

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Contact:**

Amber Lee, State Director  
Protect Our Care Alaska  
907-350-0486

## **Alaska House Health and Social Services Committee Hears Resolution Urging Congress to Extend Enhanced Health Insurance Tax Credits**

**Juneau, Alaska** – Today, the Alaska House Health and Social Services Committee held a hearing on House Joint Resolution 9 (HJR 9), sponsored by Representative Genevieve Mina. The resolution calls on the United States Congress to extend enhanced tax credits for health insurance premiums under the Affordable Care Act (ACA). These tax credits, which were originally expanded under the American Rescue Plan and extended by the Inflation Reduction Act, are set to expire at the end of 2025 unless congressional action is taken.

The enhanced premium tax credits have played a crucial role in making health care more accessible and affordable for Alaskans. Over 23,000 residents currently benefit from these credits, which have kept health insurance costs manageable for working families, self-employed individuals, small business owners, and hourly workers. Without an extension, thousands of Alaskans face sharp increases in health insurance premiums, with some expected to more than double in cost.

“Alaska already has some of the highest health care costs in the country,” said Representative Mina. “If Congress does not extend these tax credits, tens of thousands of Alaskans will be forced to choose between health care and other basic needs like housing and food. This will also place additional strain on our state’s emergency services and public health resources.”

Jared Kosin, President of the Alaska Hospital & Healthcare Association (AHHA), emphasized the critical need for action: “These tax credits are essential for keeping health insurance affordable for Alaskans. If they expire, we will see a significant rise in the uninsured population, forcing more people to rely on emergency care, which increases costs for everyone.”

HJR 9 has received widespread support from Alaska’s health care community, including endorsements from the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC), Protect Our Care Alaska, the National Association of Benefits and Insurance Professionals (NABIP) Alaska Chapter, and individual Alaskans who have directly benefited from the tax credits.

**ANTHC Vice President Monique Martin** stated that failure to extend the tax credits would have “real and substantial impacts on Alaskans,” particularly Alaska Native and American Indian communities.

**NABIP Alaska President Albert Fogle** stressed the economic consequences, highlighting a potential loss of \$76 million in federal funding and a \$152 million negative impact on Alaska’s economy if the credits expire.

**Single mother, Shellie Gooden** stated: “I work four jobs to support my kids, and the ACA tax credits bring my health insurance premium down from \$2,300 to \$205. As a diabetic, I need this coverage to stay healthy for my children. Without these credits, affording both housing and medical care simply won’t be realistic for our family.”

**Anchorage resident Lizzie Newell** stated: "If the tax credits go away, my monthly premium will jump to \$1,600. I simply can't afford that. I'd have to drop my insurance, and that would put everything I've worked for at risk."

**Trevor Storrs, President and CEO of Alaska Children's Trust** stated: "When parents have health insurance, their children have it too—and they get the care they need. Extending these tax credits is essential to keeping families healthy and ensuring they don't face additional financial stress."

HJR 9 urges Alaska's congressional delegation to lead the charge in extending the enhanced tax credits to protect Alaskan families and the state's economy. Without immediate action, health care costs will skyrocket, destabilizing the state's health insurance marketplace and jeopardizing access to care for thousands of residents.

"As elected officials, we have a responsibility to ensure that Alaskans can access affordable health care," added Representative Mina. "This resolution sends a clear message to Congress that Alaska cannot afford to lose these critical tax credits."

For more information, visit [HJR 9 Bill Text](#) or watch the committee hearing at [KTOO Gavel Alaska](#).

###