

One Hundred Seventh Legislature - First Session - 2021

Introducer's Statement of Intent

LB276

Chairperson: Senator Steve Lathrop

Committee: Judiciary

Date of Hearing: March 12, 2021

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

LB 183 eliminates a requirement that a physician be physically present in same room when a medical abortion is performed. This would allow for medical abortions to be conducted via telemedicine.

Medical abortion is a non-surgical method of terminating a pregnancy within the first ten weeks, via two pills provided by a trained healthcare professional.

Telemedicine is when a physician consults with a patient through telecommunications services, such as video or telephone conferencing, to make a diagnosis, provide or supervise treatment, and prescribe medication when necessary.

Under current statute, all treatments and consultations that do not involve a physical procedure can be performed through telemedicine except for medical abortion. This means that patients seeking a early term abortions must be in the same room as a physician just to swallow a pill. This exception leaves many economically disadvantaged women and women in rural counties without access to safe and necessary care.

Principal Introducer: _____

Senator Megan Hunt