

I am not able to attend the hearings at 9:45AM in Finance 519.

I am a 70-year-old father, and grandfather and long-time Alaska resident.

I consider myself to be relatively intelligent and, due to my current age, I feel that I have gained some level of wisdom.

My statement may ramble a bit, but please bear with me. These are my thoughts regarding "HB 25: Insurance Coverage of Contraceptives":

Contraception has been, is, and will continue to be the SECOND most effective method to prevent unwanted pregnancies, which may, sadly, end in abortion. Note that I said "pregnancies". Without pregnancy, there is no need for - no POSSIBILITY of! - abortion. Abortions - good or bad - cost money. They cost the State of Alaska money. Abortions, for the most part, are to be prevented, if at all possible, with some specific and few exceptions. Contraception!

The BEST and MOST effective method to prevent unwanted pregnancies is, of course, celibacy. Unless you can guarantee that sexually-active people who do not want to become pregnant will simply ABSTAIN, you must be willing to concede that contraceptive methods are a good idea.

If you come to that conclusion, you should then compare the price to the State for abortions and its after-effects with the price to the State to cover contraception with insurance.

It's a no-brainer from where I'm sitting.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael C. Fleischhauer

Juneau

I am writing in support of HB 25 which mandates insurance coverage for all prescription contraceptives, including long-acting reversible contraception (LARCs - IUDs and implants), AND requires coverage for a one-year supply of self-administered contraceptives when prescribed by a health care provider. This is a real way to increase access to the best birth control method for each person and will increase consistent use, reducing incidents of unintended pregnancy. This is a very important mandate to me personally as I am one of the many women in Alaska who would suffer without such protections of our freedom to decide our own reproductive health choices.

Sincerely,

- Honalee Elkan