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Press Release

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Alaska Workforce Investment Board Supports Maintaining Medicaid Expansion

Congressional repeal would damage Alaska's economy, take away health care from Alaskans

JUNEAU, Alaska— The Alaska Workforce Investment Board (AWIB), a volunteer board that supports education and training that leads to employment and careers, unanimously passed a resolution in support of maintaining Medicaid expansion. In Alaska, more than \$300 million in federal funding through Medicaid expansion helps support hundreds of health care industry jobs, and provides health care coverage for more than 27,000 Alaskans.

“Health care is the only major sector of our state’s economy that is projected to experience job growth in the coming year,” said Larry Bell, Chair of the AWIB. “Repeal of Medicaid expansion could deepen Alaska’s recession, in addition to jeopardizing health care for thousands of Alaskans.”

The state’s [economic forecast](#) for 2017 projects job losses in all major sectors except health care, as negative effects from low oil prices and cross-industry layoffs impact our economy. Job losses in 2017 are expected to be even larger than in 2016. The only major sector currently anticipated to gain jobs is health care, which is projected to add 500 jobs in Alaska in 2017.

The [AWIB](#) is composed of business and industry, education, organized labor, and other leaders from throughout the state, and provides workforce policy oversight in Alaska. Alaska is one of 31 states that expanded Medicaid. The AWIB’s resolution in support of maintaining Medicaid expansion is available [online](#).

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