



CENTRAL COUNCIL
Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska
9097 Glacier Highway • Juneau, Alaska 99801

CENTRAL COUNCIL OF TLINGIT AND HAIDA INDIAN TRIBES OF ALASKA
Eightieth Annual Tribal Assembly
April 15-17, 2015
Juneau, Alaska

Resolution TA/ 15-01

Title: Support Expanding Medicaid Coverage in Alaska

By: Juneau Tlingit and Haida Community Council

WHEREAS, the Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska (Central Council) is a federally recognized tribe with nearly 30,000 tribal citizens; 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; and

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; 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 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.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Eightieth Tribal Assembly of Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska delegation convened in Juneau, Alaska on April 15-17, 2015, hereby 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 Central Council Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska 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.

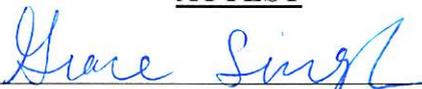
ADOPTED this 16th day of April 2015, by the Eightieth Tribal Assembly of Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska.

CERTIFY



President Richard J. Peterson

ATTEST



for Tribal Secretary Jolene Edenshaw