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SENATOR BERTA GARDNER

SENATE MINORITY LEADER

To: Senator Mia Costello
Chair, Senate Labor and Commerce Committee

From: Senator Berta Gardner
SB 156 Prime Sponsor

Subject: Questions from April 5, 2016 Labor and Commerce Committee Hearing

Date: April 9, 2016

Below please find answers to questions asked by committee members at the April 5th Labor and Commerce Committee hearing for SB 156:

- Sen. Costello: What is the correlation between the lack of birth control and unplanned pregnancies?

One in four women say that they have missed pills because they could not get the next pack in time (*Guttmacher Institute*). Additionally, studies also show that similar efforts in other states to extend supplies of BC have resulted in a reduction of up to 40% fewer abortions.

- Sen. Costello: How is this data collected?

The Alaska Bureau of Vital Statistics tracks all pregnancies, births, and abortions statewide.

- Sen. Giessel: This bill sounds benign, but it includes voluntary sterilization procedures.

Version I has removed the language about voluntary sterilization procedures.