

Alaska State Legislature

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Representative Carl Gatto

Chair, House Military and Veteran Affairs Committee
District 13 - Palmer

SPONSOR STATEMENT

CSHB 2 (HHS)

"An Act relating to the issuance of a certificate of birth resulting in stillbirth."

HB 2 brings closure to parents who have suffered the loss of a stillborn child by giving them a Birth Certificate reflecting that they had a child who was stillborn. To paraphrase one parent of a stillborn child: being able to receive a Birth Certificate for my daughter would make me feel complete in that it would acknowledge that my daughter existed, even if it was only for a short while. This is true not only for her but also heard from other parents that have suffered this loss.

Under current law parents of stillborn children receive a fetal death certificate. HB 2 allows parents the option of requesting a certificate of birth for their stillborn child. This birth certificate is optional, and if the parents choose to receive a Birth Certificate they have the option of naming their child.

There are twenty-five states that now offer parents of stillborns the option of obtaining a Birth Certificate for their child. I urge your support for CSHB 2 (HHS).