

CENTRAL COUNCIL *Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska* Office of the President • Edward K. Thomas Building 9097 Glacier Highway • Juneau, Alaska 99801

## CENTRAL COUNCIL OF TLINGIT & HAIDA INDIAN TRIBES OF ALASKA Eighty-Ninth Annual Tribal Assembly April 17-19, 2024 Juneau, Alaska

Resolution TA 24-09

## Title: Expanding Medicaid for Our Future

By: Anchorage Tlingit & Haida Community Council

WHEREAS, the Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska (Tlingit & Haida) is a federally recognized tribe with more than 37,000 citizens; and

WHEREAS, Alaska's children deserve continued access to high quality healthcare regardless of their families' ability to cover the costs; and

WHEREAS, the backlog for renewing Medicaid applications creates delays in care for those that may need it most; and

WHEREAS, in 2023, more than 35% of Alaska's population, 264,000 people, were covered under Alaska's Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program; and

WHEREAS, there are some upfront benefits of having regular access to healthcare services that are used, such as regular screenings, early prevention strategies for health-care issues, and regular visits to a provider that conducts screenings for physical health, mental health and other family risks; and

WHEREAS, the out-of-pocket costs for healthcare services can be an additional barrier for families in having access to healthcare; and

WHEREAS, not all Alaska communities have continued access to preventive healthcare services, creating additional barriers for those with health insurance to receive care; and

WHEREAS, some public schools offer physicals and wellness checks as a fee for service option, and this should be a Medicaid covered visit;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Eighty-Ninth Tribal Assembly of the Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska delegation convened April 17-19, 2024, hereby requests the state of Alaska to expand Medicaid coverage to all children in Alaska from birth to age 18;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Tlingit & Haida requests the Alaska congressional delegation support the health of our children by providing federal matching funds to Alaska for this expanded Medicaid coverage.

ADOPTED this 17<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2024, by the Eighty-Ninth Tribal Assembly of the Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska.

**CERTIFY** 

President Richard J. Peterson

ATTEST

Tribal Secretary Jacqueline L. Pata