



**MEMBERSHIP RESOLUTION FY19-09**

**A RESOLUTION BY THE SOUTHWEST ALASKA MUNICIPAL CONFERENCE SUPPORTING THE CONTINUATION OF THE CURRENT EXPANSION OF STATE MEDICAID FUNDING**

**WHEREAS**, access to affordable health care for all Alaskans is important for the economic vitality of all regions of Alaska; and

**WHEREAS**, as of 2018, Medicaid covered over 210,000 Alaskans, including 92,556 children and 8,478 residents of the SWAMC region; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2015, the State of Alaska expanded Medicaid coverage under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act which covered an additional 1,777 SWAMC area residents and over 50,000 Alaskans statewide as of 2018; and

**WHEREAS**, Medicaid expansion resulted in a huge economic boost to the Alaska economy by injecting over \$1 billion in Federal dollars during a recession in Alaska; and

**WHEREAS**, a recent study by Halcyon estimates that elimination of Medicaid expansion will cost the State of Alaska nearly 3,700 jobs, \$267 million in annual labor income, and \$556 million in annual total economic output; and

**WHEREAS**, the Governor's FY20 proposed operating budget cuts about \$225 million in the State's Medicaid budget, a reduction of more than 33%; and

**WHEREAS**, the Alaska State Hospital and Nursing Home Association responded to Medicaid cut proposals by saying these cuts and the loss of Federal match would amount to about \$700 million in reduced Medicaid spending, would cause some hospitals to close, health care specialists to leave the State, reduce access to addiction and behavioral health treatment, cost between 8,000 and 10,000 health care related jobs, and "fundamentally restructure" Alaska's health care system; and

**WHEREAS**, the rural hospitals in Kodiak and Dillingham are threatened by closure and 39 other health care providers in the SWAMC region would be negatively impacted by proposed Medicaid cuts; and

**WHEREAS**, we anticipate additional proposed legislation to revise the State's entire Medicaid program and seek new ways of providing Medicaid coverage at a reduced cost to the State; and

**WHEREAS**, the approach of cutting State funding that leverages substantial Federal match to support Alaska's health care system prior to restructuring the Medicaid program in Alaska creates an environment of uncertainty in the delivery of health care services in rural Alaska and the SWAMC region; and

**WHEREAS**, this uncertainty will deter health care delivery investment, recruitment, and service delivery in rural Alaska and the SWAMC region.

**NOW BE IT RESOLVED** that the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference Membership supports the continuation of the current expansion of State Medicaid match spending.

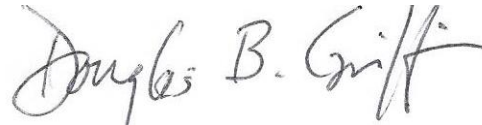
**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference Membership this 28<sup>th</sup> day of February 2019.

IN WITNESS THERETO:



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Mary Swain, SWAMC Board President



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Doug Griffin, SWAMC Executive Director