



## ALASKA WOMEN'S LOBBY

*AWL Mission: To defend and advance the rights and needs of Women, Children and Families in Alaska*

P.O. Box 20891  
Juneau, Alaska 99802-0891  
[www.akwomenslobby.org](http://www.akwomenslobby.org)

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### Letter of Support

#### SB 202: Hate Crimes March 2010

The Alaska Women's Lobby, a statewide group with steering committees in Fairbanks, Anchorage and Juneau organized to protect and advance the rights of women, children and families supports SB 202.

According to the Anti-Defamation League 43 states and the District of Columbia have enacted hate crime laws using a "penalty-enhancement" concept similar to that proposed in SB 202. Alaska should join these states in emphasizing that people who choose to intimidate not only an individual victim but the victim's community have committed a more serious offense and should be held accountable as such.

All Alaskans have an interest in an effective response to violent bigotry. Hate crimes deserve increased penalties because the perpetrator has damaged more than one individual or institution. The offender tries to intimidate other members of the minority group by his or her actions against one person. Members of the targeted group may feel isolated, vulnerable and unprotected by the law. We need to be weaving communities together not allowing a few, bound by their ignorance, to try and keep us fragmented.

Thank you to Senator Davis for introducing this important piece of legislation. We agree with the message of her sponsor statement that while this measure alone cannot eliminate prejudice or hatred, it can send a message that Alaskans will not tolerate hate crimes in any form. Please join her in working this bill through the legislative process.

Senator Bettye Davis  
Senator  
Alaska State Legislature  
716 W. 4th Ave, Suite 400  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501  
907-269-0144 T  
907-269-0148 F  
Senator Bettye Davis@legis.state.ak.us

-----Original Message-----

From: cecoffman@acsalaska.net [mailto:cecoffman@acsalaska.net]  
Sent: Saturday, March 06, 2010 8:30 PM  
To: Sen. Bettye Davis  
Subject: Please Support Senate Bill 202, the Alaska Hate Crimes Bill

Dear Senator Davis,

I am writing to ask you to support Senate Bill 202, the Alaska Hate Crimes Bill, with an amendment to include "gender identity and expression."

I support this bill because it covers crimes motivated by prejudice, bias, or hatred based on the victim's "race, sex, color, creed, physical or mental disability, sexual orientation, ancestry, or national origin." This bill emphasizes that Alaska has no tolerance for such acts. The Alaska court system has primary jurisdiction over crimes of assault and battery, which may result in prosecution as hate crimes when occurring in Alaska. Alaska prosecutors and law enforcement officials need the support and force of an Alaska statute in order to most effectively investigate, prosecute, and track all potential hate crimes within the state.

I also support the amendment of SB 202 to add the phrase "gender identity and expression" to Sec. 11.76.150 (a) because people who are perceived as gender variant, whether heterosexual or gay, seem "different" to some people and may evoke a violent emotional response leading to harm. A substantial number of crimes have been documented that are based on the societal perception of someone as "too feminine" or "too masculine." These crimes can include bullying of both straight and gay persons in schools and throughout Alaskan communities.

I appreciate Senate Judiciary Committee for holding a hearing on SB 202, ask for its passage out of committee with a "gender identity" amendment, and support its swift movement through the legislative process so that it becomes law in the very near future.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Christine E. Coffman  
Fairbanks, AK 99709

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**Senator Bettye Davis**

*Senator*

Alaska State Legislature  
716 W. 4th Ave, Suite 400  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501  
907-269-0144 T  
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[Senator Bettye Davis@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:Senator_Bettye_Davis@legis.state.ak.us)

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**From:** bstringd@aol.com [mailto:bstringd@aol.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 08, 2010 3:01 AM  
**To:** Sen. Bettye Davis  
**Subject:** SB 202 amendment

Thank you profusely for sponsoring the amendment of gender identity and expression to Section 11.76.150(a) of SB 202. May it pass quickly out of the Senate Judiciary Committee. I strongly support your efforts to counter those whose irrational fears and prejudices incite them to hateful acts. The weekly displays seen at last summer's Assembly meetings were disgraceful and unsettling, clear proof that discrimination exists, and sadly is often promoted from the pulpit.

I, for one, would like to see tax waivers for churches modified or even eliminated. As the trend toward mega-churches continues, we can ill afford to have our local tax base further eroded, especially by those who abuse the privilege while pushing a political agenda that defies human decency. If they have sufficient funds to attempt to impose their warped views on everyone, then they should expect to be assessed the same as everyone else.

Good luck in Juneau. Your service is most appreciated!

Betty Dickenson  
1312 Sunrise Dr Anchorage

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**Senator Bettye Davis**

***Senator***

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[Senator\\_Bettye\\_Davis@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:Senator_Bettye_Davis@legis.state.ak.us)

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**From:** feldenlee1@aol.com [mailto:feldenlee1@aol.com]

**Sent:** Friday, March 05, 2010 7:48 PM

**To:** Sen. Bettye Davis

**Subject:** SB 202

Dear Senator Davis,

Thank you for sponsoring SB 202. I strongly support the addition of an amendment that adds gender identity and expression to Section 11.76.150(a). A significant number of crimes have been documented that are based on the societal perception of someone as "too feminine" or "too masculine." These crimes can include bullying of both straight and gay persons in schools and throughout Alaskan communities. Please pass this bill with a gender identity amendment out of the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Respectfully,

Sharon Lee

3524 E. 15th Ave.

Anchorage, AK 99508

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**Senator Bettye Davis**

***Senator***

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