
From: Mike Bowden <mbowden@ci.valdez.ak.us>
Sent: Thursday, May 14, 2015 6:58 PM
To: Notice Comments
Subject: Notice 2015-16

To Whom It May Concern:

Currently Alaska has the highest cost of medical within the nation. I quote "In Alaska, the total premium cost for single coverage in 2013 was 32 percent higher than the U.S. average; for employee-plus-one coverage, Alaska's average cost was 35 percent higher than the U.S. average; and for family coverage, Alaska's cost was 29 percent higher than the national average. In Alaska, the total premium cost for single coverage in 2013 was 32 percent higher than the U.S. average; for employee-plus-one coverage, Alaska's average cost was 35 percent higher than the U.S. average; and for family coverage, Alaska's cost was 29 percent higher than the national average."

Given these numbers, the fact that all of our goods, and basic needs such as electricity and fuel to heat our homes are higher than the lower 48 I am requesting that you consider a geographic offset for certain regions of the country. The 40% Cadillac tax will most likely effect a good portion of our citizens due to our higher cost. This tax will be very detrimental and place a financial burden on communities with limited resources that will require employers to decrease the level of services provided and possible reduction of present workforce.

If the Cadillac tax is implemented there is also the real possibility that employers will pass the cost down to the employees. Given our high cost of food and other basic needs some may be forced to choose between those basic necessities or having health care. I employ you to consider cost of living and create a system to give this consideration.

Sincerely

Mike Bowden – Valdez, AK