

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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Sponsor Statement

Senate Joint Resolution 14

Constitution Amendment: Parental Consent

Parents alone have the sole duty and responsibility of raising their children, providing for their education, sustenance, and spiritual wellbeing. Any legal provision, guideline, statute, or ordinance infringing upon that fundamental principle and right of parents should be changed.

Senate Joint Resolution 14 proposes an amendment to the Alaska Constitution creating a new section allowing the legislature OR the people through the initiative process to have the option to require notice to and the consent of the parent or the legal guardian of a minor before the minor's pregnancy is terminated.

It is a well-established principle that before treating a patient, a physician or other healthcare provider must obtain the consent of that patient. This proposition becomes less clear when treating minors and physicians are often faced with the question of just who may consent to treatment and under what circumstances? This resolution is a first step to clarify this vital issue.

I ask for your support of Senate Joint Resolution 14.