

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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Sponsor Statement

HB 173

An Act defining “medically necessary abortion” for purposes of making payments under the state Medicaid program.

HB 173 specifically brings clarity to the term “medically necessary abortion” for the purposes of making payments under Medicaid. In 2001, the Alaska Supreme Court determined the state must pay for medically necessary abortions for participants in the Medicaid program.

The question must be asked “why our tax payer’s money is being used for elective abortions?” Currently there is no definition of what a ‘medically necessary’ abortion is, therefore all abortions covered under Medicaid are considered medically necessary.

HB 173, based on recommendations and expert testimony from medical professionals, reasonably provides a neutral definition for a ‘medically necessary abortion.’

This bill does not prevent abortions from taking place in Alaska; HB 173 is simply a definition bill that defines what a ‘medically necessary abortion’ is.

I urge you to support HB 173