

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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HB 206 Sponsor Statement

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life... That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men".

These words from our nation's Declaration of Independence are the foundation of all good moral law and description of the fundamental purpose of civil government, to secure our God given rights. First among these is the right to life.

Article 1 Section 1 of Alaska's Constitution similarly opens with:

"This constitution is dedicated to the principles that all persons have a natural right to life, ...that all persons are equal and entitled to equal rights, opportunities, and protection under the law"

And in Section 7: *"No person shall be deprived of life... without due process of law."*

This is the first duty of all civil magistrates and lawmakers, sadly the most vulnerable class of people, pre-born children have been excluded from that protection. Therefore, I have introduced House Bill 206 the Life at Conception Act or Pre-born Child Equality Act of 2021.

This bill brings state law into conformity with the Constitution of the State of Alaska, protects Alaska's preborn children by correcting Alaska law to recognize all human beings as legal persons beginning at their conception.

It makes clear, in accordance with established science, that human life begins at conception, and that a child waiting to be born in Alaska is an Alaska resident if the mother of that child is an Alaska resident.

This bill is drafted in a simplified, consistent and comprehensive approach that does not create duplicate penal statute. The same statutes that protect the life of a born person will now protect a child waiting to be born in Alaska.

As a state, we have already decided to stand up to federal overreach concerning the manufacturing, sale and recreational use of marijuana. If it was important that we as a state stand up to defend the right of Alaskans to use marijuana for recreational purposes, how much more important is it that we today stand up to federal overreach when it violates the right of an innocent Alaskan child to live.

The Alaska Life at Conception Act/ Pre-born Child Equality Act of 2021 also reminds the courts that the Constitution of the State of Alaska gives to the legislature alone the responsibility of writing state law, and specifically tasks the legislature with implementing the constitutional right to privacy. The concern that Alaska was addressing when the right to privacy provision was adopted was illegal government wiretapping. There was never an intent on the part of the people or the legislature to use this provision to create a new right

to murder a child in the womb. It is an overreach for any court to substitute its own definition of privacy to replace that which was intended by the people.

In defining the right to privacy, the Alaska Life at Conception Act/ Pre-born Child Equality Act of 2021 makes unmistakably clear that the Constitution of the State of Alaska has always protected the life of a child waiting to be born in Alaska. Likewise, the Fourteenth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution provides that Alaska shall not “deprive any person of life” without due process of law. The Alaska Life at Conception Act/ Pre-born Child Equality Act empowers state officials to take action to prevent the taking of an innocent child’s life. There is no greater form of child abuse than to intentionally end the life of a child whose greatest crime is simply wanting to live.