

CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA

RESOLUTION NO. 2013-17

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA REQUESTING THAT THE GOVERNOR AND ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE FULLY CONSIDER THE BENEFITS TO ALASKA COMMUNITIES AND THEIR RESIDENTS THROUGH THE EXPANSION OF MEDICAID UNDER THE U.S. AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

WHEREAS, in Alaska the poverty line is an annual income of \$14,350 for an individual and \$29,440 for a family of four, and these income levels are already economically challenging; and

WHEREAS, studies show that at least one third of the 139,500 uninsured Alaskans aged 19-65, including many childless adults not previously eligible would be eligible for Medicaid if the program were expanded, which would positively impact a significant number of Sitkans; and

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska would receive 100% federal match for the first three years (2014-2016). Beginning in 2017 the match rates decrease slightly from 95% in 2017 to 90% in years 2020+; and

WHEREAS, Medicaid expansion would assist Sitka's local Sitka Community and Southeast Regional Health Consortium (SEARHC) regional Hospitals to survive the turbulent changes they are already experiencing from healthcare reform and allow them to benefit by increasing healthcare revenues and decreasing, bad debt -- money that won't have to be shifted to others or written off. Without expansion of Medicaid, the likelihood of survival is further diminished; and

WHEREAS, in the old system, determining eligibility it took about 45 days, and with the new system should take less than 45 minutes; and

WHEREAS, Medicaid expansion would also result in lower overall costs because more Alaskans would be able to visit a primary care doctor instead of the costly emergency room; and

WHEREAS, with two hospitals in Sitka, the City and Borough of Sitka will see twice the benefits, through additional health care dollars, further stimulating Sitka's economy.

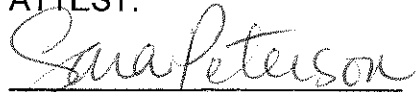
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Assembly of the City and Borough of Sitka, Alaska by this resolution believes Alaska should expand its Medicaid program under the U.S. Affordable Care Act resulting in many Sitka poverty line individuals and others not previously eligible becoming eligible for Medicare coverage.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Assembly of the City and Borough requests that the State of Alaska Administration and the State Legislature weigh heavily the great benefits that would accrue to the residents and economy of Sitka and other Alaskan communities and look favorably on expanding Alaska's Medicaid program.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED by the Assembly of the City and Borough of Sitka, Alaska on this 12th day of November 2013.


Matthew Hunter, Deputy Mayor

ATTEST:



Sara Peterson, CMC
Acting Municipal Clerk