

Karen Lidster

From: Sen. John Coghill
Sent: Wednesday, March 06, 2013 12:25 PM
To: Karen Lidster
Subject: FW: SB49

From: Tammie Willson [mailto:balotabookblinding@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 05, 2013 7:08 PM
To: Sen. John Coghill; Sen. Lesli McGulre; Sen. Fred Dyson; Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Bill Wielechowski
Subject: SB49

Dear Senate Judiciary Committee,

RE: Senate Bill 49

I currently live in Senate District J, and grew up in Palmer, AK. After viewing the testimony today on this bill, I was immediately compelled to respond to Senator Dyson's comment that abortions are morally repugnant. This medical procedure may be morally repugnant to Senator Dyson, but thankfully he does not determine what is medically moral for me or any other women on this earth. I have the freedom to define my own morality and I find that comment extremely offensive and would hope that in the future Senator Dyson refrain from such judgement of women who are faced with making such a difficult choice in their life. Have your opinion about abortion, but it is not your choice. It is MINE. My choice. Fought and won by women and men across this country.

I would urge any person in support of this bill to stop wasting our taxpayer money on redefining legal definitions that have already been hashed out through court processes and previous legislation. As a matter of fact I am embarrassed that our elected politicians are cheapening the office of legislator to claim moral superiority at the expense of underprivileged women and men. There are much larger looming problems in our society that I would prefer elected professionals focus their efforts on. Defining what is medically necessary for individuals needs to be determined by medical experts not policy makers. Further definitions and decisions about my ovaries and uterus belong in a private room protected by the Hippocratic Oath with the help of a caring medical professional. This bill is insulting to a woman's and a trained doctor's intelligence.

Currently I run my own business in Anchorage. I have a Bachelor of Physics, and a Master's in Engineering. Before obtaining my education and becoming a professional I went to Planned Parenthood for over 20 years for my primary health care. I lived below the poverty level for most of that time. My primary employment for 13 years was early childhood education and I was not offered any affordable health care in my teaching position. However, to put myself through college and graduate school without ending up in too much debt I also worked in the food service industry, and was never offered health care in those positions either. I relied on Planned Parenthood's services.

When applying for graduate school I was an intern at the University of WI in Madison, WI in Physical Oceanography. During that time, I had an unplanned pregnancy. I threw myself on the floor and cried after taking that test, because I knew this would mean a PhD would be out of the question now if I had this child. When I told my boyfriend of four years of our situation, he told me he wasn't ready. He was also a graduate student in Madison, and said that he could not be involved with helping me if I kept it. He actually told me to have an abortion or leave him. In fact when pressured, I asked him if I miscarried would he take me back and he said yes. I was needless to say shocked, and devastated. Everything I thought I had was suddenly gone, and I

could give this (excuse the language) jerk what he wanted, abort the baby, or face single motherhood on my own.

To confirm my pregnancy and document it to fly home to Alaska, I went to Planned Parenthood. I heard Senator McGuire in testimony today ask for a less speculative situation when a pregnant women comes into Planned Parenthood. Well, I'll tell you exactly what happens. You go in saying "I think I'm pregnant and need to know for certain". They confirmed my pregnancy and inquired if I understood all of my choices. I said yes. Then they asked what sort of support network I had.

Here is what they heard; I was unemployed, no money in savings, no family nearby, and a boyfriend that was begging me to abort my child. In the several times I went back before returning to Alaska not a single time did any person at planned parenthood encourage me to do anything but what I wanted. I always knew I would keep the baby, but these circumstances were not ideal. How could I get a job pregnant? At that time I only had a bachelor in Physics, much to my dismay, not a very employable degree without graduate school.

That was the hardest year of my life. I cried every day of my pregnancy and wondered how I would make it...buy shoes...afford hockey, but I made it thanks to a supportive family, Planned Parenthood, food stamps and childcare assistance. I had never been treated so disrespectfully in my life until my boyfriend dumped me because I was carrying his baby and then had to experience the welfare office in Muldoon. I do not say all this to endorse my particular choice, but to illustrate how planned parenthood helped me do what was right for me. Not a single Planned Parenthood nurse or physician mentioned abortion even though I was a complete wreck every time I went in. It's usually not the same person and each time I had to explain where the father was, and my economic circumstances, I was a mess. There was no judgment. I felt safe and encouraged. They provided resource information for what I would need to make it through.

When he was three months old I walked into UAA and found an advisor in the engineering program to put myself into graduate school and become more employable. I needed all of those social services to accomplish it. And I did. I am proud to say my son is a smart and healthy boy. I am now happily married with a second child. I am happy to have my first child, and I am thankful for the support from Planned Parenthood. In fact, I donate yearly now. But, I understand what I accomplished is not possible for everybody. I don't belong in the room with a woman or doctor making that choice and either do you. So please, vote no on this offensive and useless legislation and please put your mind on something that really does something to help people.

Thank your for you time and attention. Your actions do not go unnoticed.

Most Sincerely,

Tammie L. Wilson

Balota Bookbinding and Restoration
1508 Nunaka Drive
Anchorage, AK 99504
balotabookbinding@gmail.com

907-306-9344

Karen Lidster

From: Sen. John Coghill
Sent: Wednesday, March 06, 2013 12:26 PM
To: Karen Lidster
Subject: FW: Oppose SB 49 -- No Government Between Women and Doctors

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

From: Planned Parenthood Votes Northwest [<mailto:ppaction@ppvotewa.org>] On Behalf Of Andrea Peterson
Sent: Wednesday, February 27, 2013 4:43 PM
To: Sen. John Coghill
Subject: Oppose SB 49 -- No Government Between Women and Doctors

Feb 27, 2013

Senator John Coghill
State Capitol, Room 119
120 Fourth Street
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Senator Coghill,

I am writing to ask you to respect Alaska's Constitution and oppose Senate Bill 49. Senator John Coghill and co-sponsors Senators Cathy Giessel, Donny Olson, Fredy Dyson and others are making a blatant government overreach into a woman's personal and private decision making and attempting to shame and demean low-income women who seek safe and legal abortion.

This is about fairness for low-income women. All women, no matter their income, deserve the freedom and privacy to make the best pregnancy decisions for themselves and their families. Our Constitution says that privacy is a fundamental right, and the Alaska Supreme Court has already said TWICE before that politicians cannot restrict access to abortion for low-income women.

Please Oppose Senate Bill 49. Our state government needs to focus on the issues that matter to Alaskans most, not inserting politicians between women and their doctors.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Andrea Peterson
9338 Northland St
Juneau, AK 99801-9644

Senate bill 49

sidewalk cn.
My name is Shirleen Rannals and I am testifying in favor of Senate bill 49

I have gone regularly to abortions clinics in Anchorage and listened to hundreds of mothers over the past 25 years who regret their abortions.

They don't understand that their baby in their wombs will be vacuumed out like a piece of dirt and thrown away or put into an ~~incinerator~~ *incinerator* and burned.

Any time women experience a difficult pregnancy I support all efforts to save both the mother and the baby.

As a member of the public I regret that my tax money has been used to fund abortions.

I support Senate bill 49 and any measures that will limit tax funding of abortion

Paige Hodson

From: Paige Hodson [paigeh@alaska.net]
 Sent: Tuesday, March 05, 2013 9:01 AM
 To: 'Paige Hodson'
 Subject: HB 49 testimony/Senate Judiciary 3/5/13

— Speaking in
 opposition —

My name is Paige Hodson.
 I am the mother of 3 children and a life long Alaska resident currently residing in Senator McGuire's district.

My parents came to Alaska before Statehood.
 My father was a long haul truck driver who cut his teeth during the war building the Alcan Highway.
 My parents were quite poor and struck out for Alaska to try to better themselves.
 They were ~~in~~ young and in love, and as things happen, babies kept coming.

This was before the advent of the pill, and birth control methods were clearly not as effective.

They thought baby 4 would be the last, but 9 years later my mother found herself pregnant with number 5.
 Living in a 1-room house, with no car, barely enough money to feed the 4 children she had, raising them essentially alone due to my fathers work, my mother collapsed from a combination of exhaustion, stress and depression and was hospitalized.
 Safe and legal abortion wasn't available and my mother was not a well woman. Our family dove deeper into poverty when my father could not work to take care of a pregnant, fragile and ailing wife and 4 young children.
 My mother recovered and the pregnancy continued. During childbirth, something went wrong. Her doctor told her that both she and the baby were in grave danger, and that it might come down to a decision of which life to save.
 My mother chose the baby's life. Thankfully, both survived.

That 5th baby was me.

My own family's story underlines vividly why women and their doctors must be given the choice over their own lives, their own health, their own families.
 I would have gladly exchanged my life for my mothers. Who knows what might have happened to my 4 brothers and sisters had my mother died.
 But the bottom line is that it was her decision to make.

These sorts of decisions should never be limited by what an Alaska State Legislator decides is "necessary".
 Women's mental and physical health is too complex to be set down in a predetermined list for politicians to pick and choose what they deem medically necessary.
 Respectfully, you are not qualified to make these decisions.

Please, please get on to more important state business.
 We can not afford these continued attempts to micromanage women's lives.
 The Alaska courts have held consistently that we women have a fundamental right to privacy and that you may not discriminate between classes and genders in medical decisions.
 It is especially unnerving that you continue to try to undermine and take away rights from disadvantaged women who are less likely to have the ability to fight for their rights.
 We can not afford more million dollar legal battles.

I know that some of you who have deeply held convictions about abortion are well intentioned.
 Believe me, all of your constituents love babies as much as you do. But the reality is that you will save more lives by fully funding family planning services and health care to all Alaskans than by trying to deprive women of the right to control their own lives and bodies.

A Comprehensive Sex Ed is

A living breathing

SB 49 Defining Medically Necessary

We should not be wasting legislative time, energy and state money over ideological differences. We have been down this road before. If SB49 is passed, it will be challenged in our courts and found unconstitutional. Our legislature has far more pressing issues that have real impact on the majority of Alaskans and our future. I would prefer you focus your efforts on energy issues, the economy and improving education.

I oppose SB 49. In our pluralistic society, we all end up financially supporting actions we don't approve of or believe in. This is being taken to extremes in this country when it comes to contraception and abortion. It is wrong to impose one's personal beliefs on everyone else.

Nothing I say will change anyone's beliefs here today. But just as none of us wants a woman to be forced to have an abortion, I do not want a woman forced to carry a pregnancy to term and potentially risk her health. I ask this committee to give all women the same respect. Only a woman should make this choice with the help of her physician.

The impacts of unintended pregnancy are large. It can harm a woman and her family physically, emotionally and financially. There are a myriad of situations that could make an abortion medically necessary.

An abortion costs approximately \$700. For women already on the edge financially this is a huge problem. SB 49 will force some women who want an abortion to carry their pregnancy to term, delay care, attempt to abort on their own or as you heard yesterday consider suicide. We forget that before abortion was legalized many women died from back alley abortions.

What is "medically necessary" and who should decide? Is prenatal care really "medically necessary" or do we provide this care for the benefit of the mother and fetus. I do not want government determining whether my healthcare is "medically necessary" or not.

I believe men feel the same way. Recently, treatment of prostate cancer has become controversial. Do the gentlemen on this committee really want the government determining their treatment if they have prostate cancer? Or do you want your physician helping you make those choices?

If Sen. Coghill really wants to reduce the number of abortions, we have much better options. I urge Sen. Coghill to support programs to reduce unintended pregnancies through ~~proper effective methods~~ and not by limiting healthcare access for women who really need it.

Trust women and their doctors. Vote no on SB49.

*GREATER ACCESS TO BIRTH CONTROL
AND BY OFFERING COMPREHENSIVE SEX ED
IN OUR SCHOOLS*

*ROBIN SMITH
1400 JARVI DRIVE
ANCHORAGE, AK 99515*

March 5, 2013

To the Senate Judiciary Committee

Re: Senate Bill 49

I have sat through two-days of hearings on SB 49, without being granted the opportunity to testify. I waited 2 hours yesterday and another 1.5 hours today, along with six other women at the Anchorage LIO.

After hearing today's testimony I am more strongly convinced that SB 49 is a bad bill. For a bill that is purportedly about funding, we were dragged through an ideological battleground today. It would be a mistake for the committee to think that every woman who has had an abortion makes the choice lightly, thinks of her pregnancy as an inconvenience, lives a miserable life wracked by guilt, thinks God has anything to do with it, or would want people with radically different ideological, medical and political views to have a say in such an important decision. This bill will end up in court and will fail, but not before costing Alaskans money that could be better spent elsewhere.

Senate Bill 49 will hurt people, specifically poor Alaskan women. SB 49 violates a poor woman's Constitutional rights to privacy, equal treatment and equal access. It singles out the most vulnerable segment of our population upon which to cast moral judgment. It is not neutral; far from it.

Regardless of personal or religious beliefs, abortion is legal and medically ethical in Alaska. Because of this, it is safe and must remain so for the welfare of Alaskan women. Yet through SB 49, this committee is bending over backwards to find a way to make abortion illegal while disregarding the consequences this could have on Alaska's low income population. Medical decisions affect not only a woman but entire families, the people who depend on her, and the people who care about her. Poor women don't need the Alaska Legislature questioning their moral fiber or worth as a prerequisite to healthcare.

Senate Bill 49 represents gross government overreach. It is about exerting control over a particular segment of the population that is within reach only because of their economic status. No one should be made to climb political and religious hurdles to get healthcare to which they are legally entitled, particularly not to satisfy someone else's ideological beliefs.

Respectfully,

Lynda Giguere
239 W. Cook Avenue
Anchorage, AK 99501