

One Hundred Ninth Legislature - First Session - 2025

Introducer's Statement of Intent

LB273

Chairperson: Senator Carolyn Bosn

Committee: Judiciary

Date of Hearing: March 19, 2025

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

LB 273 would allow for life-saving medical treatment to be administered to pregnant women who are under a healthcare power of attorney.

Under current statute, the person legally empowered to make healthcare decisions on a woman's behalf if she becomes incapable of making such decisions for herself -- the "attorney in fact" -- is prohibited from making any medical decision for the pregnant woman -- the "principal" -- that will result in the death of her unborn child. Effectively, current statute dictates that the life of the unborn child must be preserved in any circumstance, without regard to whether the mother's life is at risk.

LB 273 would lift that prohibition in very limited circumstances, when the principal's physician has determined that the principal's life is at risk unless some medical decision is made.

Principal Introducer: _____

Senator Megan Hunt