



Alaska State Legislature
Representative Jamie D. Allard
Alaska State Capitol, Room 415
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House Bill No. 175 Sponsor Statement

"An Act relating to midwives and the practice of midwifery; relating to apprentice midwives; renaming the Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives as the Board of Licensed Midwives; relating to the Board of Licensed Midwives; extending the termination date of the Board of Licensed Midwives; relating to insurance; and providing for an effective date."

House Bill 175 aims to enhance access to midwifery care in Alaska by alleviating unnecessary restrictions on licensed midwives. Midwives deliver crucial healthcare services to women throughout pregnancy, childbirth, and the postpartum period. Yet, certified midwives in Alaska face practice limitations that this bill proposes to eliminate.

HB175 intends to retitle the Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives to the Board of Licensed Midwives and extend its termination date to 2027. It seeks to align licensing with national certification standards, removing the need for separate state certification and examination.

The bill aims to prevent the Board of Licensed Midwives from enforcing regulations that would curtail midwifery practice. Under this bill, midwives would not require physician supervision or written collaborative agreements to practice, could attend home births, and provide care for six weeks postpartum extending from the current four weeks.

Additionally, HB175 mandates health insurance plans to cover services provided by licensed midwives, ensuring care is both accessible and affordable for Alaska families, significantly reducing healthcare barriers.

In conclusion, HB175 is designed to remove hurdles faced by midwives and the soon-to-be mothers depending on them. It seeks a balance between public safety and the preservation of birth choices and woman-centric care.