

**Chris Hladick**

*Commissioner*

P.O. Box 110800  
Juneau, AK 99811-0800

[www.commerce.alaska.gov](http://www.commerce.alaska.gov)



## Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

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Contact: Lori Wing-Heier  
Director, Division of Insurance  
(907) 269-7900  
[lori.wing-heier@alaska.gov](mailto:lori.wing-heier@alaska.gov)

### **Healthcare Insurance Open Enrollment Deadline Extended**

December 15, 2016 ANCHORAGE – The federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services announced they have extended the deadline for those who need individual health insurance in 2017. Alaskans have until December 19, 2016 to buy a health insurance plan that begins on the first day of the new year.

High demand on [healthcare.gov](http://healthcare.gov) prompted officials to extend the deadline for coverage that takes effect January 1, 2017. The open enrollment period lasts until the end of January, but customers who buy plans after December 19, 2016 will have to wait until February 1, 2017 or later for their coverage to begin.

Under the Affordable Care Act (ACA), consumers are required to have health insurance or pay a penalty. If consumers miss the deadline to enroll for health insurance, they may have to pay a tax penalty for any months they do not have qualifying coverage. The federal marketplace is a key component of the ACA, which has significantly increased the number of Americans with health insurance. Consumers with income at 138 to 400 percent of the federal poverty level who buy coverage through the federal marketplace may be eligible for subsidies.

Consumers are encouraged to contact the Alaska Division of Insurance with questions or concerns regarding their health insurance coverage. To talk with a consumer services representative directly, call 269-7900 in Anchorage, or call the toll-free number 1-800-INSURAK outside of Anchorage.

The Division of Insurance, along with the Division of Banking and Securities, the Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing, the Alcohol and Marijuana Control Office, and the Regulatory Commission of Alaska, is an agency housed within the Alaska State Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development tasked with protecting consumers in Alaska. For additional information about the division, please visit [insurance.alaska.gov](http://insurance.alaska.gov). For additional information about the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development and its other agencies, please visit [commerce.alaska.gov](http://commerce.alaska.gov).

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