



## **The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act Alaska: The Cost of Inaction**

### **Alaska Families Suffer**

#### **Alaska insurance premiums skyrocket**

- ✓ In 1997, family health insurance purchased through an employer cost \$6,026. [Medical Expenditure Panel Survey, accessed 6/15/2009]
- ✓ In 2006, the same family health insurance cost \$12,198. [Medical Expenditure Panel Survey, accessed 6/15/2009]
- ✓ By 2016, the same insurance is projected to cost \$24,693, a 102 percent increase over 2006, which will consume 42.6 percent of projected Alaska median family income. [New America Foundation, 11/2008; New America Foundation, accessed 6/15/2009]

#### **More uninsured Alaskans**

- ✓ Every day, 20 Alaskans lose their health insurance. [Center for American Progress, 3/23/2009]
- ✓ During the last two years, 209,000 Alaskans under age 65 went without health insurance for some time, which is 33 percent of the under 65 population. [Families USA, 4/2009]
- ✓ In 2007, 115,824 Alaskans under age 65 were uninsured for the entire year, which is 18.9 percent of the under 65 population. [Kaiser Family Foundation, accessed 8/5/2009]

#### **Alaskans pay higher premiums due to the uninsured**

- ✓ Alaska families pay a “hidden tax” of \$1,900 on their health insurance premiums due to the unpaid costs of care for the uninsured. [Center for American Progress, 3/23/2009]

#### **Fewer choices due to consolidated market**

- ✓ The two largest health insurance companies in Alaska have a combined market share of 95 percent. [Health Care for America Now, 7/15/2009]

### **Alaska Businesses Suffer**

#### **Fewer Alaskans have health coverage at work**

- ✓ In 2002, 63 percent of Alaskans under age 65 had employer-sponsored health insurance. [Kaiser Family Foundation, accessed 6/15/2009]
- ✓ In 2007, 58.1 percent of Alaskans had coverage through their employer. [Kaiser Family Foundation, accessed 6/15/2009]

#### **Fewer Alaska small businesses offer health coverage**

- ✓ In 2001, 32.2 percent of small businesses were able to offer health insurance coverage to their employees. [Medical Expenditure Panel Survey, accessed 6/16/2009]
- ✓ In 2006, 24.5 percent of small businesses offered health benefits. [Medical Expenditure Panel Survey, accessed 6/16/2009]

### **Alaska Economy Suffers**

#### **Health care spending climbs**

- ✓ In 2004, Alaska spent \$4.2 billion on health care. [Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), 9/2007; CMS 2/2007]
- ✓ This spending level represents \$6,450 per capita, and is 11.6 percent of the Gross State Product. [CMS, 9/2007; CMS 2/2007]

#### **Lost economic output of the uninsured due to shorter lives and poorer health**

- ✓ This year, the Alaska economy will lose \$330 million - \$670 million due to the shorter lives and poorer health of the uninsured. [Center for American Progress, 5/29/2009]