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Senator Lesil McGuire, Chairman

Sponsor Statement

Senate Bill 200

There is no loss more devastating than the loss of a child, no matter the child's age. Currently Alaskan families have no civil recourse when suffering the loss of an unborn child through the unlawful or negligent actions of another person. Senate Bill 200, also known as "Jackson's Law" is a long overdue response to the heartbreaking stories of families who have suffered such a loss.

In 2006 a law was passed to change the criminal liability for the death of an unborn child. That law established that the unborn can be victims of murder, manslaughter and criminally negligent homicide in a criminal court. Jackson's Law would mirror that law, allowing Alaskan families and parents the same civil recognition of their loss.

Alaska is one of only ten states that do not allow the parents of an unborn victim to seek accountability or damages from a guilty party. Although no compensation could ever account for the loss of parents and families, this bill will provide families with recognition and a course for healing.