



A Resolution in Support of Medicaid Expansion

March 2015

ACEH Resolution #1501

Whereas, nearly 42,000 of our fellow Alaskans will be eligible for health coverage under Medicaid expansion; and

Whereas, the second highest reason for a crisis leading to homelessness in Alaska last year was an injury, illness or maternity (Homeless and At-Risk Data Report, Alaska Housing Finance Corporation); 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

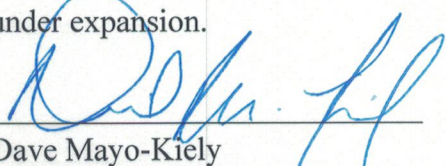
Whereas, expanding Medicaid will improve the access to substance abuse treatment and mental health counseling. Client eligibility for and enrollment in Medicaid will allow community organizations the ability to bill for services they currently provide their clients ensuring sustainability for the safety net services in our communities; and

Whereas, access to Medicaid coverage is already showing a positive difference for people who experience homelessness in other states. A Kaiser Family Foundation report recently showed that Medicaid expansion is contributing to improved access to care as well as broader benefits for homeless individuals, such as the improved capability to gain employment; and

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

Therefore be it resolved, the Anchorage Coalition to End Homelessness 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 the Anchorage Coalition to End Homelessness 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.



Dave Mayo-Kiely
ACEH Education and Advocacy Committee



Carmen Springer
ACEH Coalition Director