

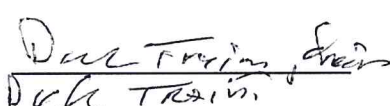
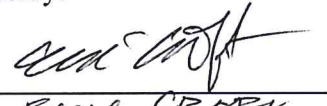

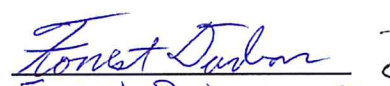
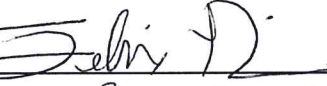
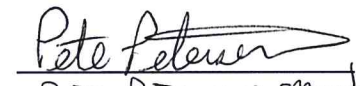
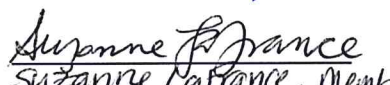

Dear Senator Murkowski and Senator Sullivan,

As members of the Anchorage Assembly, we are writing to express our concerns about the impact that passage of Graham-Cassidy would have on crime rates and Anchorage's economy.

Graham-Cassidy would slash the federal government's longstanding commitment to Medicaid care, with particularly deep cuts for Medicaid expansion states like Alaska. According to a study by Avalere Health, Alaska will lose an estimated 33% of Medicaid funding.ⁱ Dramatically cutting Medicaid funding would eliminate addiction and behavioral health treatment for many Alaskans, and would exacerbate opioid epidemic-related property crimes and assaults. While the Municipality has added over a hundred police officers to the force in the last two years, we cannot get crime under control if the federal government is reducing support for addiction treatment.

Graham-Cassidy also poses a direct threat to Anchorage's economy because it would take billions of dollars out of Alaska's economy.ⁱⁱ Cuts would come in two forms: transferring Medicaid funds from Alaska to non-Medicaid expansion states, and arbitrarily capping Medicaid health care without regard for the real cost of health care. While the human costs of these policies is well documented--hundreds if not thousands of Alaskans will suffer premature, avoidable deaths--the economic consequences are severe as well. Alaska's economy is in a recession. Our jobless rate is the highest in the nation, and over the last year we have seen weakness in the job market begin to drag down the real estate market. Reducing federal health care investment, particularly through Medicaid, will damage Anchorage's economy by increasing unemployment in the assisted living and nursing home industry and among health care professionals. The ripple effects of Medicaid cuts to our economy are significant and long lasting, and will effect sectors as diverse as real estate, food service, and construction.

For the last health care vote, Senator Murkowski had the courage to put Alaska's best interests ahead of partisan politics in Washington D.C. We ask that you put Alaska and Anchorage first by voting "no" on Graham-Cassidy.

 Dick Train	 ERIC CROPP	 Tim Steele, Member
 Forrest Dunbar, Vice-Chair	 Felix Rivera, Member	 PETE PETERSEN Member
 Suzanne LaFrance, Member	 Christopher Constant, Member	

ⁱ "Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Bill Would Reduce Federal Funding to States by \$215 Billion," Elizabeth Carpenter and Chris Sloan, *Avalere Health*, accessed [9/20/2017](#).

ⁱⁱ "Coverage Losses by State Under the Graham-Cassidy Bill to Repeal the ACA," Emily Gee, *Center for American Progress*, accessed [9/20/2017](#). "Medicaid and CHIP," *Kaiser Family Foundation*, accessed [9/20/2017](#).