

# KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH

## Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly

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Linda Murphy, Assembly President  
Hal Smalley, Vice President

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### MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Linda Murphy, Assembly President  
Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly Members

**FROM:** Bill Smith, Assembly Member *Bill Smith*  
Mike Navarre, Borough Mayor *MN*

**DATE:** February 5, 2013

**RE:** Resolution 2013-~~014~~ recommending full consideration of the benefits that would accrue to the residents and businesses of the Kenai Peninsula Borough by accepting the Affordable Care Act expansion of Medicaid

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The federal Affordable Care Act allows for the expansion of Medicaid by increasing the income levels that can qualify for Medicaid. If the State of Alaska were to agree to this expansion of Medicaid, it would be of great benefit to our borough.

Many of our residents would be eligible for care under the new provisions and our hospitals and health care providers would also receive funding where they may have previously provided charity care.

An independent study predicts a significant amount of additional funds will be available to provide health care to our residents and bring additional federal dollars to our health care providers.

While the State is currently conducting a study of the "costs" of expanding Medicaid, we believe that the benefit to our borough should weigh heavily in any decision that is made about the expansion.

If we forgo the opportunity for Medicaid expansion we will have a weaker health care system with less employment and many hardworking employed citizens will continue to be without insurance they can afford.

Your careful consideration of this resolution will be appreciated.



# LAYDOWN

Introduced by: Smith, Mayor  
Date: 02/05/13  
Action:  
Vote:

## KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH RESOLUTION 2013-014

### A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE STATE OF ALASKA ADMINISTRATION AND ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE FULLY CONSIDER THE BENEFITS TO THE RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH WHEN CONSIDERING THE EXPANSION OF MEDICAID UNDER THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

1 WHEREAS, the Affordable Care Act provides for expansion of Medicaid benefits by  
2 increasing the eligibility income level; and

3 WHEREAS, significant numbers of Kenai Peninsula Borough residents would become newly  
4 eligible for benefits if the State opted to agree to the Medicaid expansion; and

5 WHEREAS, the increase in eligible beneficiaries would provide increased care and improved  
6 health for many borough residents; and

7 WHEREAS, borough hospitals would see an increase in reimbursed care and a decrease in  
8 charity care; and

9 WHEREAS, other health care providers would see a similar benefit; and

10 WHEREAS, the increase in Medicaid funding would provide better health for our residents and  
11 an economic boost to the borough; and

12 WHEREAS, a preliminary evaluation by Northern Economics predicts for each \$1 in State  
13 funding related to Medicaid expansion, \$15.5 in new federal funds will be  
14 generated; and

1 **WHEREAS,** the evaluation also finds a net reduction of State costs because increased Medicaid  
2 eligibility will displace other costs borne by the State;

3 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI**  
4 **PENINSULA BOROUGH:**

5 **SECTION 1.** That the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly requests the State of Alaska  
6 Administration and the State Legislature to weigh heavily the great benefits that  
7 would accrue to the residents of the borough and to the borough economy while  
8 deciding whether to expand our Medicaid program.

9 **SECTION 2.** That copies of this Resolution be provided to Governor Sean Parnell and all  
10 members of the Legislature representing the Kenai Peninsula Borough.

11 **SECTION 3.** That this resolution takes effect immediately upon its adoption.

12 **ADOPTED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH THIS 5TH**  
13 **DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2013.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Linda Murphy, Assembly President

ATTEST:

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John Blankenship, MMC, Borough Clerk

Yes:

No:

Absent: