

June 6, 2011

Mr. Gary Knopp, President
And Members
Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly

Re: Ord. 2011-13

Dear President Knopp and Assembly Members,

I commend Assemblyman Smith for bringing forward Ord. 2011-13. In these days of rapidly escalating medical costs, it is only right, in my view, that all who participate also share in some of the costs.

It is appropriate that the Assembly lead the way, because, members are considered employees of the borough, regardless your pay or benefits. And I see this as an excellent first step towards negotiations with Appendix A employees and the union employees. Somehow, they too need to be willing to contribute more than at this time. School district employees see \$400 and \$500 and more, per month deducted from their pay, as their contribution to medical coverage. It is time the Borough employees do likewise. The Assembly leading the way with the ordinance will certainly make that effort easier.

It is sad that costs have escalated as they have. During the early 1980's, and my tenure on the school board, I recall that we offered these wonderful, at that time low cost, medical benefits, often in lieu of wage increases to benefit the budget. That cost benefit no longer exists. Instead it has become a liability.

So, again, I urge your support of Ordinance 2011-13, and commend the Assembly for leading the way.

Very sincerely,

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