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**Whereas**, access to healthcare is vital to the creation and sustainability of socially and economically vibrant communities;

**Whereas**, individuals and families without adequate health insurance will routinely forego routine and preventative medical services due to cost;

**Whereas**, one in five Alaskans between the ages of 18 and 64 have no health care coverage;

**Whereas**, lack of health care coverage significantly increases the risk of chronic illnesses, such as heart disease and cancer;

**Whereas**, chronic illness is the leading cause of death and disability in the United States;

**Whereas**, chronic illness is the leading cause of death and disability in Alaska;

**Whereas**, Denali Family Services provides behavioral health services to children and families;

**Whereas**, individuals who experience behavioral health disorders are more likely to be uninsured;

**Whereas**, lack of health care coverage results in significantly higher rates of chronic illness, increased levels of disability, and early mortality in individuals who experience behavioral health disorders;

**Whereas**, adequate healthcare coverage will significantly reduce the burden of chronic illness among all Alaskans, including those who experience behavioral health disorders;

**Whereas**, failing to protect vulnerable Alaskans from chronic illness is morally, socially, and economically irresponsible;

**Therefore**, be it resolved by the undersigned representatives of the Board of Directors that Denali Family Services unequivocally supports the expansion of the Alaska Medicaid program.



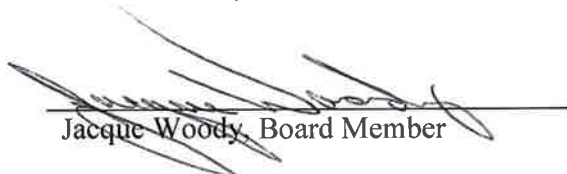
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Adopted this 15<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2015.

  
Patrick Cunningham, Board President

  
Dana Reddish, Board Member

  
Terry Fields, Board Member

  
Jacquie Woody, Board Member