



RESOLUTION NO. #2015-1

Sponsored by: Alaska Native Brotherhood and Alaska Native Sisterhood Camp 70
Glacier Valley

TITLE: A RESOLUTION URGING THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF ALASKA AND 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 which will substantially improve the State's fiscal position; 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 would benefit health care providers and payers, who are effectively required to subsidize care for uninsured and underinsured patients as well as businesses and other patients who support those subsidies through higher premiums, deductibles and copays; and

WHEREAS, The uninsured and underinsured patients now seek care in the most expensive settings, often after their condition has become more serious and complicated than it would have been if they had access to primary care

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

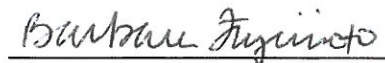
WHEREAS, the State has the option of various Medicaid expansion demonstration projects it may also consider as part of reform; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Alaska Native Brotherhood Glacier Valley Camp 70 and the Alaska Native Sisterhood Glacier Valley Camp 70 endorse 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 the Alaska Native Brotherhood Glacier Valley Camp 70 and the Alaska Native Sisterhood Glacier Valley Camp 70 strongly urge 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.



Marcelo Quinto, President
ANB Glacier Valley Camp 70



Barbara Fujimoto, President
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