

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 8

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES JOSEPHSON, Gruenberg, Guttenberg

Introduced: 3/20/13

Referred:

A RESOLUTION

1 **Urging the governor to expand Medicaid coverage under the Patient Protection and**
2 **Affordable Care Act.**

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

4 **WHEREAS** the federal government, under sec. 2001 of the Patient Protection and
5 Affordable Care Act (P.L. 111-148), as amended, allows the state the option of expanding the
6 state's Medicaid program to residents of the state with family income below 133 percent of
7 the federal poverty line, which is the equivalent of \$19,279 for an individual and \$26,110 for
8 a two-person family; and

9 **WHEREAS**, when low-income Alaskans are left uninsured, Alaskans with coverage,
10 as well as local governments, hospitals, and other providers, must absorb the costs of their
11 medical care; and

12 **WHEREAS**, under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, during 2014
13 through 2016, the first three years of Medicaid expansion, the federal government would
14 contribute 100 percent to a proactive expansion of funding for Medicaid services, and, after
15 2016, the federal government would contribute 90 percent or more to an expansion of funding
16 for Medicaid services; and

1 **WHEREAS** approximately 41,500 uninsured Alaskans would be eligible for
2 Medicaid if the program were expanded under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care
3 Act; and

4 **WHEREAS** a study by the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium projected state
5 expenditures for Medicaid would increase by two percent to support Medicaid expansion, but
6 that direct state spending for Medicaid expansion between 2014 and 2021 would be
7 significantly offset by savings to the Catastrophic and Chronic Illness Assistance program and
8 from savings related to inpatient hospital costs for prisoners and immunizations for adults;
9 and

10 **WHEREAS**, according to the study by the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium,
11 approximately 4,000 new jobs would be created by 2020 to implement Medicaid expansion,
12 with \$180,000,000 more in wages earned annually and \$2,490,000,000 in increased economic
13 activity occurring in the state as a result of the expansion; and

14 **WHEREAS**, by implementing Medicaid expansion, \$2,490,000,000 in federal funds
15 would flow into the state's economy, providing nonexportable health care jobs across the
16 socioeconomic spectrum; and

17 **WHEREAS** 24 states have already accepted Medicaid expansion; and

18 **WHEREAS** every person in Alaska and in the United States deserves access to
19 affordable, quality health care;

20 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges the Governor to expand
21 Medicaid coverage under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to provide health
22 care to 40,000 uninsured Alaskans and to bring over \$2,000,000,000 into the state to grow and
23 create jobs in the health care industry in the state.

24 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the
25 Honorable Mark Begich, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative,
26 members of the Alaska delegation in Congress; and the Honorable Sean Parnell, Governor of
27 Alaska.