



AMENDMENT #2

by
Rep Cissna

OFFERED IN THE HOUSE

TO: SB 364

1 Page 2, following line 14:

2 Insert a new bill section to read:

3 **** Sec. 2.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
4 read:

5 **REDUCTION OF MEDICAID EXPENDITURES FOR ABORTIONS.** (a) The
6 legislature finds that

7 (1) reduction of unwanted pregnancies would result in a reduction in the need
8 for abortions, including abortions under the Medicaid program;

9 (2) many abortions are the result of unintended teen pregnancies;

10 (3) positive sexual education that reinforces abstinence and safe sex could
11 reduce the number of unintended teen pregnancies;

12 (4) television is a primary source of information about our society and
13 appropriate behavior;

14 (5) the Henry J. Kaiser Foundation has conducted studies on the subject of sex
15 on television, and these studies have demonstrated a significant rise in sexual content on
16 television with the number of programs with sexual content rising 12 percent from the 1997 -
17 1998 season to the 1999 - 2000 season;

18 (6) of the programs containing sexual content, the percentage of those with
19 safe sex and abstinence messages remained steady at 10 percent, while the percentage of
20 shows overtly depicting sexual intercourse rose from seven percent to 10 percent in the same
21 years;

22 (7) nine percent of all shows on television include sexual content involving
23 teens, up from eight percent two years ago;

24 (8) sexual messages can have a strong appeal to young viewers, and graphic

1 sexual depictions, innuendo, and other sexual content on television contributes to excessively
2 permissive attitudes of minors towards sex;

3 (9) the oversimplification of sex on television leads some minors to not
4 consider all ramifications of their sexual conduct;

5 (10) the sexual messages on television are too often demeaning, exploitative,
6 perverted, and divisive and have an enormous potential to act as the worst kind of sexual
7 educators.

8 (b) The Alaska State Legislature declares that it supports efforts to reduce the amount
9 of negative and explicit sexual content on television and, specifically, supports efforts of the
10 U.S. Congress and the Federal Communications Commission to determine if broadcasters are
11 serving in "the public interest" and whether the standard of service expected of broadcasters
12 needs to be clarified.