

Mina Ryan

From: snorkel_ak@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Jason Avery
<snorkel_ak@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, March 20, 2023 9:15 AM
To: House Community and Regional Affairs
Subject: Please vote YES on HB 17: Birth Control

Dear Alaska House Community & Regional Affairs Committee,

I am writing to encourage you to support HB 17, the bill to improve access to birth control for all Alaskans.

All Alaskans deserve affordable and accessible birth control that works for us, regardless of our income, insurance carrier, or life circumstances. Consistent access to birth control gives people the ability to control when and if they have children, giving them more career and education opportunities, encouraging healthier pregnancies, and saving money. That's why 83% of voters in Alaska believe everyone who wants or needs birth control should have it.

Today, most birth control users are forced to refill their birth control every month, which is a burden for many people in Alaska and increases the odds of experiencing an unintended pregnancy. All people should have access to a year's supply of birth control at a time.

Please support birth control access in Alaska by voting YES on HB 17.

Sincerley
Jason Avery
[REDACTED]
Fairbanks Alaska 99709

Sincerely,
Mr. Jason Avery
[REDACTED]

Mina Ryan

From: rlrussell@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Robyn Russell
<rlrussell@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, March 20, 2023 10:12 AM
To: House Community and Regional Affairs
Subject: Please vote YES on HB 17: Birth Control

Dear Alaska House Community & Regional Affairs Committee,

I am writing to encourage you to support HB 17, the bill to improve access to birth control for all Alaskans.

All Alaskans deserve affordable and accessible birth control that works for us, regardless of our income, insurance carrier, or life circumstances. Consistent access to birth control gives people the ability to control when and if they have children, giving them more career and education opportunities, encouraging healthier pregnancies, and saving money. That's why 83% of voters in Alaska believe everyone who wants or needs birth control should have it.

Today, most birth control users are forced to refill their birth control every month, which is a burden for many people in Alaska and increases the odds of experiencing an unintended pregnancy. All people should have access to a year's supply of birth control at a time.

Please support birth control access in Alaska by voting YES on HB 17.

Sincerely,
Ms. Robyn Russell



Mina Ryan

From: hlbaldwin17@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Harper Baldwin <hlbaldwin17@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, March 20, 2023 10:18 AM
To: House Community and Regional Affairs
Subject: Please vote YES on HB 17: Birth Control

Dear Alaska House Community & Regional Affairs Committee,

I am writing to encourage you to support HB 17, the bill to improve access to birth control for all Alaskans.

All Alaskans deserve affordable and accessible birth control that works for us, regardless of our income, insurance carrier, or life circumstances. Consistent access to birth control gives people the ability to control when and if they have children, giving them more career and education opportunities, encouraging healthier pregnancies, and saving money. That's why 83% of voters in Alaska believe everyone who wants or needs birth control should have it.

Today, most birth control users are forced to refill their birth control every month, which is a burden for many people in Alaska and increases the odds of experiencing an unintended pregnancy. All people should have access to a year's supply of birth control at a time.

Please support birth control access in Alaska by voting YES on HB 17.

Sincerely,
Ms. Harper Baldwin



Mina Ryan

From: House Health and Social Services
Sent: Monday, March 20, 2023 10:25 AM
To: House Community and Regional Affairs
Subject: FW: Support for HB 17

Office of Representative Mike Prax
Riley Nye
907-465-4838
Riley.Nye@akleg.gov

From: Frana Burtneess-Adams [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, March 19, 2023 2:25 PM
To: House Health and Social Services <House.HSS@akleg.gov>; Sen. Click Bishop <Sen.Click.Bishop@akleg.gov>; Rep. Ashley Carrick <Rep.Ashley.Carrick@akleg.gov>
Subject: Support for HB 17

I am writing to support HB 17. (Fairbanks resident, 99709)

I support bill HB 17 for personal and societal rural wellness.

I support it personally because almost two years ago, birth control was the only reason I was able to keep a job, seek out help for my health wellness, and continue to contribute to my business and home life.

Last year (2021) I started vomiting, having diarrhea, and fainting the first day of my period, on a monthly basis. While I adjusted many things about my lifestyle, birth control was able to put an end to this while I continued to have the ability to seek further medical attention.

I got a prescription for this birth control at Planned Parenthood. It's made it possible for me to breathe, stress less, and continue to live my life out loud. Now, I am currently not using birth control because I have been able to get further answers to mitigate these medical symptoms."

I support bill HB 17 for societal and community reasons centered in our rural kins' needs because

> This bill will make it easier for people living in Alaska to have consistent access to necessary medications when working in remote areas like the Slope or our national and state parks, fishing out on our oceans, maintaining roads and critical infrastructure, conducting world class research out in the field, and fighting fires across the state.

> Access to comprehensive family planning doesn't just create healthier communities; it also creates costs savings for families, the state, and insurance companies. Expanding birth control access decreases unintended pregnancies and associated costs, saving money in the long run.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and I hope you all are thinking generations ahead when you make your decision

Happy Spring / Breakup!

--
"Have the bravery to act and the humility to be corrected" - Cana Uluak Itchuaqiyag

Frana BA

She/Her - [*what's this?*](#)

Racial Justice Consultant & Facilitator



YouTube: [FranaBA](#)

LI: [Frana BA](#)

IG: [frana_ba](#)

FB: [Frana BA](#)

I acknowledge and honor the peoples of the Lower Tanana Dene tribe, the rightful stewards of the [land I am on](#). I honor the lives, languages, and cultures by addressing my internalized white supremacy, paying reparations, and holding white people in my life accountable.

I see and support Indigenous and Native youth, activists, leaders, parents, elders, and ancestors for their continued work to get their rightful [#LandBack](#) [#DefendTheSacred](#)

Mina Ryan

From: House Health and Social Services
Sent: Monday, March 20, 2023 10:25 AM
To: House Community and Regional Affairs
Subject: FW: HB 17: Public Testimony

Office of Representative Mike Prax
Riley Nye
907-465-4838
Riley.Nye@akleg.gov

From: Elizabeth Figus [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 16, 2023 8:09 AM
To: House Health and Social Services <House.HSS@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB 17: Public Testimony

Dear House Health and Social Services Committee:

For the record my name is Elizabeth Figus and I live in House District 3. I am writing on behalf of myself.

I am a Juneau resident and a commercial fisherman. I am writing today to urge you to support HB 17, to help make it possible for women throughout Alaska to obtain 12 months of birth control at a time.

This bill is a no-brainer in our state, where so many residents spend significant portions of their year in remote locations.

During fishing seasons my crew members and I do not have much time to get to the doctor. We work 7 days a week and typically spend 5 of those 7 days at sea. In the past, I have had to cancel doctor appointments repeatedly or delay departures in order to get crucial care for myself and my crew. While some of these visits may be unavoidable, having to alter schedules for something as simple as a pre-approved prescription pickup is a frustrating and unnecessary expense.

In this time of budget challenges throughout the state, I am sure that you all understand the importance of economic efficiency. This bill would save many individual women money and time, as well as help deter costs related to unplanned pregnancies that may result from not having consistent access to contraception.

Please vote yes HB 17: 12 months of birth control, the fiscally responsible choice for women's health in Alaska.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Figus, PhD
Juneau, AK
Cell: [REDACTED]

Mina Ryan

From: Morgan Lim <morgan.lim@ppallianceadvocates.org>
Sent: Monday, March 20, 2023 11:14 AM
To: House Community and Regional Affairs
Cc: Rep. Ashley Carrick
Subject: HB17 Testimony Support
Attachments: PPAA HB 17_12 mth BC_3.20.23.docx

Hello HCRA,

Please find attached testimony in support of HB17 from Planned Parenthood Alliance Advocates.

Thank You,
Morgan

Morgan Lim (he/him)

Alaska Government Affairs Manager

Planned Parenthood Alliance Advocates - Alaska

3231 Glacier Highway | Juneau, AK 99801

C: 907.713.5733 | ppallianceadvocates.org

House Community and Regional Affairs
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99081

Re: HB 17 – Contraceptives Coverage

March 21th, 2023

Dear Chair McCormick and Members of the House Community and Regional Affairs Committee:

On behalf of Planned Parenthood Alliance Advocates – Alaska, I write today to voice Planned Parenthood's strong support for House Bill 17, which will improve access to the full range of contraceptive methods by requiring insurance to cover a year's supply of birth control at one time and build upon the Affordable Care Act's contraceptive coverage mandate to ensure all people have meaningful and timely access to contraceptive care.

We all deserve affordable and accessible birth control that works for us, regardless of our income, insurance carrier, or life circumstances. HB 17 would require insurers to cover a 12-month supply and ensure that patients and providers have full control over what contraceptive method is used. Today, most birth control users are forced to refill their birth control every month, which is a burden for many people in Alaska – especially in the aftermath of COVID – and increases the odds of experiencing an unintended pregnancy. And even with the Affordable Care Act, insurance carriers are still permitted to deny or delay access to a certain contraceptive method prescribed by a patient's provider by applying "reasonable medical management" techniques.

Consistent access to birth control gives people the ability to control when and if they have children, giving them more career and education opportunities, encouraging healthier pregnancies, and saving on health care spending. That is why 83 percent of voters in Alaska believe everyone who wants or needs birth control should have it.¹ Medical experts also agree about the benefits of an extended supply of birth control. For example, in 2020, Alaska's Public Health Association passed a resolution in support of this legislation, stating this measure could "decrease barriers to access, reduce unintended pregnancy, save money, and enhance the health outcomes of many people across Alaska."²

¹ Buxton, Matt. Poll: Majority of Alaskans oppose abortion ban. *The Midnight Sun* (Feb. 2020). Available at: <https://midnightsunak.com/2020/02/26/poll-majority-of-alaskans-oppose-abortion-ban/>

² Alaska Public Health Association, ALPHA Resolution 2020-02: Support Requiring Health Insurers to Cover 12-month Supply of Contraceptives (Feb. 2020). Available at: https://www.alaskapublichealth.org/wp-content/uploads/dlm_uploads/2020/02/Passed-Resolution-12-month-Supply-Contraceptives_12.9.2019-1.pdf

This bill would have a huge impact for patients in our very rural state. People without reliable access to transportation or who live in rural areas have more barriers to dependable access to birth control, making it more likely that they will experience an unintended pregnancy. In fact, one in four women say they have missed pills because they could not get their next pack in time.³ While hormonal birth control is over 95% effective with perfect use, monthly trips to the pharmacy or provider can make perfect use difficult or impossible for many people, especially those with lower incomes or who live in rural communities.⁴

Access to an extended supply to contraception is particularly important for people who work multiple jobs or have low incomes, who are disproportionately Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) due to centuries of racism that permeate all our systems. Extended supply also helps people who face additional barriers to contraceptive care, including young people or survivors of intimate partner violence or reproductive coercion who may not want their abuser to know they are using contraceptives. The implications of not providing access to an extended supply have been highlighted during the pandemic, with one in three women reporting they had difficulties accessing birth control early in the pandemic.⁵ Black and Hispanic women reported even higher frequencies of delay, further compounding the barriers BIPOC people already face in accessing contraceptive care. The protections in HB 17 would ensure that patients have a consistent and predictable supply of contraception, even when an unpredictable crisis derails access to contraceptives.

Guaranteeing that insurers cover all FDA-approved methods of birth control without additional out-of-pocket costs, which federal law already requires, and ensuring people in Alaska can avoid unnecessary trips to the pharmacy is critical to Alaska's economic security and health. Seeing the vast health and economic benefits, 21 states and the District of Columbia have already enacted policies requiring insurance to cover an extended supply of contraception.⁶ The evidence from these states clearly shows that covering an extended supply of birth control decreases unintended pregnancies and abortions and is cost-effective. For example, one study found that providing a 12-month supply of birth control decreased unintended pregnancies by 30 percent compared with a

³ Diana et al. (2011). Number of Oral Contraceptive Pill Packages Dispensed and Subsequent Unintended Pregnancies, *Obstetrics & Gynecology*, 117(3): 556-572.

http://journals.lww.com/greenjournal/Abstract/2011/03000/Number_of_Oral_Contraceptive_Pill_Packages.8.aspx; see also Smith J.D. & Oakley D. Why do women miss oral contraceptive pills? An analysis of women's self-described reasons

for missed pills, *Journal of Midwifery Women's Health*, 50(5): 380-385. <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1016/j.jmwh.2005.01.011>

⁴ Trussell, J. Contraceptive failure in the United States, *Contraception*: 2011 May, 83(5): 397-404.

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3638209/>

⁵ Lindberg LD et al., Early Impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic: Findings from the 2020 Guttmacher Survey of Reproductive Health Experiences, New York: Guttmacher Institute, 2020,

<https://www.guttmacher.org/report/early-impacts-covid-19-pandemic-findings-2020-guttmacher-survey-reproductive-health>

⁶ Power to Decide, At a Glance: Coverage for an Extended Supply of Contraception (2020). <https://powertodecide.org/what-we-do/information/resource-library/extended-supply-contraception>

supply of just one or three months.⁷ This same study found that giving women a year's supply of birth control reduced the odds of those women obtaining an abortion by 46 percent.⁸ And research from the US Department of Veterans Affairs found that covering an extended supply of birth control resulted in substantial cost savings for the Department and a reduction in unintended pregnancy.⁹

Additionally, HB 17 would reduce delays in access or restrictions on particular contraceptive methods by strictly limiting the medical management techniques insurance carriers can use for contraception, which are insurer-imposed conditions under which a person can obtain a drug or service. Common management techniques include step-therapy – where a patient has to try a preferred method or brand and “fail” (which could include pregnancy or medical complications) before the insurer will authorize a potentially more expensive method that may be preferred by the patient and their provider – or prior authorization by the insurer. For example, some insurers require enrollees to take oral contraceptives for three months and “fail” before they would authorize the contraceptive patch.¹⁰ Prior authorization may require a person to make a second office visit to get their method of choice, despite what the provider and patient think is the best option. This inconsistent application of medical management technique means not all FDA-approved methods may be truly accessible without cost-sharing to policyholders, as intended by the Affordable Care Act. Techniques that effectively deny or delay a person's access to their preferred method not only limit reproductive autonomy, they also may lead to lapsed or inconsistent contraceptive use and increased risk of unintended pregnancy – HB 17 takes a step toward addressing these gaps and ensuring every person can access the contraceptives that best suits them without cost-sharing.

Access to comprehensive family planning and contraceptive care does not just create healthier communities and save money for the state; it also creates substantial cost savings for families and for insurance companies. The economic security of families is directly tied to a person's ability to plan their family and access contraceptive care – birth control has shown to have a dramatic effect on a person's ability to participate in the workforce and achieve greater earnings.¹¹ Research has

⁷ Foster, D.G., Hulett, D., Bradsberry, M., Darney, P., and Policar, M. (2011). Number of Oral Contraceptive Pill Packages Dispensed and Subsequent Unintended Pregnancies, *Obstetrics & Gynecology*, 117(3):566-572.

http://journals.lww.com/greenjournal/Abstract/2011/03000/Number_of_Oral_Contraceptive_Pill_Packages.8.aspx

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Judge-Golden, C.P., Smith K.J., Mor M.K., Borrero S. (2019). Financial Implications of 12-Month Dispensing of Oral Contraceptive Pills in the Veterans Affairs Health Care System, *Journal of the American Medical Association Intern Medicine*, 179(9): 1201-1208.

<https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamainternalmedicine/article-abstract/2737751>

¹⁰ National Health Law Program, *Model Contraceptive Equity Act: Legislative Language and Issue Brief* (Jan. 2019). Available at: <https://healthlaw.org/resource/model-contraceptive-equity-act-legislative-language-and-issue-brief/>; see also Kaiser Family Foundation, *Coverage of Contraceptive Services: A Review of Health Insurance Plans in Five States* (Apr. 2015). Available at: <https://www.kff.org/private-insurance/report/coverage-of-contraceptive-services-a-review-of-health-insurance-plans-in-five-states/>

¹¹ National Women's Law Center, *Reproductive Health Is Part of the Economic Health of Women and Their Families* (2015). Available at: https://www.nwlc.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/reproductive_health_is_part_of_the_economic_health_of_women_5.29.15pdf.pdf



Alliance Advocates - Alaska

also shown that insurance plans that dispense an extended supply of birth control instead of limiting dispensing to one or three cycles lower their direct costs on follow-up visits and pregnancy tests, as well as long-term unintended pregnancy management.¹²

Thank you for holding a hearing on this important bill. By taking steps to improve birth control access, we can reduce barriers to contraceptives, help people in Alaska plan their families and avoid unintended pregnancy, and save money for Alaskan families. We encourage you to support HB 17 and move it out of committee.

Sincerely,

Morgan Lim
Alaska Government Relations Manager
Planned Parenthood Alliance Advocates – Alaska

¹² Foster, Diana et al. (2006). Number of Oral Contraceptive Pill Packages Dispensed, Method Continuation, and Costs, *Obstetrics & Gynecology*, 18(5):1107-1114.
http://journals.lww.com/greenjournal/Fulltext/2006/11000/Number_of_Oral_Contraceptive_Pill_Packages.10.aspx

Mina Ryan

From: Shirley Pittz [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 20, 2023 11:34 AM
To: House Community and Regional Affairs
Subject: HB17

Please support HB17. There are so many reasons for supporting this bill, but a primary one is ensuring that children are born when parents are ready to support, nurture and care for them.

Thank you-

Shirley Pittz
Anchorage

--

Shirley Pittz, M.S.

[REDACTED]

Mina Ryan

From: daniella.n.ambrosino@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Daniella May
<daniella.n.ambrosino@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, March 20, 2023 2:25 PM
To: House Community and Regional Affairs
Subject: Please vote YES on HB 17: Birth Control

Dear Alaska House Community & Regional Affairs Committee,

I am writing to encourage you to support HB 17, the bill to improve access to birth control for all Alaskans.

All Alaskans deserve affordable and accessible birth control that works for us, regardless of our income, insurance carrier, or life circumstances. Consistent access to birth control gives people the ability to control when and if they have children, giving them more career and education opportunities, encouraging healthier pregnancies, and saving money. That's why 83% of voters in Alaska believe everyone who wants or needs birth control should have it.

Today, most birth control users are forced to refill their birth control every month, which is a burden for many people in Alaska and increases the odds of experiencing an unintended pregnancy. All people should have access to a year's supply of birth control at a time.

Please support birth control access in Alaska by voting YES on HB 17. Hormonal birth control is essential medication for those who utilize it.

Sincerely,
Ms. Daniella May



Mina Ryan

From: glnelson19@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Gretchen Nelson <glnelson19@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, March 20, 2023 2:35 PM
To: House Community and Regional Affairs
Subject: Please vote YES on HB 17: Birth Control

Dear Alaska House Community & Regional Affairs Committee,

I am writing to encourage you to support HB 17, the bill to improve access to birth control for all Alaskans.

Please support basic health care by voting YES on HB 17.

Consistent, year long access to birth control gives people the ability to control when and if they have children, giving them more career opportunities and saving money.

This bill will decrease the odds of experiencing an unintended pregnancy, therefore avoiding many hardships and added costs for the individuals and community . All people should have access to a year's supply of birth control at a time.

Sincerely,
Ms. Gretchen Nelson



Mina Ryan

From: tavammu@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Tav Ammu
<tavammu@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, March 20, 2023 2:52 PM
To: House Community and Regional Affairs
Subject: Please vote YES on HB 17: Birth Control

Dear Alaska House Community & Regional Affairs Committee,

I am writing to encourage you to support HB 17, the bill to improve access to birth control for all Alaskans.

As a rural Alaskan I am concerned that representatives are unaware and unconcerned of issues off the road system. Providing social support systems are paramount when removing rights of one's constituents. You are eroding our rights with your vitriol faster than our shores are eroding from climate change.

All Alaskans deserve affordable and accessible birth control that works for us, regardless of our income, insurance carrier, or life circumstances. Consistent access to birth control gives people the ability to control when and if they have children, giving them more career and education opportunities, encouraging healthier pregnancies, and saving money. That's why 83% of voters in Alaska believe everyone who wants or needs birth control should have it.

Today, most birth control users are forced to refill their birth control every month, which is a burden for many people in Alaska and increases the odds of experiencing an unintended pregnancy. All people should have access to a year's supply of birth control at a time.

Please support birth control access in Alaska by voting YES on HB 17.

Sincerely,
Mr. Tav Ammu



Mina Ryan

From: csuchland58@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Carol Suchland <csuchland58@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, March 20, 2023 3:25 PM
To: House Community and Regional Affairs
Subject: Please vote YES on HB 17: Birth Control

Dear Alaska House Community & Regional Affairs Committee,

I am writing to encourage you to support HB 17, the bill to improve access to birth control for all Alaskans.

All Alaskans deserve affordable and accessible birth control that works for us, regardless of our income, insurance carrier, or life circumstances. Consistent access to birth control gives people the ability to control when and if they have children, giving them more career and education opportunities, encouraging healthier pregnancies, and saving money. That's why 83% of voters in Alaska believe everyone who wants or needs birth control should have it.

Today, most birth control users are forced to refill their birth control every month, which is a burden for many people in Alaska and increases the odds of experiencing an unintended pregnancy. All people should have access to a year's supply of birth control at a time.

Please support birth control access in Alaska by voting YES on HB 17.

Sincerely,
Ms. Carol Suchland



Mina Ryan

From: amandalehm623@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Amanda Lehm
<amandalehm623@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, March 20, 2023 3:28 PM
To: House Community and Regional Affairs
Subject: Please vote YES on HB 17: Birth Control

Dear Alaska House Community & Regional Affairs Committee,

I am writing to encourage you to support HB 17, the bill to improve access to birth control for all Alaskans.

All Alaskans deserve affordable and accessible birth control that works for us, regardless of our income, insurance carrier, or life circumstances. Consistent access to birth control gives people the ability to control when and if they have children, giving them more career and education opportunities, encouraging healthier pregnancies, and saving money. That's why 83% of voters in Alaska believe everyone who wants or needs birth control should have it.

Today, most birth control users are forced to refill their birth control every month, which is a burden for many people in Alaska and increases the odds of experiencing an unintended pregnancy. All people should have access to a year's supply of birth control at a time.

Please support birth control access in Alaska by voting YES on HB 17.

Sincerely,
Mrs Amanda Lehm



Mina Ryan

From: mjsdougher@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of marilyn dougher
<mjsdougher@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, March 20, 2023 4:25 PM
To: House Community and Regional Affairs
Subject: Please vote YES on HB 17: Birth Control

Dear Alaska House Community & Regional Affairs Committee,

I am writing to encourage you to support HB 17, the bill to improve access to birth control for all Alaskans.

All Alaskans deserve affordable and accessible birth control that works for us, regardless of our income, insurance carrier, or life circumstances. Consistent access to birth control gives people the ability to control when and if they have children, giving them more career and education opportunities, encouraging healthier pregnancies, and saving money. That's why 83% of voters in Alaska believe everyone who wants or needs birth control should have it.

Today, most birth control users are forced to refill their birth control every month, which is a burden for many people in Alaska and increases the odds of experiencing an unintended pregnancy. All people should have access to a year's supply of birth control at a time.

Please support birth control access in Alaska by voting YES on HB 17.

Sincerely,
Mrs. marilyn dougher



Mina Ryan

From: izzyballardalaska@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Izzy Farris
<izzyballardalaska@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, March 20, 2023 4:57 PM
To: House Community and Regional Affairs
Subject: Please vote YES on HB 17: Birth Control

Dear Alaska House Community & Regional Affairs Committee,

I am writing to encourage you to support HB 17, the bill to improve access to birth control for all Alaskans.

All Alaskans deserve affordable and accessible birth control that works for us, regardless of our income, insurance carrier, or life circumstances. Consistent access to birth control gives people the ability to control when and if they have children, giving them more career and education opportunities, encouraging healthier pregnancies, and saving money. That's why 83% of voters in Alaska believe everyone who wants or needs birth control should have it.

Today, most birth control users are forced to refill their birth control every month, which is a burden for many people in Alaska and increases the odds of experiencing an unintended pregnancy. All people should have access to a year's supply of birth control at a time.

Please support birth control access in Alaska by voting YES on HB 17.

Sincerely,
Ms. Izzy Farris

Mina Ryan

From: bbigelow09@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Brooke Bigelow <bbigelow09@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Monday, March 20, 2023 6:02 PM
To: House Community and Regional Affairs
Subject: Please vote YES on HB 17: Birth Control

Dear Alaska House Community & Regional Affairs Committee,

I am writing to encourage you to support HB 17, the bill to improve access to birth control for all Alaskans.

My name is Brooke Bigelow, I am a lifelong Alaskan and a Master of Social Work student at the University of Alaska Anchorage. As an emerging social worker in Alaska, it is important for me to be comfortable addressing concerns at the macro level. As the 33rd legislative session is in full swing, I would like to address a bill that I feel passionately about. I am writing today to encourage you to support HB 17, the bill to improve access to birth control for all Alaskans.

I believe that all Alaskans deserve affordable and accessible birth control, regardless of insurance carrier, income, or other life circumstances. Consistent access to birth control allows people the freedom to a family plan and decide when and if they want to start a family. People in Alaska should be able to rely on the availability of all types of birth control, including 12-month supplies of birth control, which is addressed in HB 17.

Today, most birth control users are forced to refill their birth control every month, which is a burden for many people in Alaska. People who live in rural and off-roadway communities experience hardships when access to a pharmacy is required to retrieve a monthly prescription. Therefore, I feel that all people should have access to a year's supply of birth control at a time.

Again, this letter is to let you know how important access to birth control is to the people of Alaska. Research conducted with Alaskan voters revealed that a substantial majority of Alaskans think it is important for there to be access to birth control for everyone who wants or needs it.

Please support birth control access in Alaska by voting YES on HB 17.

If you have any questions or wish to connect with me, I am available by phone and email. Contact information will be provided below. Thank you for taking the time to read my message, I truly appreciate it.

Sincerely,
Ms. Brooke Bigelow

Mina Ryan

From: Mary Corcoran [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 21, 2023 8:05 AM
To: House Community and Regional Affairs
Subject: Public Testimony HB 17

To House Committee Members,

Thank you for this opportunity to testify. As a mother and grandmother, I urge you to support HB 17. The insurance and pharmaceutical conditions safely and conveniently allow families to determine their size without undue burdens. These burdens to obtain birth control prescriptions more frequently will involve travel, time and money. Medical providers can be trusted to prescribe as needed under this bill.

Thank you for your attention and work.

Mary Corcoran
Delta Junction AK

Mina Ryan

From: ojstefanski@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Liv Emery
<ojstefanski@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 21, 2023 8:21 AM
To: House Community and Regional Affairs
Subject: Please vote YES on HB 17: Birth Control

Dear Alaska House Community & Regional Affairs Committee,

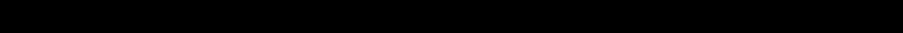
I am writing to encourage you to support HB 17, the bill to improve access to birth control for all Alaskans.

All Alaskans deserve affordable and accessible birth control that works for us, regardless of our income, insurance carrier, or life circumstances. Consistent access to birth control gives people the ability to control when and if they have children, giving them more career and education opportunities, encouraging healthier pregnancies, and saving money. That's why 83% of voters in Alaska believe everyone who wants or needs birth control should have it.

Today, most birth control users are forced to refill their birth control every month, which is a burden for many people in Alaska and increases the odds of experiencing an unintended pregnancy. All people should have access to a year's supply of birth control at a time.

Please support birth control access in Alaska by voting YES on HB 17.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Liv Emery



Mina Ryan

From: Meneka Thiru [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 21, 2023 9:12 AM
To: House Community and Regional Affairs
Subject: Support HB 17

To the House Committee on Community and Regional Affairs,

I am writing to express my support for HB 17 which would allow patients to get up to 12 months of prescription birth control at a time if deemed appropriate by their doctor. I live in Anchorage and have the privilege of easy access to a vehicle, both of which allow me relatively easy access to reproductive health care. Unfortunately, this is not the case for all Alaskans. Some may have to drive, fly, or travel by boat to access health care, which may be too expensive or difficult to do multiple times per year. Allowing patients to get 12 months of medication at a time makes accessing these super important medications so much easier. I fully support this bill and urge you to vote yes

Thank you,
Meneka Thiru
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