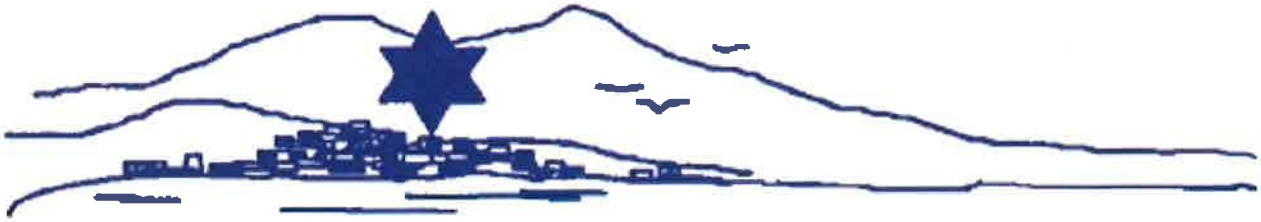

Congregation Sukkat Shalom "Shelter of Peace"

A RESOLUTION URGING THE ALASKA LEGISATURE TO IMPROVE THE HEALTH AND WELL BEING OF ALASKANS, ALLOWING THEM BENEFITS SHARED BY OUR MEMBERSHIP AND THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE ALASKA LEGISLATURE BY EXPANDING MEDICAID

WHEREAS the Jewish virtue of "tikkun olam", repairing our world, calls upon us to fix the injustice of inequality and suffering; and

WHEREAS, the Jewish tradition of "tzedakah", giving to others less fortunate, is not considered charity but "the right thing to do"; and

WHEREAS, the majority of the membership of our congregation and the entire membership of our State Legislature are blessed with the benefit of insurance coverage so that we have access to preventive and healing health care for our families and our children; and

WHEREAS, we have knowledge that tens of thousands of Alaskans do not share our same access to health care; and

WHEREAS, nearly 42,000 other Alaskans would have the opportunity to gain health care coverage under Medicaid expansion; and

WHEREAS, Medicaid expansion will improve health outcomes by reducing the numbers of uninsured Alaskans by half, improving preventive and primary care access, providing substance abuse treatment and mental health counseling, and reducing the mortality rate; and

WHEREAS, Medicaid expansion would help Alaska economically by bringing in over $1 billion in new federal revenue over the first five years; and

WHEREAS, the State would save $6.1 million in 2016 by using federal funds to pay for health services currently paid for with state general funds; and

WHEREAS, federal funds will pay for 100% of services provided to the expansion population through 2016 and will transition to 90% in 2020 and beyond;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, as an act of "tikkun olam", healing the world, Congregation Sukkat Shalom urges Medicaid expansion in Alaska and deems it imperative that the Alaska Legislature expands Medicaid to take effect in July, 2015.

3/16/15

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