

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

EDUCATION

ETHICS

HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES

TRANSPORTATION



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SENATOR Löki Gale Tobin

Education Committee Chair

Senate Bill 27

“Insurance Coverage for Contraceptives and Related Services”

Version: 33-LS0241\A

Having access to contraceptives is an essential part of reproductive healthcare. Alaska's geography and lack of infrastructure makes easy access to contraceptives more difficult than anywhere else in the country. The recent pandemic has highlighted and exacerbated this issue, showing that simple access to contraceptives is not a guarantee in the state.

Having inconsistent access to prescriptive contraceptives increases the chances of accidental pregnancies and other adverse health effects resulting from disrupted use. Senate Bill 27 requires health care insurers, including Medicaid services, to provide coverage for many forms of contraceptives and medical services necessary for those products or devices. This includes prescriptive contraceptives, long acting reversible contraceptives, and emergency contraceptives. SB 27 also requires coverage for the dispensing of 12 months of prescriptive contraceptives at a time.

SB 27 provides Alaskans with easier and more accessible family planning options and allows individuals to self-direct their medical needs. One in four women say they have missed contraceptive pills because they could not receive the next pack in time. Dispensing a one-year supply is also cost effective for both public and private insurance plans, which lower claims on follow-up visits, pregnancy tests, long-term costs associated with unintended pregnancies, and other unintended medical consequences.

SB 27 allows more flexibility for Alaskans. Ensuring access to reproductive healthcare will give Alaskan families control of their future. I urge your support.