

MEDICAID REFORM AND EXPANSION

Medicaid Expansion and Medicare

Claims that Medicaid expansion will limit seniors' access to health care are simply not true.

See why Alaska's leading senior advocates support Medicaid reform and expansion.

Alaska primary care providers have affirmed their commitment to Medicare patients.

The Alaska Primary Care Association, which represents the state's 28 Community Health Centers, affirms their members will continue to accept new Medicaid and Medicare patients under an expanded Medicaid program; and believe they can meet the demand of the Medicaid expansion population without harming Medicare beneficiaries.

People who have insurance coverage prior to aging into Medicare are healthier when they become Medicare-eligible.

"Beneficiaries with continuous health insurance coverage for approximately six years before enrolling in Medicare were more likely that those without prior continuous insurance to report being in good health or better during the first six years in Medicare."¹

Supporters of Medicaid Reform & Expansion

AARP Alaska

Alaska Commission on Aging

Alaska Geriatric Exchange Network (AGENet)

Get the Facts!

Some critics point to "dire consequences" of Medicaid expansion in Texas where doctors quit taking Medicare.

The problem is — Texas never expanded Medicaid.



Average health care costs for people who have insurance coverage prior to aging into Medicare are 35 percent less than those who aren't covered, saving the Medicare program over \$2,300 per enrollee.

"Beneficiaries with prior continuous insurance used fewer or less costly medical services compared with beneficiaries without such insurance during the early years in Medicare, because they either were healthier or were accustomed to accessing medical services differently."²

¹ Source: Government Accountability Office, MEDICARE: Continuous Insurance before Enrollment Associated with Better Health and Lower Program Spending, GAO-14-53: Published Dec. 17, 2013. <http://www.gao.gov/products/D06498>

² Ibid.

Learn more at: Gov.Alaska.Gov/Medicaid