

RESOLUTION NUMBER 17-01
RESOLUTION to Maintain Medicaid Expansion

WHEREAS, the Alaska Workforce Investment Board (AWIB) is an industry-driven public organization comprised of representatives from business and industry, education, organized labor, and government; and

WHEREAS, the AWIB is a public organization that is accountable through its members and staff to the residents, the Legislature and the Governor of Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the AWIB shall act as the lead state planning and coordinating entity for state programs involving employment training, vocational education, and workforce development; and

WHEREAS, Alaska's economy is in recession, and lost approximately 6,800 jobs in 2016; and

WHEREAS, Alaska is experiencing negative net migration, which threatens a wide range of businesses as well as our real estate market; and

WHEREAS, the only sector currently experiencing job growth in Alaska is health care, and Medicaid Expansion is a contributor to that job growth; and

WHEREAS, if Congress repeals Medicaid Expansion, it would retract hundreds of millions of dollars per year in federal investment from Alaska and could eliminate hundreds of jobs, and would further weaken Alaska's economy; and

WHEREAS, repeal of Medicaid Expansion could not only harm Alaska's economy but also eliminate health care for thousands of Alaskans, including essential substance abuse and behavioral health services that are necessary for everyone's public safety, including individuals who have health care through the private market;

WHEREAS, it is possible to address concerns with the Affordable Care Act without repealing the expansion of Medicaid;

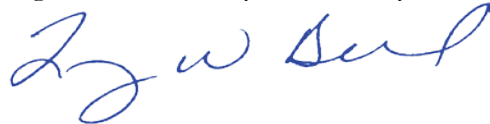
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the AWIB urges Alaska's Congressional Delegation to defend Medicaid Expansion during Congressional health care deliberations, and to oppose any legislation that would repeal Medicaid Expansion.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the AWIB recommends the Commissioner of Labor and Workforce Development forward this resolution to members of Alaska's Congressional Delegation.

CERTIFICATION

The Alaska Workforce Investment Board held a meeting duly and regularly called, noticed, and convened this 16th day of February, 2017 and the foregoing Resolution was adopted unanimously at said meeting.

Signed this 16th day of February 2017.



Larry Bell, Chair
Alaska Workforce Investment Board