



Alaska Independent Democratic Coalition

Alaska Senate Democrats

September 3, 2015

Senator Gary Stevens
Chair, Legislative Council
305 Center Ave Ste 1
Kodiak, AK 99615

Representative Bob Herron
Vice Chair, Legislative Council
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

DELIVERED VIA EMAIL ONLY

Dear Senator Stevens and Representative Herron,

The recent rulings by both the Anchorage Superior Court and the Alaska Supreme Court indicate that the Legislative Council's lawsuit against Governor Walker and Commissioner Davidson over the decision to accept federal funding to expand Medicaid in Alaska is lacking in legal merit. We therefore call on the Legislative Council to drop the lawsuit without delay.

The Alaska Independent Democratic Coalition, the Alaska Senate Democrats, and many members of the majority support Medicaid expansion and worked diligently to get expansion approved during the First Session of the 29th Alaska State Legislature. Despite our best efforts, majority leadership refused to allow an up or down vote on legislation approving expansion and circumvented efforts to include expansion in the FY 2016 budgets. Without legislative action, Governor Walker and Commissioner Davidson were left no other alternative but to accept federal funding to expand Medicaid administratively because of the Department of Health and Social Services' well-established legal obligation. This decision is supported by a large majority of Alaskans.

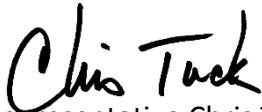
Medicaid expansion will provide healthcare coverage to an additional 40,000 Alaskans, save the state millions of dollars, provide a much needed shot in the arm to the Alaska economy, and help contain the cost of healthcare in Alaska.

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Representative Chris Tuck, Leader
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We are disappointed by Legislative Council's inaction yesterday, thus continuing the lawsuit. We believe the lawsuit does not represent the will of a majority of Alaska's legislators, much less the will of the Alaskan people we collectively represent. Dropping the lawsuit is not only legally prudent, it will immediately save the state hundreds of thousands of dollars in legal expenses that we can ill afford given our current fiscal situation.

Sincerely,



Representative Chris Tuck
Alaska Independent Democratic Coalition Leader



Senator Berta Gardner
Alaska Senate Democrats Leader



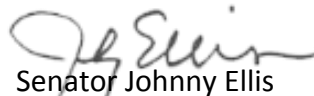
Representative Max Gruenberg



Senator Dennis Egan



Representative Matt Claman



Senator Johnny Ellis



Representative Harriet Drummond



Senator Donny Olson



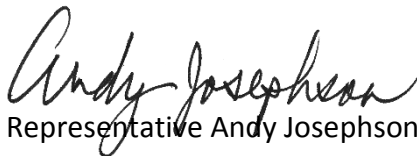
Representative Les Gara



Senator Bill Wielechowski



Representative David Guttenberg



Representative Andy Josephson



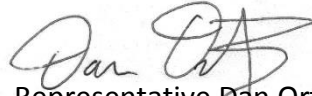
Representative Scott Kawasaki



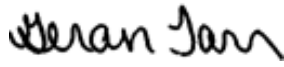
Representative Sam Kito III



Representative Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins



Representative Dan Ortiz



Representative Geran Tarr



Representative Adam Wool

- cc. Legislative Council Members:
Senator Kevin Meyer, Senate President
Representative Mike Chenault, Speaker of the House
Senator Lyman Hoffman
Senator Anna MacKinnon
Senator John Coghill
Senator Peter Micciche
Senator Charlie Huggins
Senator Lesil McGuire
Representative Mike Hawker
Representative Craig Johnson
Representative Charisse Millett
Representative Mark Neuman
Representative Steve Thompson