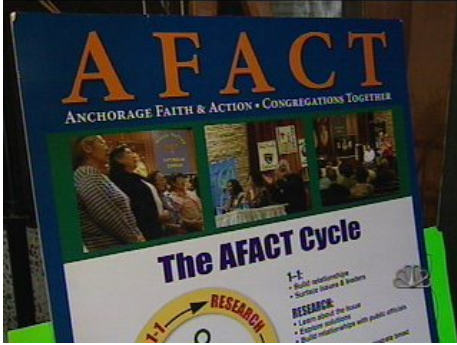




## Faith-based group wants changes to Denali Kid Care



by Joy Mapaye  
Sunday, April 29, 2007

ANCHORAGE, Alaska -- A faith-based organization is appealing to state lawmakers to make changes to Denali Kid Care. The group, called Anchorage Faith and Action Congregations Together or AFACT, represents 15 congregations in Anchorage. Today members of the group released the results of their research study outlining the need for health care for children in Alaska.

Anchorage Faith and Action Congregation Together wants lawmakers to change the rules on Denali Kid Care to include more impoverished children. (Shawn Wilson/KTUU-TV)

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.

"We would like to see legislators return Denali Kid Care to 200 percent of the poverty level, where it was when it began or even greater, and this is very important, to offer a buy-in for co-pays for families at even higher levels of income," said Sara Jackson, board member of AFACT.

"We would like to see it at least 200 percent of poverty, so that those families that are working, but can't afford all the extras for insurance get in on this," said Dahna Graham, volunteer for AFACT.

Sen. Lisa Murkowski says she is supporting the group's effort to make changes. Murkowski met with AFACT during the April recess. Sen. Murkowski serves on the Health Committee for the U.S. Senate.

As a former state senator, Murkowski's representatives say she is familiar with these issues.

"Now she works on the federal front for the same program and she hopes that Alaskan children will be served by it," said Mary K. Hughes, Alaska state director for Sen. Lisa Murkowski.

Murkowski also supports the reauthorization of the State Children's Health Insurance Program or S-CHIP Bill in Congress.



All content © Copyright 2000 - 2007 WorldNow and KTUU. All Rights Reserved.  
For more information on this site, please read our [Privacy Policy](#) and [Terms of Service](#).