

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 82(HES)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE SENATE HEALTH, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Offered: 3/25/99

Referred: Labor and Commerce

Sponsor(s): SENATORS WILKEN, Ellis

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act requiring that the cost of contraceptives obtained by prescription and
2 related health care services be included in health insurance coverage."

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

4 * **Section 1.** SHORT TITLE. This Act may be known as the Contraceptive Coverage Act
5 of 1999.

6 * **Sec. 2.** FINDINGS AND INTENT. (a) The legislature finds that

7 (1) contraceptive technology is constantly changing and that even medical
8 experts disagree on how certain methods of contraception work; therefore, it is unwise to
9 dispute specific methods of contraception; and

10 (2) contraceptives have the primary purpose of, or special utility for, preventing
11 conception.

12 (b) It is the intent of the legislature that

13 (1) insurance providers be required to cover the cost of contraceptives obtained
14 by prescription and related health care services;

- 1 (2) conception be understood as the fertilization of an ovum; and
2 (3) insurance providers not be required to cover the cost of prescriptive drugs
3 necessary to cause the rejection of a fertilized ovum.

4 * **Sec. 3.** AS 21.42 is amended by adding a new section to read:

5 **Sec. 21.42.390. Coverage for contraceptives by prescription.** (a) Except
6 as provided in (b) of this section, a health care insurer that offers, issues for delivery,
7 delivers, or renews in this state a health care insurance plan shall provide coverage for
8 contraceptives obtained by prescription and related health care services. The coverage
9 required under this section is subject to standard policy provisions applicable to other
10 benefits, including deductible or copayment provisions.

11 (b) This section does not apply to a policy

12 (1) issued to an individual;

13 (2) issued to a qualified church-controlled organization with a religious-
14 based objection to contraceptives; or

15 (3) that does not provide coverage for drugs obtained by prescription.

16 (c) In this section,

17 (1) "health care services" includes consultations, examinations,
18 procedures, and services medically necessary to prescribe or administer contraceptives;

19 (2) "qualified church-controlled organization" has the meaning given
20 in 26 U.S.C. 3121(w)(3).