

Faith-based group wants changes to Denali Kid Care

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The message was loud and clear. A faith-based group is appealing to lawmakers to increase support to Denali Kid Care. Denali Kid Care provides health insurance to children and pregnant women. The federal government funds 70 percent of the program; 30 percent is funded by the state.

In 2003, Alaska changed eligibility, freezing it at 175 percent of the 2003 federal poverty level. Anchorage Faith and Action Congregations Together is a group that organizers say represents 15 congregations. Board member Sara Jackson says they would like legislators to return Denali Kid Care to 200 percent of the poverty level. She says they also would like a buy-in for co-pays for families at even higher levels of income.

U.S. Senator Lisa Murkowski says she is supporting the group's effort to make changes. Murkowski -- who serves on the Senates health committee -- met with group members during the April recess. Murkowski also supports the reauthorization of the State Children's Health Insurance Program or S-CHIP Bill in Congress.

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