



REPRESENTATIVE CATHY MUÑOZ

SPONSOR STATEMENT HOUSE BILL 300

"An Act relating to air ambulance service providers, air ambulance membership agreements, and regulation of air ambulance service providers and air ambulance membership agreements by the division of insurance; and providing for an effective date."

Passage of House Bill 300 would allow air ambulance providers to offer medevac services to Alaskans through a membership program that can result in significant reductions to out-of-pocket costs for Alaskans.

Under this model, a family could sign up for a membership by paying a set annual fee. Under a membership, an air ambulance company may provide services without additional financial burdens.

This type of program has been offered successfully in Southeast Alaska with more than 1,300 household – more than 3,200 Alaskans – availing themselves of the protections afforded by such a membership.

However, late last year, the Alaska Division of Insurance issued a letter finding that such a business model did not meet current statutory exemptions and would thus be subject to full regulation as an insurance product.

HB 300 will establish a reasonable and appropriate regulatory regime for this type of program under the purview of the Division of Insurance – thus assuring that more than 3,200 Alaskans may continue to enjoy a service they find comfort in having.