



Planned Parenthood Votes Northwest

Representative Shelley Hughes
Alaska Legislature
State Capitol Room 409
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: HCR 18

March 11th, 2014

Dear Representative Hughes,

On behalf of Planned Parenthood Votes Northwest, I write today to thank you for sponsoring House Concurrent Resolution 18, which would encourage hospitals and birthing facilities to support breastfeeding through the Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative.

A proven primary prevention strategy, breastfeeding protects both infants and mothers from a host of chronic and acute diseases and conditions, building a foundation for life-long health and wellness. Health professionals and public health officials recommend breastfeeding for at least 1-2 years to improve infant health.

Nursing mothers also need to feel comfortable and supported in their efforts to provide for their children, not fear judgment and harassment. While we applaud this resolution, we also recognize the need for strong public policies that safeguard nursing mothers' rights and allow them to breastfeed and express milk at their places of work.

Good public health begins with breastfeeding, and we believe that health care providers should be taking bigger steps to encourage new moms to do so when possible. Thank you for your leadership on this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jessica Cler', written in a cursive style.

Jessica Cler
Alaska Public Affairs Manager

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