiti'; 'Andrea Cesar'; Andy Ebona; 'Bill Martin'; 'Debra O'Gara'; 'Dionne Cadiante-Laiti'; 'Doug Chilton'; 'Ed Kunz'; Ella Bennett; 'Ernie Hillman'; 'evelyn myers'; 'Gerald & Arlene Bennett'; gjackson46@gci.net; 'Gloria Sarabia'; 'Harold Houston'; 'Harold Jacobs'; 'Harold Martin'; 'Jacqueline Johnson Pata'; 'James Jack Sr.'; 'Janice Hotch'; Jerry Bennett; 'John Martin'; jojo6456@netscape.net; 'Jon Duncan'; 'Judy Helgesen'; koowaal@gmail.com; 'Lance Twitchell'; Leona Santiago; lkadinger@thrha.org; 'Michaelyn Kunz'; 'Mick Beasley'; 'Mike Corpuz'; nd10001d@aol.com; 'Norman Sarabia'; 'Ozzie Sheakley'; 'Patricia Walker'; Patricia Walker; 'Royal Hill'; 'Sandra Cross'; 'Selena Beierly'; 'Selina Everson'; 'Sue Ann Lindoff'; 'Susitna King'; 'Valerie'
Subject: Medicaid Expansion
Attachments: JTHCC Medicaid Expansion 02-2015.pdf

Honorable Senators:


Last night, the Juneau Tlingit & Haida Community Council held its regular meeting and annual meeting in Juneau at our community hall located at 3235 Hospital Drive, and passed the attached JTHCC Resolution 02-2015 entitled: A Resolution Urging the Alaska Legislature to Expand Medicaid Coverage to Improve the Health of Alaskans and to Improve the Alaskan Economy.

As you will see in the resolution, the Juneau Tlingit & Haida Community Council is a federally recognized tribal political subdivision and subordinate entity of the Central Council Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska. The Juneau Tlingit & Haida Community Council represents 6,746 tribal members of Tlingit and Haida descent living in the greater City and Borough of Juneau.

Medicaid Expansion is very important to our tribal members and we would like to see the Legislature approve the legislation that will provide Medicaid Expansion coverage for the underserved tribal members as well as all Alaskans. We believe expanding Medicaid will enable coverage for those underserved who have fallen through – and in some cases, have fallen out of the system entirely.

Thank you for your time, your service and on behalf of the 6,746 tribal members in the greater city and borough of Juneau, we appreciate your consideration of our attached resolution. If you feel letters from individuals

would have a bigger impact, please advise, and I will be most happy to rally our tribal members to inundate the Representatives with individual letters urging your support of Medicaid Expansion.



Sincerely,

Janice L Hotch, President

Juneau Tlingit & Haida Community Council

3235 Hospital Drive, Juneau, AK 99801

janice.hotch@ak.net

mobile: 907.723.8869



Juneau Tlingit & Haida Community Council
P.O. Box 020770, Juneau, Alaska 99802
Physically located at: 3235 Hospital Drive, Juneau, AK 99801

A T & H Community of the Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska



Resolution 02-2015

**A RESOLUTION URGING THE ALASKA LEGISLATURE TO EXPAND MEDICAID
COVERAGE TO IMPROVE THE HEALTH OF ALASKANS AND TO IMPROVE THE
ALASKAN ECONOMY**

WHEREAS, Central Council Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska (Central Council) is a federally recognized tribe of more than 28,000 tribal citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Juneau Tlingit & Haida Community Council (JTHCC) is a federally recognized tribal political subdivision and subordinate entity of Central Council Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska. The JTHCC tribal member enrollment as of January 2015 is 6,746;

WHEREAS, nearly 42,000 of our family members, friends and neighbors have the opportunity to gain health care coverage under expansion; and

WHEREAS, Medicaid expansion will improve health outcomes by reducing the number of uninsured Alaskans by half, improving preventive and primary care access, providing substance abuse treatment and mental health counseling, and reducing the mortality rate; and

WHEREAS, Medicaid expansion brings over \$1 billion in new federal revenue into Alaska over the first five years; and

WHEREAS, studies project expansion will likely yield 4,000 new jobs, \$1.2 billion more in wages and salaries paid to Alaskans, and \$2.49 billion in increased economic activity throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, with expansion the State would save \$6.1 million in FY2016 by using federal funds to pay for health services currently paid for with state general funds; and,

WHEREAS, federal funds will pay for 100% of services provided to the expansion population through 2016 and will transition to 90% in 2020 and beyond; and

WHEREAS, the State's continued participation is contingent upon maintaining the 90% match; and

WHEREAS, Medicaid expansion will significantly reduce the burden of uncompensated care, which was over \$90 million at non-tribal Alaska hospitals in 2013; and

WHEREAS, Medicaid expansion will serve as a catalyst for meaningful Medicaid reform; and

WHEREAS, leveraging the federal resources that come with expansion is the State's biggest opportunity to finance reform efforts; and

WHEREAS, the State has the option of various Medicaid expansion demonstration projects it may also consider as part of reform; and

WHEREAS, Medicaid reform and expansion will provide for underserved tribal members: children in need of aid, pregnancies and birthing, people in prisons, mentally ill persons and veterans; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Juneau Tlingit & Haida Community Council endorses Medicaid expansion, recognizing we all have an interest in ensuring that Alaskans are as productive as possible so they can contribute to our communities and economy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Juneau Tlingit & Haida Community Council strongly urges the Alaska Legislature to expand Medicaid for the benefit of Alaskans and the Alaska economy to take effect in July 2015 and, though reform efforts should be of utmost importance, this work should not delay health care coverage for those Alaskans who would be eligible for Medicaid under expansion.

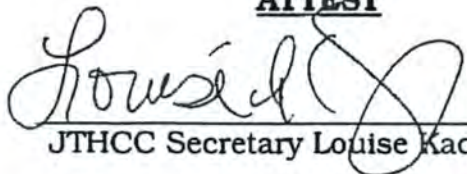
Passed and approved this 12th day of March 2015, at Juneau, Alaska.

X APPROVED ___ DISAPPROVED ___ TABLED

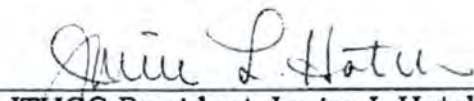
26 AYES ___ NAYS 19 ABSENT

CERTIFY

ATTEST



JTHCC Secretary Louise Kadinger



JTHCC President Janice L Hotch

Randy Ruaro

From: Alaska Common Ground <info@akcommonground.org>
Sent: Monday, March 23, 2015 1:12 PM
To: Sen. Bill Wielechowski; Sen. Anna MacKinnon; Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Berta Gardner; Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Charlie Huggins; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. Dennis Egan; Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Gary Stevens; Sen. John Coghill; Sen. Johnny Ellis; Sen. Kevin Meyer; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Mia Costello; Sen. Mike Dunleavy; Sen. Pete Kelly; Sen. Peter Micciche; Senator.Stolze.Bill@akleg.gov
Subject: Letter in support of expanding medicaid
Attachments: Medicaid support letter.pdf

March 19, 2015

Dear Senators and Representatives:

On March 18, 2015 the Board of Directors of Alaska Common Ground voted to express their support for the expansion of Medicaid. This letter is to communicate our support to each of you.

Our reasons are twofold:

First, Medicaid expansion will have a **positive fiscal impact** at a time when it is greatly needed. As your economists have explained, the infusion of new money into the state will have multiple positive ripple effects, benefiting not just the health care industry, but other businesses, employees and families.

Secondly, and most importantly, many of our fellow citizens are suffering and dying because they cannot afford health care without insurance. Other than last minute, often too late, emergency treatment, they do not have care. As the nun from Anchorage Faith & Action Congregations Together (AFACT) expressed so well, we all have a **moral imperative to be our brother's keepers**.

In conclusion, **we want to emphasize that your approval of Medicaid must happen this session or Alaska will lose another whole year of potential economic and social benefits.**

Thank you for your service for all Alaskans.

Sincerely,

Mary Lu Harle

Acting Chair, Board of Directors

Alaska Common Ground

--

Alaska Common Ground
An Engaged Alaskan Democracy
www.akcommonground.org



ALASKA COMMON GROUND
P.O. Box 241672 • Anchorage, AK 99524-1672 •
www.akcommonground.org

March 19, 2015

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info@akcommonground.org

Dear Senators and Representatives:

On March 18, 2015 the Board of Directors of Alaska Common Ground voted to express their support for the expansion of Medicaid. This letter is to communicate our support to each of you.

Our reasons are twofold:

First, Medicaid expansion will have a **positive fiscal impact** at a time when it is greatly needed. As your economists have explained, the infusion of new money into the state will have multiple positive ripple effects, benefiting not just the health care industry, but other businesses, employees and families.

Secondly, and most importantly, many of our fellow citizens are suffering and dying because they cannot afford health care without insurance. Other than last minute, often too late, emergency treatment, they do not have care. As the nun from Anchorage Faith & Action Congregations Together (AFACT) expressed so well, we all have a **moral imperative to be our brother's keepers**.

In conclusion, **we want to emphasize that your approval of Medicaid must happen this session or Alaska will lose another whole year of potential economic and social benefits.**

Thank you for your service for all Alaskans.

Sincerely,

Mary Lu Harle
Acting Chair, Board of Directors
Alaska Common Ground

Randy Ruaro

From: E CFigus <ecfigus@alaska.edu>
Sent: Thursday, March 19, 2015 8:57 AM
Subject: Medicaid reform

Dear HSS Committee Chairs and Members,

I am a Juneau resident, and a graduate student at UAF. I am 28 and moved to Juneau three years ago. I love living in Alaska, and plan to live here for the rest of my life. As I near a time in my life when I plan to start my own family, I am concerned about the accessibility of high quality health care to all Alaskans.

I am writing to urge you to support the Governor's Medicaid reform and expansion bill, SB 78. I hope that you consider the health of all Alaskans during the decision-making process.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Figus



March 11, 2015

The Honorable Bert Stedman
State Senate
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

MAR 16 2015

Dear Senator Stedman:

The Aleutian Housing Authority (AHA) is the Tribally Designated Housing Entity for the Aleutian Pribilof Islands Region of Alaska. Our mission is, in part, to contribute to the building of healthy, stable and sustainable communities throughout our region. AHA strongly urges the Alaska Legislature to expand Medicaid in July 2015, or as soon as possible for the benefit of Alaskans and the Alaska economy.

Nearly 42,000 of our fellow Alaskans will be eligible for health coverage under Medicaid expansion. Expansion improves health outcomes by reducing the number of uninsured Alaskans by half, improving preventative and primary care access, and providing substance abuse treatment and mental health counseling.

There are significant economic benefits associated with Medicaid expansion, which will bring more than \$1 billion in new federal revenue to our state, 4,000 new jobs, \$1.2 billion more in wages and salaries paid to Alaskans, and \$2.49 billion in increased economic activity over the first five years. We should view Medicaid expansion as an economic driver that will positively impact our state's economy as we are faced with declining oil prices and the resulting budget challenges.

In addition to new federal revenue, savings to the state budget have also been identified in the Department of Corrections, the Chronic and Acute Medical Assistance (CAMA) Program and behavioral health grants. In FY2016, the state would realize \$6.1 million in savings. Medicaid expansion is healthy for Alaskans and healthy for the state's budget. We encourage the continued internal evaluation to identify other potential savings and offsets attributable to expansion and reform.

Federal funds will pay for 100% of services provided to the expansion population through 2016 and will transition to 90% in 2020 and beyond. We support Governor Walker's position that Alaska's participation is contingent on the federal match remaining at 90%.

Medicaid expansion may serve as a catalyst for meaningful Medicaid reform and we support these discussions. We are pleased to hear that the Department of Health and Human Services has issued an RFP for technical assistance related to reform efforts. Though reform of the current Medicaid program should be of utmost importance, reform efforts should not delay health care coverage for those Alaskans who would be eligible for Medicaid under expansion.

The Aleutian Housing Authority endorses Medicaid expansion, recognizing that we all have an interest in ensuring that Alaskans are as productive as possible so they can contribute to our communities and economy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan Duame", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dan Duame
Executive Director

Anchorage Community



Mental Health
Services, Inc.

Fairbanks Community



Mental Health
Services, LLC.

3830 South Cushman Street • Fairbanks, Alaska 99701 • 907-452-1575 • (Fax) 907-371-1385 • e-mail: info@acmhs.com • website: www.acmhs.com

8 March 2015

Senator Bert Stedman
State Capitol Building, Room 30
Juneau, AK 99801

MAR 16 2015

Dear Senator Stedman:

Following are recommendations addressing four of five distinct populations/groups of Alaskans based on the lens of where I sit as the leader of the community behavioral health services in Anchorage and Fairbanks. The populations are severely emotionally disturbed children; transitional aged youth; severely mentally ill adults; adults with substance use disorders (SUD) and persons with Alzheimer's or related dementia. Comments will exclude Alzheimer's as it is covered under Senior and Disability Services and recovery is not an expectation at this time.

The focus will be on behavioral health and specifically addressing severely emotionally disturbed children (SED); transitional aged youth (TAY); severely mentally ill (SMI) adults and adults with substance use disorders (SUD) which if often in conjunction with serious mental illness. These are often referred to as the 'priority populations' as they are considered vulnerable/high risk populations. These have been chosen due to the potential for recovery from the impacts of mental illness and substance use/addiction as well as being fully aware of the cost of not addressing their issues.

Couched in several reports listed at the end of this letter are opportunities in my opinion to transform the current behavioral health care system. The proposed opportunities recognize and endorse reducing the financial burden to the State of Alaska; increasing access to care; increasing effectiveness and increasing provider resiliency.

Some items will require political will. Some will require defining expectations of various governmental bodies in Alaska, various communities, populations and healthcare providers. Alignment of expectations and resources will be part of determining the political will. The vastness and diversity of Alaska also requires the ability to use novel approaches based on local/regional nuances, expectations and resources.

Premise: People with untreated or undertreated behavioral issues are expensive. The data indicates they gravitate to high cost locations. It can be acute psychiatric and long term residential care or Juvenile Justice for children and youth. It is Department of Corrections, emergency rooms as well as acute psychiatric services for adults. This does not include law enforcement and emergency responders who normally get the first call. This premise does not take into consideration the other health care costs impacts including injuries and illnesses.

Following are recommendations with partial justifications including cost savings/shifting strategies.

Recommendations:

1. Expand and repackage Medicaid, particularly for the behavioral health priority populations. Expanding allows persons exiting Department of Corrections to have immediate access to health insurance. The potential savings for DOC is on the Assess, Plan, Identify and Coordinate (APIC) funding. APIC currently supports mental health services for a period of time for SMI exiting DOC.
2. Use Permanent Fund Dividend for helping to offset the cost of Medicaid as it is a high value health insurance.
3. Identify and manage the high utilizers of behavioral health care Medicaid. Focus on asking why there is such a level of utilization and what can be done differently to reduce. If the questions and science are not pursued, the results will likely remain the same. One reason for this recommendation is a Community Mental Health Center Medicaid expenditures report that indicated that 10% of adults accounted for 69% of expenditure while 14% of the youth accounted for 80% of expenditures. As the largest community based provider in the state knowing my daily average cost to serve hard cases is less than \$30, I think there are opportunities. This was evidenced in the Brings the Kids Home Initiative.
4. Pursue a Medicaid Waiver for the highest risk, highest need. The group will include those deemed not competent and not restorable and may be part of the previous group. The goal is identifying resources/strategies to address the behaviors that result in frequent DOC and/or Alaska Psychiatric Institute contact. Pursue behavioral health homes in the same manner as health homes. Recognized in this is the need to have standardized assessment instruments with which to determine needed level of care. Addiction treatment providers have it through the American Society of Addiction Medicine Patient Placement Criteria, aka, ASAM.
5. Repackage Behavioral Health Medicaid to where it can pay for housing which is medically necessary for persons in need of accommodations/supports. There are housing continuum models which accommodate where people are in the recovery process. The offset is the opportunity to move individuals currently supported by General Relief in Assisted Living Facilities to supported housing funded via Medicaid. Such housing should routinely evaluate barriers that keep people from moving into independent living. Along with this, I fully recognize the need for expanding safe, affordable and accommodating housing options. That is a discussion for another day.
6. Pursue an exemption from the federal Institute of Mental Disease (IMD) Exclusion. This could be part of a Medicaid Waiver request. The purpose is to permit substance abuse providers and acute care providers with more than 16 beds to bill Medicaid. One off set here will be reducing the transportation costs incurred when there is not access to acute psychiatric beds in Juneau or Fairbanks resulting in transfer to Anchorage to the Alaska Psychiatric Institute (API). This could also be a funding mechanism for API. As noted, it also allows substance abuse treatment centers to access Medicaid resulting in an opportunity to reduce General Fund expenditures. In a related matter, devise/promote mechanisms whereby non-Indian Health Services providers can subcontract with Alaska Native providers to provide services through IHS entities. This increases the Federal Medical Assistance Percentages (FMAP), access and promotes integrated care.

7. Recognize that alcohol use is a public health issue in Alaska. Tobacco is currently recognized and use has dropped. A similar approach with alcohol could have phenomenal impacts at reducing crime, child abuse, domestic violence and behavioral health costs.
8. Last, share lessons learned. One example is promoting trauma informed care. Data indicates many of the individuals utilizing SED, TAY, SMI and SUD services have extensive trauma/adverse childhood/life events. There is also evidence that behavioral health services become much more effective when the impact of past events is considered on individuals. This is an evolving area of science that has great potential at improving overall health in Alaska.

Senator Stedman, thank you for your time and considerations. I will close restating I think the previous are part of the opportunities at reducing the financial burden to the State of Alaska; increasing access to care; increasing effectiveness and increasing provider resiliency.

Regards,



Jerry A. Jenkins, M.Ed., MAC
Chief Executive Officer

Abridged Listing of References:

1. Legislative Budget and Audit Committee Report Control Number 06-4544-97 dated September 1997
2. Options for Cost Savings, Medicaid Task Force, dated May 2011
3. An Analysis of the Impact of Medicaid Expansion in Alaska – Final Report – April 2013
4. FY2014 DHSS Budget Overview, Pages 89-160
5. 2015 Recidivism Reduction Plan: Cost Effective Solutions to Slow Prison Population Growth and Reduce Recidivism.
6. Quick review of IMD – 42 USC 1396d(a) and(i) and http://www2.nami.org/Template.cfm?Section=Issue_Spotlights&template=/ContentManagement/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=44050
7. Adverse Childhood Events Study quick references:
<http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/cestudy/>
<http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/cestudy/findings.html>

Randy Ruaro

From: Dennis Gall <gall_dennis@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, March 16, 2015 7:48 PM
To: Sen. Bert Stedman
Subject: Medicare

Hello...

I am writing today to urge you to move forward with the governor's plan to expand Medicare, without further delay. This is a pragmatic and well thought out decision that is good for the health of Alaskan's, and also for the Alaskan economy, with state costs off set by savings in medical expenses that the State and medical providers currently are uncompensated for. This just really makes good practical sense. I understand that state government faces tremendous financial difficulties, but all things considered this proposal should be revenue neutral for state government while infusing millions of dollars into the state economy.

Sincerely,
Dennis Gall

Randy Ruaro

From: Lindsay Duckworth <lduckworth@peacehealth.org>
Sent: Thursday, March 26, 2015 3:11 PM
To: Sen. Bert Stedman
Subject: Coverage is good for Alaska's economy

Dear Senator Stedman,

I am writing to urge you to support Medicaid expansion in Alaska because it is good for our local economy. Medicaid expansion could bring \$145 million a year of new federal money into our state and create 4,000 jobs.

According to Jonathan King of Northern Economics, the state's economy is headed for recession and federal Medicaid expansion money is one of the few bright spots on the horizon that could help mitigate that recession.

In 2013, Alaska's hospitals had more than \$92 million in uncompensated care costs. This gets passed on to all of us through higher health insurance rates. In other states, Medicaid expansion has resulted in a 20-30% decrease in uncompensated care.

Please help grow Alaska's economy and keep our health care costs under control.

Sincerely,

Lindsay Duckworth
877 Jackson St
Ketchikan, AK 99901

Randy Ruaro

From: Lynn Carter <user@votervoice.net>
Sent: Thursday, March 26, 2015 1:30 AM
To: Sen. Bert Stedman
Subject: Close the health insurance gap

Dear Senator Stedman,

Please help close the health insurance gap in Alaska.

I support Medicaid expansion - which will provide more Alaskans health care for less state money by maximizing use of available federal dollars. When people have insurance they are able to access primary care, resulting in less expensive emergency room visits. People are also better able to manage chronic diseases, resulting in better health at a lower cost.

Access to health care enables people to stay healthy and join or stay in the workforce. Individual Alaskans who earn \$20,314 (about \$9.76 an hour) a year or less, or married couples earning a combined \$27,490 a year or less qualify for Medicaid expansion. Medicaid gives them the freedom to work for a living without worrying about whether an unpreventable accident or illness will make them bankrupt.

I encourage you to support the governor's proposal to implement Medicaid expansion with smart reforms. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Lynn
690 S Yorktown Dr Apt 18
Ketchikan, AK 99901
aknana12345@yahoo.com

Randy Ruaro

From: Deborah Hackenberger <nightfall966@mtaonline.net>
Sent: Monday, March 23, 2015 5:33 PM
To: Sen. Bert Stedman
Subject: Medicaid Expansion

Dear Senator Stedman;

I am writing due to my concern about the governors push to expand Medicaid using funds offered by the federal government. At a time when our state budget is already over by \$3.5 billion (or so) and the federal government is in debt by \$16 trillion is expanding Medicaid a wise thing to do? Please do not misunderstand me, I am most likely one of the people expansion would help, but how are we going to pay for this expansion in 6 years, or 2 years if the federal government can no longer keep the promises made to fund the Medicaid expansion.

The price of a barrel of oil does not appear to be significantly increasing and basing our state budget on anything more than \$40 a barrel is fool hardy at best. Is the state legislature going to be so callous as to expand Medicaid, discover that we have just driven over a fiscal cliff, then proceed to cut the program back thereby kicking off the 200,000+ people who basically just qualified for the program?

Before the legislature has a discussion on Medicaid expansion perhaps you should all be very honest and up front with the people of this state and tell them that if Medicaid is expanded the state will have to impose a sales tax of 5%, or perhaps you will vote to create one more incentive NOT to work by imposing an income tax, to insure the costs are covered. If you and your fellow legislatures are going to have discussions about expanding Medicaid, make sure those discussions also include ways to keep the program solvent in the next 20 years.

On a side note (since bring up a problem without a solution is whining) how about creating a sliding "fee" scale for a state run insurance program?

Thanks for your time.

Sincerely

Deborah Hackenberger

Randy Ruaro

From: Business Manager <larryb@gci.net>
Sent: Monday, March 23, 2015 2:29 PM
To: Sen. Bert Stedman
Subject: Medicaid expansion
Attachments: Senator Bert Stedman.pdf

Dear Senator Stedman,

Please accept the attached letter and Catholic Community Service Board of Directors' Resolution #15-12 as Catholic Community Service's support of Medicaid expansion.

Catholic Community Service provides a variety of services throughout Southeast Alaska, including services to seniors, services to children and families, and hospice and home care. It is clear that some of the agency's clients receiving these services and their clients would benefit from Medicaid expansion.

Thank you for your consideration of our support of expansion.



March 23, 2015

Senator Bert Stedman
Alaska State Senate
120 4th Street, Room 3
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Senator Stedman:

During its March 18 meeting, the Catholic Community Service (CCS) Board of Directors approved Resolution #15-12, "A Resolution urging the Alaska Legislature to expand Medicaid coverage to improve the health of Alaskans and to improve the Alaskan economy." That resolution, signed by Board President John Greely, is attached.

Catholic Community Service supports efforts to expand Medicaid for the benefit of Alaskans, in particular for the vulnerable Alaskans who CCS serves.

Nearly 42,000 of our fellow Alaskans will be eligible for health coverage under Medicaid expansion. Expansion improves health outcomes by reducing the number of uninsured Alaskans by half, improving preventative and primary care access, and providing substance abuse treatment and mental health counseling.

There are significant economic benefits associated with Medicaid expansion, which is expected to bring more than \$1 billion in new federal revenue to our state, 4,000 new jobs, \$1.2 billion more in wages and salaries paid to Alaskans, and \$2.49 billion in increased economic activity over the first five years.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration on this issue. The mission of Catholic Community Service is "Strengthening families and individuals in Southeast Alaska, with dignity, care, and compassion. We believe our support of Medicaid expansion speaks to every element of our mission.

Sincerely,

Larry J. Bussone
Interim Executive Director

attachment



Catholic Community Service

**BOARD RESOLUTION
(#15-12)**

TITLE: A RESOLUTION URGING THE ALASKA LEGISLATURE TO EXPAND MEDICAID COVERAGE TO IMPROVE THE HEALTH OF ALASKANS AND TO IMPROVE THE ALASKAN ECONOMY.

WHEREAS, nearly 42,000 of our family members, friends and neighbors have the opportunity to gain health care coverage under expansion; and

WHEREAS, Medicaid expansion will improve health outcomes by reducing the number of uninsured Alaskans by half, improving preventive and primary care access, providing substance abuse treatment and mental health counseling, and reducing the mortality rate; and

WHEREAS, Medicaid expansion brings over \$1 billion in new federal revenue into Alaska over the first five years; and

WHEREAS, studies project expansion will likely yield 4,000 new jobs, \$1.2 billion more in wages and salaries paid to Alaskans, and \$2.49 billion in increased economic activity throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, with expansion the State would save \$6.1 million in FY2016 by using federal funds to pay for health services currently paid for with state general funds; and,

WHEREAS, federal funds will pay for 100% of services provided to the expansion population through 2016 and will transition to 90% in 2020 and beyond; and

WHEREAS, the State's continued participation is contingent upon maintaining the 90% match; and

WHEREAS, Medicaid expansion will significantly reduce the burden of uncompensated care, which was over \$90 million at non-tribal Alaska hospitals in 2013; and

WHEREAS, Medicaid expansion will serve as a catalyst for meaningful Medicaid reform; and

WHEREAS, leveraging the federal resources that come with expansion is the State's biggest opportunity to finance reform efforts; and

WHEREAS, the State has the option of various Medicaid expansion demonstration projects it may also consider as part of reform; and

WHEREAS, Medicaid funding has provided CCS and other non-profits the means to deliver needed medical, transportation, mental health, and nutrition services to Alaskans; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, Catholic Community Service endorses Medicaid expansion, recognizing we all have an interest in ensuring that Alaskans are as productive as possible so they can contribute to our communities and economy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Catholic Community Service strongly urges the Alaska Legislature to expand Medicaid for the benefit of Alaskans and the Alaska economy to take effect in July 2015 and, though reform efforts should be of utmost importance, this work should not delay health care coverage for those Alaskans who would be eligible for Medicaid under expansion. The undersigned President of Catholic Community Service hereby certifies that the CCS Board of Directors duly adopted this resolution on March 18, 2015.



John Greely
President - CCS Board of Directors

3-19-15
Date

Randy Ruaro

From: Kathy Inman <kathyi@sitkahospital.org>
Sent: Thursday, March 26, 2015 3:59 PM
To: Sen. Bert Stedman
Subject: Close the health insurance gap

Dear Senator Stedman,

Please help close the health insurance gap in Alaska.

I support Medicaid expansion - which will provide more Alaskans health care for less state money by maximizing use of available federal dollars. When people have insurance they are able to access primary care, resulting in less expensive emergency room visits. People are also better able to manage chronic diseases, resulting in better health at a lower cost.

Access to health care enables people to stay healthy and join or stay in the workforce. Individual Alaskans who earn \$20,314 (about \$9.76 an hour) a year or less, or married couples earning a combined \$27,490 a year or less qualify for Medicaid expansion. Medicaid gives them the freedom to work for a living without worrying about whether an unpreventable accident or illness will make them bankrupt.

I encourage you to support the governor's proposal to implement Medicaid expansion with smart reforms. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Kathy Inman
1307 Edgumbe Dr
Sitka, AK 99835

Randy Ruaro

From: Lori Trout <ltrout@searhc.org>
Sent: Friday, March 27, 2015 7:16 AM
To: Sen. Bert Stedman
Subject: Coverage is good for Alaska's economy

Dear Senator Stedman,

I am writing to urge you to support Medicaid expansion in Alaska because it is good for our local economy. Medicaid expansion could bring \$145 million a year of new federal money into our state and create 4,000 jobs.

According to Jonathan King of Northern Economics, the state's economy is headed for recession and federal Medicaid expansion money is one of the few bright spots on the horizon that could help mitigate that recession.

In 2013, Alaska's hospitals had more than \$92 million in uncompensated care costs. This gets passed on to all of us through higher health insurance rates. In other states, Medicaid expansion has resulted in a 20-30% decrease in uncompensated care.

Please help grow Alaska's economy and keep our health care costs under control.

Sincerely,

lori trout
PO BOX 293
KAKE, AK 99830

Randy Ruaro

From: Lisa Brooks <Lbrooks@searhc.org>
Sent: Friday, March 27, 2015 10:00 AM
To: Sen. Bert Stedman
Subject: Coverage is good for Alaska's economy

Dear Senator Stedman,

I am writing to urge you to support Medicaid expansion in Alaska because it is good for our local economy. Medicaid expansion could bring \$145 million a year of new federal money into our state and create 4,000 jobs.

According to Jonathan King of Northern Economics, the state's economy is headed for recession and federal Medicaid expansion money is one of the few bright spots on the horizon that could help mitigate that recession.

In 2013, Alaska's hospitals had more than \$92 million in uncompensated care costs. This gets passed on to all of us through higher health insurance rates. In other states, Medicaid expansion has resulted in a 20-30% decrease in uncompensated care.

Please help grow Alaska's economy and keep our health care costs under control.

Sincerely,

Lisa Brooks, RN
108 Toivo Cir
Sitka, AK 99835

Randy Ruaro

From: Marla Sanger <msanger@wmcmail.org>
Sent: Sunday, March 29, 2015 2:58 PM
To: Sen. Bert Stedman
Subject: Close the health insurance gap

Dear Senator Stedman,

Please help our communities by closing the health insurance gap in Alaska.

I support Medicaid expansion - which will provide more Alaskans health care for less state money by maximizing use of available federal dollars. When people have insurance they are able to access primary care to obtain the right level of care at the right time. People are also better able to manage chronic diseases, resulting in better health at a lower cost. At Wrangell Medical Center we see first hand the consequences when members of our community are caught in the health insurance gap.

Access to health care enables people to stay healthy and join or stay in the workforce. Individual Alaskans who earn \$20,314 (about \$9.76 an hour) a year or less, or married couples earning a combined \$27,490 a year or less qualify for Medicaid expansion. Medicaid gives them the freedom to work for a living without worrying about whether an unpreventable accident or illness will make them bankrupt.

I encourage you to support the governor's proposal to implement Medicaid expansion with smart reforms. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Marla Sanger, CEO, Wrangell Medical Center PO Box 1646 Wrangell, AK 99929

Randy Ruaro

From: Kerry Lee Kruckenberg <lee1231980@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 28, 2015 1:02 PM
To: Sen. Bert Stedman
Subject: Medicaid expansion

I'm not going to type out some long detailed letter why it just makes sense to expand medicaid. THIS IS JUST SOMETHING ALASKA NEEDS TO DO!

Randy Ruaro

From: Mary Hilcoske <frieds4@gci.net>
Sent: Saturday, March 28, 2015 12:13 PM
To: Sen. Bert Stedman
Subject: Medicaid Expansion

As a small business manager, I want to urge you to vote for Medicaid expansion. Our firm provides health care coverage for our employees, but we know that, the more people are covered by a plan, the more ALL of us benefit, even businesses which pay all or a portion of the premiums to cover their employees, because this will result in overall healthcare savings for the insurers, which in turn results in lower premiums for all of us. This fact was relayed by the insurance commissioner under Governor Parnell.

We also hear of way too many hard-working Alaskans whose employers do not provide healthcare coverage, but who do not qualify for Obamacare credits, so cannot afford health coverage – why should they be penalized?

Third, with the current fiscal crisis in Alaska, and the impending necessary cuts in the state budget, why would we turn our backs on this funding from the Federal government? It is the fiscally responsible thing to do.

Thank you for voting for all Alaskans.

Mary Hilcoske

Randy Ruaro

From: Doris Clarke <rclarke@sitkahospital.org>
Sent: Thursday, March 26, 2015 1:31 PM
To: Sen. Bert Stedman
Subject: Coverage is good for Alaska's economy

Dear Senator Stedman,

I am writing to urge you to support Medicaid expansion in Alaska because it is good for our local economy. Medicaid expansion could bring \$145 million a year of new federal money into our state and create 4,000 jobs.

According to Jonathan King of Northern Economics, the state's economy is headed for recession and federal Medicaid expansion money is one of the few bright spots on the horizon that could help mitigate that recession.

In 2013, Alaska's hospitals had more than \$92 million in uncompensated care costs. This gets passed on to all of us through higher health insurance rates. In other states, Medicaid expansion has resulted in a 20-30% decrease in uncompensated care.

Please help grow Alaska's economy and keep our health care costs under control.

Sincerely,

Doris Clarke
109 Moller Ave
Sitka, AK 99835

Randy Ruaro

From: Mark Tuccillo <drt@rescue-doc.net>
Sent: Thursday, March 26, 2015 1:35 AM
To: Sen. Bert Stedman
Subject: Coverage is good for Alaska's economy

Dear Senator Stedman,

I am writing to urge you to support Medicaid expansion in Alaska because it is good for our local economy. Medicaid expansion could bring \$145 million a year of new federal money into our state and create 4,000 jobs.

According to Jonathan King of Northern Economics, the state's economy is headed for recession and federal Medicaid expansion money is one of the few bright spots on the horizon that could help mitigate that recession.

In 2013, Alaska's hospitals had more than \$92 million in uncompensated care costs. This gets passed on to all of us through higher health insurance rates. In other states, Medicaid expansion has resulted in a 20-30% decrease in uncompensated care.

Please help grow Alaska's economy and keep our health care costs under control.

Sincerely,

Mark Tuccillo
PO Box 556
Petersburg, AK 99833

Randy Ruaro

From: Lynn Carter <user@votervoice.net>
Sent: Thursday, March 26, 2015 1:30 AM
To: Sen. Bert Stedman
Subject: Close the health insurance gap

Dear Senator Stedman,

Please help close the health insurance gap in Alaska.

I support Medicaid expansion - which will provide more Alaskans health care for less state money by maximizing use of available federal dollars. When people have insurance they are able to access primary care, resulting in less expensive emergency room visits. People are also better able to manage chronic diseases, resulting in better health at a lower cost.

Access to health care enables people to stay healthy and join or stay in the workforce. Individual Alaskans who earn \$20,314 (about \$9.76 an hour) a year or less, or married couples earning a combined \$27,490 a year or less qualify for Medicaid expansion. Medicaid gives them the freedom to work for a living without worrying about whether an unpreventable accident or illness will make them bankrupt.

I encourage you to support the governor's proposal to implement Medicaid expansion with smart reforms. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Lynn
690 S Yorktown Dr Apt 18
Ketchikan, AK 99901
aknana12345@yahoo.com

Randy Ruaro

From: Wendy Weston <wweston@peacehealth.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 25, 2015 4:06 PM
To: Sen. Bert Stedman
Subject: Coverage is good for Alaska's economy

Dear Senator Stedman,

I am writing to urge you to support Medicaid expansion in Alaska because it is good for our local economy. Medicaid expansion could bring \$145 million a year of new federal money into our state and create 4,000 jobs.

According to Jonathan King of Northern Economics, the state's economy is headed for recession and federal Medicaid expansion money is one of the few bright spots on the horizon that could help mitigate that recession.

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Please help grow Alaska's economy and keep our health care costs under control.

Sincerely,

Wendy Weston
2 Shoup St
Ketchikan, AK 99901

Randy Ruaro

From: Carolyn Corrao <ccorrao@peacehealth.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 25, 2015 11:49 AM
To: Sen. Bert Stedman
Subject: Close the health insurance gap

Dear Senator Stedman,

Please help close the health insurance gap in Alaska.

I support Medicaid expansion - which will provide more Alaskans health care for less state money by maximizing use of available federal dollars. When people have insurance they are able to access primary care, resulting in less expensive emergency room visits. People are also better able to manage chronic diseases, resulting in better health at a lower cost.

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I encourage you to support the governor's proposal to implement Medicaid expansion with smart reforms. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Carolyn H. Corrao
3316 Arnold Ave
Ketchikan, AK 99901

Randy Ruaro

From: Shannon Updike <supdike@peacehealth.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 25, 2015 11:23 AM
To: Sen. Bert Stedman
Subject: Close the health insurance gap

Dear Senator Stedman,

Please help close the health insurance gap in Alaska.

I support Medicaid expansion - which will provide more Alaskans health care for less state money by maximizing use of available federal dollars. When people have insurance they are able to access primary care, resulting in less expensive emergency room visits. People are also better able to manage chronic diseases, resulting in better health at a lower cost.

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I encourage you to support the governor's proposal to implement Medicaid expansion with smart reforms. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Shannon Updike
1442 Water St
Ketchikan, AK 99901

Randy Ruaro

From: Alex MacGillivray <biergarden@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 25, 2015 11:22 AM
To: Sen. Bert Stedman
Subject: Coverage is good for Alaska's economy

Dear Senator Stedman,

I am writing to urge you to NOT support Medicaid expansion in Alaska because it further destroy our local economy as well as futher Obama care and limit access to health care.

Please prevent this initiative from going forwards and expanding an already bloated government.

Sincerely,

Alex MacGillivray
884 Mizzen Ln
Ketchikan, AK 99901

Randy Ruaro

From: Cindi Lagoudakis <trembladakis@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2015 11:41 PM
To: Sen. Bert Stedman
Subject: Comments on issues before the legislature

Dear Honorable Senator Stedman,

I wish to offer some comments to actions under consideration by the Legislature this session. I first would like to express my enthusiasm and support for the Governor's bill to establish reforms in Alaska's Medicaid program, and to accept federal funding that would expand Medicaid coverage to low income Alaskans. Insuring the health of all our citizens makes fiscal sense for the State, and it is the humane thing to do. I am pleased to know you are in support of this bill.

It was with some dismay, however, that I heard the news that the funding for the Knik Arm bridge and Juneau Access Road was not completely eliminated. These projects should not be deferred for one year--it is time to put them to bed for good. The problems with these projects far outweigh any imagined benefits. The Juneau Access Road in particular is environmental folly and engineering hubris. Aside from that, Juneau is ill-prepared for an influx of traffic, parking demands, emergency services impacts, increase in pressures on water treatment and waste disposal, and additional competition for restorative outdoor experiences free from crowds and noise that would result from road access.

However, there is another road project of more immediate concern to me and one that is very familiar to you--namely, the Kake - Petersburg Road. This past week, representatives of the Federal Highways Administration and the Alaska State Department of Transportation traveled to Petersburg and Kake to hold public meetings on this project. I was quite surprised to see that the State had not pulled or at least put the funding for this controversial project on hold. Other area residents had similar concerns.

Several years ago Andy Hughes of DOT had appeared here at a borough assembly meeting to provide an overview of the project. At that time, I noted that the State draft transportation plan, which was readily available on DOT's website, acknowledged that State and Federal road maintenance dollars would be declining in the future. At a public and recorded borough assembly meeting, I asked Mr. Hughes why he thought a low volume use road in an isolated location would rise in priority to successfully compete for limited maintenance dollars over other roads in the state, and he did not have a good answer. (A subsequent recorded meeting also captured Kake's concern for impacts to subsistence resources if the road was built. The audio of that meeting is archived and available on the Petersburg Borough website).

My surprise at the other night's presentation turned to incredulity when the presenters started going through statistics that were, frankly, completely removed from reality. For example, projections for Kake's use of the road had half the population using the proposed road every single day. That is fully half of every man, woman and child in town, every single day. The analyst said that many of those expected "trips" might just be someone stepping on the road but not actually traveling on it (but they were counted anyway). Monthly travel projections were even more imaginative. When the audience questioned the presentation, we were given a number of excuses and qualifications for the numbers, but no assurance that they would not be used to incorrectly justify building the road.

The only part of the presentation that made sense was the admission by Mr. Hughes that the analysis had determined what area residents had tried to tell transportation planners two years ago: namely, that there was no compelling need for the road. Analysis concluded that Kake residents don't consider Petersburg as a primary

destination for services, and building the road wouldn't make an appreciable change in travel patterns between the communities. I'm fairly certain that most people familiar with this project would concur with those conclusions.

that had been the end of things, that would have been waste enough of state transportation funds. However, Mr. Hughes went on to say that DOT would now look to "refine the Purpose and Need for the project" to keep things moving along. This was not well-received by the audience in attendance, and is completely outside of my own past experience as a project planner and NEPA reviewer for the US Forest Service.

Normally, if a project is determined not to meet its Purpose and Need, an agency doesn't keep trying to find a way to complete the project in the face of facts. The determination to construct an unneeded road completely befuddles me, particularly because DOT, SEAPA and the USFS insist its real intent isn't to build a service road for a proposed power intertie project; and that the two projects shouldn't be analyzed as one. Stated simply, there does not appear to be any good alternative reason to construct this road.

Like many others, I'm not so certain the road and intertie really are separate projects. And if a maintenance road *is* the real intent, that would seem to be a misappropriation of federal transportation funds. In any case, acknowledging that this project will not meet the purpose intended should be reason alone to pull the funding for the project and redirect those funds to more critical programs.

I urge you to reconsider your support for the road project and truly scrutinize what it can and cannot provide to area residents. The fact that a trans-island road also relies on a shuttle ferry across Wrangell Narrows that is neither constructed nor funded makes this project wildly speculative at best. At its worst, it is a threat to Petersburg's potential access to mainline ferry services if the State pursues its long-term plan to remove our terminal and require Petersburg residents to drive to Kake to board the ferry. The economic impacts to Petersburg of such a change would be negative and would be significant.

In every sense of the word, this road project is a complete waste of limited State funds. The safety concerns, inconvenience and lack of compelling reason make this road completely unnecessary, and another potentially embarrassing "road to nowhere" project for the State. I urge you to redirect the funding allocated to this project toward needs that are far more pressing.

Thank you for taking the time to consider these comments.

Cindi Lagoudakis
Petersburg

Randy Ruaro

From: Michael Chambers <chambones@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 09, 2015 10:47 AM
To: Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. John Coghill; Sen. Mia Costello; Sen. Mike Dunleavy; Sen. Dennis Egan; Sen. Johnny Ellis; Sen. Berta Gardner; Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Charlie Huggins; Sen. Pete Kelly; Sen. Anna MacKinnon; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Kevin Meyer; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Gary Stevens; Sen. Bill Stoltze; Sen. Bill Wielechowski
Subject: Medicaid Expansion

From: chambones@hotmail.com
To: chambones@hotmail.com
Subject: Medicaid Expansion
Date: Mon, 9 Mar 2015 10:42:00 -0800

Dear Legislators,

An open discussion regarding the expansion of Medicaid and Indian Health Services fundings.

It has come to my attention that the legislature is seriously considering to accept the expansion of Medicaid.

Allow me to ask some questions if I may...

1. Do you know the amount the State of Alaska will be forced to pay based on the shortfall?
2. Do you know the amount the State of Alaska will pay in two years when this program goes to 90% funded?
3. Do you know the rate of decrease over the next ten years regarding the federal governments commitment?
4. Do you know the penalty of "opting out" if this program becomes economically unsustainable at a state level.
5. What additional revenues are you planning in order to meet the increased obligations?
6. Do you know this program may have an adverse effect on employers dropping healthcare on employees who qualify?
7. Do you know the rate Medicaid will pay and if medical institutions and doctors will accept patients at a lower level of reimbursement?
8. Are you aware of the substantial administrative costs to implement such program?

Do you also know...

The Indian Health services through the BIA is currently being funded at approximately 55%. The inability of the federal government to fully fund the Indian Health Services obligation is putting massive pressure on ANMC. They are unable to field the personnel they need so many doctors and nurses in their organization are met with massive overtime and are not compensated at the level of other health services in the area. ANMC is having a very difficult time recruiting and training personnel to stay in their ranks mostly due to the shortcomings of funding through Indian Health Services.

Additionally, Medicaid expansion into the native community is a mechanism to absorb the Indian Health Services into Obamacare.

It is a method for the administration to drive up the numbers in order to present the program as a more viable and necessary program.

I feel it would be far more advantageous for the State of Alaska to demand that the Federal Government fund their own programs

fully before they come calling with their own programs which are substantially suspect.

It is my considered opinion that expanding Medicaid in Alaska is a short sighted gain for a long term loss.

Within a very short period of time

legislators will be forced to legislate revenues to comply to the federal mandate of matching funds. It will be economically impossible to

"opt out." Your term in office may recede into the library of the legislature, but if you legislate Medicaid, your actions will remain with all Alaskans

in perpetuity. What will be your legacy?

Michael Chambers

Chair-Alaska Libertarian Party

Chair- United For Liberty

Alaska resident - 1975

Randy Ruaro

From: rbcameron1997@gmail.com
Sent: Saturday, March 28, 2015 4:09 PM
To: GOV.AllLegislators@alaska.gov
Subject: Medicaid Expansion

NO to Medicaid Expansion!

Expanding programs like Medicaid only serve to hurt the community and nation. It makes men quit in their natural role of leading their families because the government takes over the husband and father role. It makes more dependents on the system.

If people have to work for their needs and wants we will have a healthier community and economy.

My husband and I will not support anyone who votes for this Medicaid expansion; in fact, we will work to actively unseat anyone who has voted in favor of the welfare expansion. It is wrong economically and it is wrong morally. Simply put (ahem, Governor Walker), "It's the WRONG thing to do!"

Thank you for your time,
Bonnie Cameron

Randy Ruaro

From: Greg Stoddard <grg.stoddard@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 28, 2015 10:46 AM
To: GOV.AllLegislators@alaska.gov
Subject: NO to Medicaid expansion!!

All Representatives,

No doubt you've seen this letter before. We can't afford to keep driving toward the cliff. Your vote must be based upon logic and not emotion.

Thank you.....Greg Stoddard

Alaska Family Medical Care, LLC
4045 Lake Otis 201
Anchorage, Alaska 99508
907 562 4045

Alaska State Legislature
120 4th Street
Juneau, Alaska 99801

March 24, 2015

Dear Senators and Representatives,

Please vote against HB 148, and do not expand Medicaid, as this is an unsustainable, costly program (\$6.2 billion by 2032 without expansion) that will soon consume the entire budget, drive providers out of business, and eventually bankrupt us as a state.

We now have about 160,000 patients on Medicaid. It is estimated that the expansion population is approximately 40,000; 27,000 of these people are already covered via IHS, and 29% are already covered under other insurance programs. Other states that have expanded Medicaid have greatly underestimated the enrollment, having triple or quadruple more enrollees resulting in dramatic tax increases or deficit spending to cover these unexpected costs. HSA accounts linked to insurance are a much better option for these uncovered low income single adults and would not indebt us further as a state.

HB148 places undue regulatory burdens, more audits, a change in reimbursement and now a special tax on providers that are only being paid to see Medicaid patients at or below their cost. Over 1000 providers have stopped providing care to Medicaid patients from 2010 to 2014 and this will rapidly accelerate in the future if this bill is passed. You will see many providers go out of business, and many more close their doors to Medicaid in a desperate attempt to stay solvent.

There are problems with providers getting paid now via the new system and this will only increase as more people are added. The state now pays the federal government \$80 million a year just to keep Medicaid patients enrolled during the month of October so they can get their PFDs with the dramatic increase in numbers of enrollees this number will increase. It costs about \$900/year per enrollee in administrative costs, it is \$7500 approximately for a young person per year on Medicaid and costs \$65,000/year for older more sickly patients. However there are 2000 Hepatitis C patients to be treated at \$300,000/per person that has not yet been budgeted for in the new budget that I can find. Where will all these funds come from?

There is much fraud and abuse in the current system that needs to be fixed to make this program sustainable for future generations including 5400 plane tickets with no provider visit, \$1.2 million in medevacs for one person, 250 therapy visits for one patient in a year, etc. Please vote no on HB148 or any other bill to expand Medicaid and instead focus on meaningful reform that does not result in increased costs, taxes, or audits to those of us that are actually caring for these patients.

Ilona Farr MD, Family Medicine, WWAMI 1979,
Member of MRAG (Medicaid Reform Advisory Group)

Randy Ruaro

From: rbcameron1997@gmail.com
Sent: Saturday, March 28, 2015 4:09 PM
To: GOV.AllLegislators@alaska.gov
Subject: Medicaid Expansion

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Bonnie Cameron

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Member of MRAG (Medicaid Reform Advisory Group)