

**Theda S. Pittman**

1641 Eastridge Drive, #102; Anchorage, AK 99501  
907-222-5974; [tspittman@gci.net](mailto:tspittman@gci.net)

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RE: SB 131

My name is Theda Pittman –

I think we would all agree that SB 131 is one of the easiest statutory proposals to read. My congratulations to the co-sponsors for the simple and direct nature of this bill which adds to the list of quote classes unquote against which it is illegal to discriminate.

*I've lived in Anchorage since 1976 and it was my misfortune to be present during 2 events which demonstrated just how badly this legislation is needed.*

In the first instance, the Anchorage Assembly successfully passed an ordinance after hours and hours and days and day of testimony. Mayor Sullivan vetoed it and the Assembly was not able to override the veto. I'll skip the part where some Assembly members managed to have it both ways. Yes, I voted for it. No, I voted against it.

What was truly sad was the extent to which people who say they hate the sin but love the sinner behaved. I asked several people who were all wearing the same t-shirt signifying opposition and carrying the sign 'no special rights' what that sign meant. The answer was 'I dunno.'

The sponsor statement notes that an administrative order FROM 2002 (emphasis added) provides protection against sexual orientation discrimination for state employees. And, in 2010 University of Alaska policy was amended to do the same.

It's always been interesting to me when someone who doesn't want all employees to have protection, will allow – or require – that the state protect or provide for its own employees. The same thing happened with Family and Medical Leave.

I urge the Committee to pass SB 131. If it passes out of committee and some members sign no recommendation or do not pass, then I hope – if they run for re-election, they will use their campaigning to explain why they support discrimination.

Thank You.