



REPRESENTATIVE CAROLYN HALL

HOUSE DISTRICT 16 | WEST ANCHORAGE

Sponsor Statement: House Bill 193

Paid Parental Leave

House Bill 193 would establish the Alaska Parental Leave Program. As the State seeks to recruit, attract and retain young families, this policy would serve a crucial purpose: giving parents the time to bond with their child. By helping families take important time off for childbirth, adoption, or fostering, the State can ensure that parents and newborns can attend follow up doctors appointments; lower the risk for re-hospitalization; have economic security that reduces stress on parents & children; further cement the bond between parents and an adopted child or foster youth; and help mothers re-enter the workforce after any one of these scenarios.

By building off of existing infrastructure in the State Department of Labor & Workforce Development, an employee's current contributions can go towards an invaluable program that returns many benefits back to our society.