



With Spirit and Strength

Emily Beaulieu
Alaska Department of Health,
3601 C Street, Suite 902,
Anchorage, AK 99503

May 8, 2023

Dear Emily Beaulieu,

On behalf of the Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association, I am in support of the proposed amendment to temporarily suspended Medicaid fee-for service prior/service authorization requirements that were implemented during the public health emergency via the 1135 wavier authority for an additional year after the end of the public health emergency May 11th, 2023. The two flexibilities proposed for extension:

1. Extension of the AK State Plan Amendment 20-0003 temporary increase of pharmacy professional dispensing fees for one year after the end of the public health emergency. The current approved extension will be superseded with this proposed SPA.
2. Extension of the temporary suspension of Medicaid fee-for-service prior/service authorization requirements in the behavioral health Medicaid program through one year after the end of the PHE.

The amendment will assist our behavioral health providers by improving access to care for Alaska Medicaid participants, decreasing their already heavy administrative burden, and reducing barriers to care for our Medicaid-eligible Alaska Native and American Indian beneficiaries.

Thank you,

Dimitri Philemonof