

Representative Sara Rasmussen

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House Bill 176

Sponsor Statement

“An Act relating to insurance; relating to direct health care agreements; and relating to unfair trade practices.”

House Bill 176 establishes direct health care agreements for medical providers to provide Direct Primary Care to patients.

Direct Primary Care is a membership based alternative payment model in which patients, employers, or health plans pay primary care providers in flat, simple periodic fees directly in exchange for access to a broad range of primary care services. There are over 1,400 DPC practices in 48 states, providing access to great primary care to over 300,000 American patients.

DPC is designed to remove the financial barriers patients encounter in accessing routine primary care, including preventive, wellness, and chronic care services. With a DPC plan, the primary doctor doesn't have to fill out timely insurance paperwork, leaving more time to spend with patients. The patient typically gets same day access and next day visits, quicker appointments due to little paperwork, and the option to call or text with your doctor 24/7. With a DPC doctor, you always know what you are going to pay. You have your monthly fee, and any additional charges are contracted with your doctor before the procedure.

Alaskans spend more on health care per capita than any other state in the union. At a time when many Alaskans have seen their personal bank accounts shrink due to COVID, we see this as an opportunity to help lower their health care bills, as well as make a usually, unenjoyable visit to a doctor office a little more enjoyable.