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Governor Walker Announces Medicaid Expansion and Reform Plan

ANCHORAGE — Governor Bill Walker was joined today by Department of Health and Social Services Commissioner Valerie Davidson at the Anchorage Neighborhood Health Center to present the plan for Medicaid expansion and reform, “The Healthy Alaska Plan: A Catalyst for Reform.”

Medicaid expansion and reform are top priorities for the Walker administration in support of the state’s ongoing commitment to serve the health needs of Alaskans.

“Today, Alaska takes another step toward the goal of providing health insurance to tens of thousands of Alaskans at no cost to the state,” Governor Walker said.

Also presented was a new report by Evergreen Economics, who have been analyzing Medicaid data for the Department for almost a decade. The report provides details on the Alaskans who would be eligible for Medicaid through expansion and projected costs of their health care.

The reports project \$145.5 million in federal revenues to Alaska in fiscal year 2016, increasing over the next six years. Further, state general fund savings are projected to be \$6.1 million in fiscal year 2016 and increase in the years following.

“This report illustrates why Medicaid expansion isn’t just good for the health of our citizens, it’s good for the health of our economy,” Governor Walker added.

“Expanding Medicaid will give Alaskans access to the health care they deserve and need to stay productive,” Davidson said. “We look forward to analyzing and selecting the best reform options for building a sustainable Medicaid system in Alaska with help from various stakeholder groups.”

The new Healthy Alaska Plan website features economic reports and other Medicaid expansion and reform documents. Visit dhss.alaska.gov/HealthyAlaska/.

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