

Good afternoon – thank you for this opportunity to speak in support of Senate Bill 131 expanding the current anti discrimination statutes to include the LGBT community.

My name is Victoria Green and I have been a resident of the State of Alaska <sup>after 30 years</sup> since 1998. I am a full time employee of the federal government, I am a US Veteran recently retired from the US AF/ANG, a full time student working towards a new degree in social science and I am in a committed relationship raising 4 children ages 7, 8, 9 and 12, with my partner of 11 years. I am an advocate for foster and adoptive children and for the rights of children to have a loving, stable and permanent home, I am a national spokesperson for AdoptUS kids, my partner and I were nominated by our Republican Senator Lisa Murkowski as in 2012 as Angels in Adoption for our work with children in foster care, and for the role we have played in adoption in Alaska. I am a member of the PTA at my children's school, members of a local church, ~~am~~ a property owner, and an educator teaching health classes and doing presentations for various civil rights issues and trainings both at work and in the community. And I am a lesbian.

To have to add that last part in is tough. Tough because that is not who I am, and it is not how I typically introduce myself. But it is of the utmost importance today. It is important because this is at stake today. I am at stake today. My freedom and my children's freedom to live, work and enjoy the liberties afforded every other citizen in this country. The liberties that our constitution promised me I could enjoy. All because I am a lesbian.

Anchorage is my home. ~~To promote this city I will add in that~~ this is where my family lives, where we work and where we play. It is where my children will grow up and where one day my partner and I hope to retire. Where we can sit back and watch our children and our grandchildren give back to this community for what they have received throughout their lives. Anchorage has always been at the forefront of protecting the rights of all its citizens. You have heard the statistics, the history with other testimonies, so I won't take up that time. But, this is where the importance lies, in continuing that tradition of respect and equality to our citizens. When I am at work, as a Federal employee, I am safe from discrimination. I am respected for what I do and for the person I am. But at the end of my work day, my rights to enjoy a life free from discrimination in our city, in our State end at the property line.

This bill, SB 131 is a step in the right direction. IN the continued direction of a State that prided itself on equality for those that have made this their home, starting with the right to vote for women in 1913. Please support this decision to ensure that ALL Alaskans have the right to live safely, securely and without fear of discrimination based on who they love, and who they have as their life partner. For us, for our children and for our community.

Thank you.