

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Tonie Protzman, MS
Anchorage, AK

March 8, 2023

Representative Ashley Carrick
Alaska State Legislature
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska

RE: HOUSE BILL 17

Dear Honorable Representative Carrick:

Greetings. I am Tonie Protzman, the Executive Director for the Alaska Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers. NASW was founded 1955 and is one of the largest organizations of professional social workers in the world and has over 145,000 members. Today, I am representing the 1,200 Social Workers in Alaska, who work in a broad range of health care settings including clinicals and schools. NASW is highly engaged in legislative advocacy programs that promote sound public policies aimed at meeting human needs and improving the quality of life for social work clients.

NASW Alaska is writing to you today, in support of House Bill 17, and specifically the aspects of the bill that addresses contraceptives. All Alaskans deserve to have access to affordable birth control that meets their individual needs. Currently, most Alaskans are forced to refill their birth control monthly. This can be cumbersome and could lead to unintended pregnancies. Allowing access to a year's supply of birth control would be less of a burden to the Alaskans utilizing birth control and allow them to control when they choose to get pregnant. With so many of our residents living in rural Alaska with limited access to fill prescriptions, this bill will save many residents money and time as well as allowing consistent access to contraception.

We ask you to please support this legislation and urge your fellow lawmakers to do the same. Please vote yes to HB17.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,



Tonie Protzman, LPC, MS, CDC I, PSP III
Executive Director
National Association of Social Workers- AK Chapter