

I am a licensed physician in Alaska and have practiced in Juneau since 1993. The LGBT discrimination that has been reported to me in confidential exam rooms is too numerous to share with you.

One case was a teen girl who was humiliated and thrown out of a local Juneau restaurant because she kissed her girlfriend inside the restaurant. She and her girlfriend were told to never return to the restaurant again. With her parents' blessings the girl ultimately moved away from Juneau after she reached 18, partly because Alaska was an unfriendly and unsupportive place for her.

It is a well-known fact that we are losing LGBT youth to suicide in large proportion compared to non-LGBT youth. Here in Alaska we have one of the highest suicide rates in the country and it is stripping our villages.

More than once I have been at patients' bedsides here in Juneau waking from a drug overdose attempt and been told by the young person that they tried to kill themselves because they thought they were gay.

Alaska is not a safe place to be gay.

The American Academy of Family Physicians, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the Alaska Academy of Family Physicians all support legislation to end discrimination against LGBT persons, thereby promoting a healthier society.

PLEASE pass HB139 without reservation! Doctors' Orders!

Respectfully,

Maureen Longworth, M.D.

Juneau, Alaska