

**From:** Niesje Steinkruger  
**To:** [Rep. Ivy Spohnholz](#)  
**Subject:** SB 198 Long Acting Contraception Study comments  
**Date:** Thursday, April 19, 2018 11:34:46 AM

---

Please include in committee packet for SB 198 today. Thank you, Niesje

**Subject: RE: SB 198 Long Acting Contraception**

Hello Alaska Legislature,

My name is Niesje Steinkruger. I am a retired Superior Court Judge from Fairbanks. FASD has been a part of my legal caseload since 1976 when, as a new lawyer, I was appointed as a Guardian ad Litem, by the court to represent a child with FASD. I have also been the lawyer for Moms, for Dads, for Foster Parents, and the Judge, in many cases with FASD children in CINA, Delinquency, Guardianship, Alcohol Commitment, Mental Commitment and Criminal Cases.

Alaska spends billions of dollars treating and providing services to our citizens with FASD. Money is plowed into the budgets of Schools, Medical Care, Foster Care, Mental Health, Law Enforcement, and Corrections. The only way to stem the \$\$ tide and the human pain is to focus on Prevention, not just treatment.

SB 198 allows us to try giving women with severe substance abuse addictions access to LARC. This option is not a form of abortion. It allows a woman to prevent. The unplanned pregnancy rate believed to be 50% in the general population and 90% in the population this bill would provide access to. We must give these women the option of access to LARC such as an implant in their arm that prevents an unplanned pregnancy with a FASD child.

This is not a moral issue of these women being “stronger” so they don’t use alcohol and drugs or have sex. It is an issue of preventing continuing FASD children if the mother so chooses. Australia, Canada and some European countries are in stride with us in offering prevention, not just more treatment.

I urge you to pass SB 198 to allow Alaska to keep working toward FASD prevention options.

Niesje Steinkruger  
Retired Fairbanks  
Superior Court Judge