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PRESS RELEASE

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Alaska Division of Insurance Applauds New Federal Rule Creating Greater Access to Quality, Affordable Health Coverage

June 17, 2019 (Anchorage) – A new federal policy will give Alaska employers and small businesses another means of providing health insurance coverage to employees, and give workers more flexibility in choosing the healthcare coverage that’s right for them.

On June 13, 2019, the U.S. Departments of Health and Human Services, Labor and the Treasury issued a new rule that allows employers to use Health Reimbursement Arrangements (HRA) for individual coverage. These Individual Coverage HRAs are an alternative to traditional group health plan coverage. They provide workers tax-friendly funding to cover healthcare costs in the individual market.

“This is a win for Alaska employers and employees,” said Alaska Division of Insurance Director Lori Wing-Heier. “The cost of healthcare is always a concern. This gives employers another tool to finance health insurance, and will give workers offered an individual HRA more control over their healthcare coverage selections.”

The new regulation follows President Trump’s Executive Order on “Promoting Healthcare Choice and Competition Across the United States.” The final rule is available [here](#). The division will be posting FAQs with additional information to their website soon at <https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/ins/>.

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