

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 20

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES PARISH, Josephson

Introduced: 4/13/17

Referred: Health and Social Services

A RESOLUTION

1 **Urging the United States Congress and the President of the United States to maintain**
2 **health insurance coverage for individuals currently covered by Medicaid expansion.**

3 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

4 **WHEREAS** access to health care is essential for Alaskans to live healthy, safe,
5 productive, and rewarding lives; and

6 **WHEREAS** Alaska has the second highest rate of residents without health care
7 insurance in the nation; and

8 **WHEREAS** Medicaid expansion has provided health care to more than 30,000
9 Alaskans; and

10 **WHEREAS** Medicaid expansion, which limits eligibility to individuals with a
11 maximum annual income of \$20,300 for a single person, provides health care to some of the
12 most vulnerable residents of the state, many of whom are employed, retired, disabled, in
13 school, or caring for family members; and

14 **WHEREAS** Governor Walker has declared a state of emergency regarding opioid
15 addiction in the state; and

16 **WHEREAS** Medicaid provides 16,000 Alaskans with behavioral health treatment,

1 including treatment for substance abuse; and

2 **WHEREAS** Medicaid expansion provides continued access to treatment for Alaskans
3 who are released from prison, thereby helping to prevent reincarceration; and

4 **WHEREAS** Medicaid expansion has infused hundreds of millions of dollars into the
5 state's economy, providing a significant financial boost during the current recession; and

6 **WHEREAS**, during the current recession, health care is one of the few industries
7 experiencing growth in the state; and

8 **WHEREAS** Medicaid expansion has created and will continue to create jobs in the
9 state; and

10 **WHEREAS** Medicaid expansion returns tax dollars to the state; and

11 **WHEREAS** the state spends the second lowest percentage of state funds on Medicaid
12 of any state in the nation; and

13 **WHEREAS** Medicaid expansion has reduced uncompensated care provided by
14 Alaska hospitals by tens of millions of dollars, which helps reduce costs for all patients;

15 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges the United States
16 Congress and the President of the United States to maintain health insurance coverage for
17 individuals who are currently covered by Medicaid expansion.

18 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Donald J. Trump, President
19 of the United States; the Honorable Michael R. Pence, Vice President of the United States and
20 President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Paul D. Ryan, Speaker of the U.S. House of
21 Representatives; the Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Minority Leader of the U.S. House of
22 Representatives; the Honorable Mitch McConnell, Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the
23 Honorable Charles E. Schumer, Minority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Lamar
24 Alexander, Chair of the U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions;
25 the Honorable Virginia Foxx, Chair of the U.S. House Committee on Education and the
26 Workforce; and the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the Honorable Dan Sullivan, U.S.
27 Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska
28 delegation in Congress.