

ANB – ANS

JUNEAU, ALASKA – September 2015

Resolution #15-12

Title: Support of Medicaid Expansion

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

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;

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

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;

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;

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;

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, the State has the option of various Medicaid expansion demonstration projects it may also consider as part of reform such as enhanced 100% federal coverage for all services to tribal beneficiaries and expansion of coverage for substance use treatment facilities; 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;

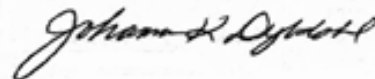
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that ANS Camp 2 and the ANB & ANS Camp 70 assembled in a joint meeting in September 2015, request that the Alaska Native Brotherhood and the Alaska Native Sisterhood in Grand Camp assembled in October 2015, the Centennial Year of the ANS, endorse Medicaid expansion, recognizing 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 ANB and ANS commend Governor Walker for expanding Medicaid effective September 1, 2015 for the benefit of Alaskans and the Alaska economy and, though reform efforts should be of utmost importance, this work should not delay health care coverage for those Alaskans who are now eligible for Medicaid.

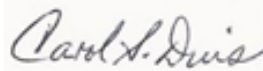
BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the ANB and ANS request the legislature of Alaska to drop their expensive lawsuit attempting to block Medicaid expansion and reform in favor of focusing on reform efforts including working with Tribes and Tribal Health Care Organizations so that federal dollars are maximized in favor of individual Alaskans.



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