



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Judiciary
 committee name
 committee on HB 35, dated 3-11-09
 bill/subject

Hi,

My name is Julie Thomas. I wanted to thank you for hearing the HB35 bill. I am witting out of concern for parental rights and child protection. Please vote yes for HB35. Thank you.

Sincerely, Julie Thomas

Signed: **From:** Julie Thomas [juliesnowgirl1000@yahoo.com] —
Sent: Wednesday, March 11, 2009 11:20 AM
To: LIO Anchorage —
Subject: HB35

Address

Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

House Judiciary

Please enter into the record my testimony to the _____
 committee name
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From: Barb Heinrichs [mailto:baheinrichs@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 11, 2009 5:10 AM
To: LIO Kodiak
Subject: HB35 - Parental Consent Bill

Honorable Representatives:

An illness prevents me from testifying by phone. I sincerely hope that this form of communication will suffice.

I would like to thank the originators of this bill for supporting parents in their responsibilities, especially in the area of minors seeking an abortion. I implore the House to pass this bill as a positive step in restoring a parent's ability to *parent*. Most of us take this role seriously. We do so with immeasurable love and dedication, but there are no guarantees.

Parents need to be told when their child is in trouble and needs help, as much as a child needs to know the healing support of family. A careless act anywhere along the way may result in serious consequences: cheating on an exam ~ driving after drinking ~ an unplanned pregnancy.

Relating to this bill: A baby's life, planned or unplanned, is a gift. A young woman who finds herself in the difficult situation of carrying an unplanned child may respond impetuously to the situation with an abortion without thinking through the far-reaching ramifications of such a choice. Disallowing parents the opportunity to counsel, comfort, and reassure their own child with a decision of this magnitude presumes that a child has the maturity and wisdom to choose the future of the life she carries. Parents of minor children *need and should have* the responsibility to counsel and help their child make a competent decision.

The creators of this bill retained exceptions for emancipated minors, minors who are married, minors who live as productive, self-sufficient adults, and minors serving in the military. They maintain parental responsibility and opportunity of those minors under their protection. Please pass this bill.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
 Barbara Heinrichs
 377 Neva Way
 Kodiak, AK 99615
 (907) 942-2911
baheinrichs@gmail.com

House Judiciary - testimony on HB 9.

March 1, 2009

We of the Homer Friends Meeting (Quakers) affirm the value and dignity of human life. We stand with people who seek to make their communities safe. We do not believe, however, that capital punishment provides the safety and order which it seems to promise. We oppose the death penalty as an affront to the value of life, a step backward in the administration of justice, and an arbitrary, ineffective, and uneconomic form of law enforcement. We urge other Alaskans, our legislature, and our governor to reject it.

We find several compelling reasons to oppose the death penalty.

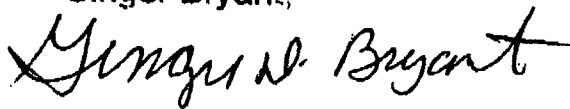
- We live in an imperfect society with an imperfect legal system. When that system assumes the power to take life, it leads to the inevitable taking of innocent life, and to disturbing racial and class disparities in its application.
- Although always represented as an action of the state, capital punishment is a delegated action that requires specific state employees to premeditatedly kill a human being, and to do so at a moral and psychological peril to themselves that neither they nor the state can calculate in advance.
- Attention and energy is focused away from healing and help for victims, for offenders, and for families and communities affected by crime.
- Capital punishment is certainly not cheaper than life imprisonment - nor has it been shown to reduce the murder rate.
- We feel that capital punishment is not justice but vengeance - akin to "taking an eye for an eye," or cutting off the hand of a thief - acts most Alaskans would find reprehensible as cruel and unusual. It is murder for murder, and as such, has, in fact, a debasing effect on the community. It produces the very brutality it seeks to prevent.

Ginger Bryant + Art Koeninger

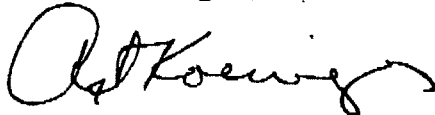
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For more than 350 years, the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) have sought to answer that of God in every person, and therefore to address injustices and inequalities in our own lives and in the societies to which we belong. We believe the role of government is to alleviate the roots of violence. We urge the Alaska Legislature to table further discussions of the death penalty and resume consideration of measures which will better exemplify this role.

Ginger Bryant,



Art Koeninger,



co-clerks, for Homer (Alaska) Friends Meeting, Religious Society of Friends, P.O. 974, Homer, AK 99603

Dana Strommen

From: kodiakbelle@gmail.com
Sent: Wednesday, March 11, 2009 11:02 AM
To: Rep. Jay Ramras
Subject: Keep Teens Safe - Vote "NO" on HB 35

Representative Jay Ramras
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, MS 3100, Room 120
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Ramras,

Alaskan parents and families are relying on you this session to vote "NO" on House Bill 35 (Parental Consent and Notification).

As an Alaskan resident and voter, I think it is important that you know the facts about HB 35.

In Alaska, the majority of teens are talking to their parents and involving them in their lives, and life-changing decisions, like whether or not to have a baby.

Unfortunately, not all parents and families have good communication, and it is those few situations, and with those few teens where HB 35 will have a detrimental impact to the health and safety of Alaska's teens.

In a home where communication is not possible, desperate Alaskan teens will take desperate measures. Instead of navigating a crowded courthouse or face a judge in rural Alaska that she may be related to, I am worried that our Alaskan daughters will delay speaking to anyone about a pregnancy, will delay seeking medical services, resort to an unsafe or back alley abortion, or even contemplate suicide.

Our daughters don't need HB 35-they need counseling and quality medical care without delay.

Teens in troubled families, and in rural Alaska, where health care access is already an issue, are truly at risk. Politicizing the abortion debate at the expense of the health and safety of Alaska's teens is not good policy.

Vote "NO" on House Bill 35. Please help keep our teens safe.
Thank you.

Sincerely,
laurie lindsey
226 Saint Anns Ave.
Douglas, AK 99824

Dana Strommen

From: Hannah Foreman [hforeman08@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 11, 2009 11:20 AM
To: Dana Strommen
Subject: HB 35 Document for Committee

Dana,

I just spoke with you on the phone as I plan on testifying about HB35 today at the LIO in Anchorage.

Here is the link for the document I will refer to:

http://www.hss.state.ak.us/ocs/ChildrensTrust/pdf/CRK_PDF_Kit/Parents%20R&R.pdf

I would appreciate it if this could be distributed to the Judiciary Committee. It addresses the rights parents have over their children.

Regards,

Hannah Foreman
907-622-4661
hforeman08@gmail.com



PARENTAL RIGHTS and RESPONSIBILITIES

What legal responsibilities do I have as a parent? A parent has two major responsibilities. They are:

1. to support your child by providing him or her with the necessities of life; and
2. to supervise and control your child.

What are the necessities of life? The necessities of life are **more than just food, shelter, and clothing**. They also include medical care, a safe and nurturing environment, an education, and legal help when required. **NOTE:** failure to provide the necessities of life for your child can be considered neglect.

How long does my duty to support my child last? The duty to support your child lasts until he or she reaches the age of majority, which is 18. There are some exceptions to this rule, they vary from state to state. They vary by such things as marriage of the child, and termination of parental rights.

I never married my child's other parent and my child does not live with me. Do I still have to support my child? Yes. The duty to provide support for your child is not affected by the marriage or absence of marriage between parents

What if I can afford to support my child, yet I don't? If the state is forced to support a child, the state is entitled to reimbursement from parents who are capable, but have refused, to provide for such support.

Does my duty to supervise and control my child mean that I, as a parent, will be held liable for any harm/damage caused by my child? Generally, parents are not held liable for the harm caused by their children. However, there are exceptions to this rule. For example, if you (a parent) knew or should have known of your child's propensities for engaging in improper behavior, or have aided or encouraged such behavior, you can be liable for harm/damage caused by your child. Additionally, there are specific statutes which make parents liable for the harm caused by their children under particular circumstances. Each state in the US has differing statutes. You can get information from your local library, or online at the state of Alaska website. **(This is not meant to constitute legal advice, but is a brief overview of parental rights and responsibilities.)**



PARENTAL RIGHTS and RESPONSIBILITIES

Do I have any rights as a parent? Yes, 4, listed below

1. The right to **custody and control** of your child. This means that as a parent you can make important decisions about your child's life. That a parent can decide where your child will live, with whom he or she will live, what he or she will do from day to day, what school he or she will attend, when he or she needs medical care, and what, if any, religion he or she will practice. **(NOTE:** The court maintains the right to stop you making decisions that would adversely affect the rights or welfare of the child.)
2. The right to cooperation and obedience from your child entitles you to just that: cooperation and obedience. This right translates into the right to discipline your child in a **non-abusive and non-neglectful manner**. **NOTE:** Your child does not have to obey you if you have ordered him or her to do something that is dangerous or illegal. *In fact, if you have encouraged your child to commit dangerous or illegal acts you may be charged with contributing to the delinquency of a minor, child abuse, or neglect.*
3. The right to your child's earnings means that you as a parent can legally collect and keep the money that your child earns. However, there are **limitations** on this right. Your child's earnings will not be entirely available if you have exploited, neglected, or abandoned your child; if your child's income is the result of his or her special talent or athletic ability; or if your child's income is the result of a gift or inheritance. Furthermore, most parents allow their children to keep the money that they have earned.
4. The right to sue if someone wrongfully injures or kills your child enables you to recover costs such as medical and funeral expenses, as well as lost earnings, lost companionship, and pain and suffering in the event of your child's death or injury.

Do my rights as a parent ever cease?

Yes. When your child reaches the age of majority they do. (that is, 18). In addition, your rights and authority as a parent can be suspended or terminated in any of the following situations: the court appoints a guardian of the person over your child; your child gets married; *the court suspends or terminates your parental rights due to abuse or abandonment; your child is made a ward of the juvenile court; has been emancipated by the court; or enlists in the military.*





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Dears Sirs,

I am stongly in favor of HB 35 allowing for parental consent before abortions on young women. Any potentially life threatening proceedure should be discussed with family members in underage children, especially if they must suffer the loss of a loved one. Just another way the State is destroying the basis of our society..our families.

Sincerely,

Ronald E. Christensen, MD

Family Practice

Diplomate, American Board of Family Medicine

Diplomate, American College of Sportmedicine

Signed:

From: rec [rchristensen@ipmsak.net]

Sent: Wednesday, March 11, 2009 10:06 AM

To: LIO Anchorage

Subject: HB 35

Address

Phone No.

Jane Pierson

From: LIO Fairbanks
Sent: Wednesday, March 11, 2009 10:50 AM
To: Jane Pierson
Subject: FW: Please vote yes on HB35

From: kim bjornstad [akbjornstad@hotmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 11, 2009 10:35 AM
To: LIO Fairbanks
Subject: Please vote yes on HB35

My name is Kimberly Bjornstad and as the mother of a pre-teen daughter, I believe I have not only the right, but the responsibility, concerning all medical decisions made on her behalf. I would urge you to vote yes on HB35.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Kimberly Bjornstad

Hotmail® is up to 70% faster. Now good news travels really fast. [Find out more.](#)