

ALASKA STATE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

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The Alaska State Medical Association (ASMA) issued the following news release today regarding Gov. Mike Dunleavy's proposed budget and its potential effects on health care in Alaska:

“We are concerned about the governor's proposed cuts to various health care-related programs,” said Joseph Roth, MD, president of the Alaska State Medical Association (ASMA) and a family physician in Juneau.

Speaking on behalf of the ASMA Board of Trustees, Roth said: “Medicaid reductions and the elimination of WWAMI, ‘Alaska's Medical School,’ will have dramatic, short- and long-term negative effects on the quality of health care in our state. In the coming days we will be conferring with physicians and other stakeholders to devise a reasonable, effective strategy for addressing these concerns.”

“We recognize Alaska's serious fiscal situation and are committed to working with the governor, legislators and state agencies to protect and improve the quality of health care for all Alaskans. This will not be easy and will require innovative thinking. The governor himself said this is just the beginning; as physicians, we are dedicated to ensuring that the ending is a healthy one.”

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The Alaska State Medical Association is a nonprofit organization that advocates on behalf of physicians and for the health and well-being of all Alaskans. The association strives to advance medical science, to extend medical knowledge, to elevate the standards of medical education and to foster the enactment and enforcement of appropriate medical laws; to promote friendly interchange among physicians; to foster and guard the legitimate interests of members of the medical profession and to protect them against imposition; and to enlighten and direct public opinion with regard to the problems of medicine, so that the profession shall become more capable and honorable within itself and more useful to the public in the prevention and treatment of disease.