

# Insurance benefits approved for midwife services

People seeking medical attention and care from midwives in Alaska can now collect insurance payments to help pay the cost of that care.

Under a law passed during the 1981 state legislative session and signed into law by Gov. Jay

Hammond, the insurance payments can now go to the nurse practitioners. The new law replaces a previous law which only designated medical physicians as recipients of insurance benefits.

Lois Bergerson, Chief Section of Nursing, said the nurse mid-

wives were not allowed to collect payments before. The law qualifies the midwives to receive Medicaid payments also.

There are four midwives in the state according to the Board of Nursing in Juneau.

Paula Korn, an Anchorage

mid-wife, said the law "allows people more choices," and she added she was pleased with the law.

Senator Robert Ziegler from Ketchikan introduced the original bill.