



REPRESENTATIVE CAROLYN HALL
HOUSE DISTRICT 16 | WEST ANCHORAGE

Sponsor Statement: House Bill 185

Medical Assistance; Family Planning

House Bill 185 will create a Family Planning State Plan Amendment that expands Medicaid coverage to provide family planning services to Alaskans.

Since 2001, Alaska has had the highest rate of infant mortality and rising preterm birth rates in the U.S.. Currently, Alaskans at or below 138% of the federal poverty level (FPL) qualify for full Medicaid coverage. To qualify for Medicaid pregnancy coverage, Alaskans must be at 200% FPL. This bill would expand the eligibility limits to 225% FPL.

HB 185 will be a cost-effective investment for Alaska, the Federal Government pays 90% of Medicaid's family planning services, with a 10% match from the state. The state will save \$7 for every one dollar it spends on family planning for unintended pregnancy costs and long-term social services costs under Medicaid expansion. The Family State Plan Amendment will improve birth outcomes, empower Alaskans to decide whether to grow their families, and reduce infant mortality and preterm birth rates. Additionally, with this expansion of Medicaid, preventive screenings for STIs, HIV, cervical, and breast cancers will be included.