

Taneeka Hansen

From: Judy Andree <jagster42@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2016 8:07 AM
To: Rep. Paul Seaton
Cc: Rep. Liz Vazquez; Rep. Neal Foster; Rep. Louise Stutes; Rep. Adam Wool; Rep. David Talerico; Rep. Geran Tarr
Subject: SB 89: Opposition from the League of Women Voters of Alaska



The League of Women Voters

A Voice For Citizens, A Force For Change

C/o P.O. Box 90079, Anchorage, AK 99509-0079

April 7, 2016

Dear Representative Paul Seaton, Chair of the House Health & Social Services Committee,

The League of Women Voters of Alaska (LWVAK) strongly opposes both SB 89 and SB 191 (HB 352) based on the long-established (1983) League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS) Position on Reproductive Choices which states the following: The LWVUS “believes that public policy in a pluralistic society must affirm the constitutional right to privacy of the individual to make reproductive choices.”

In addition, the LWVUS Position on Health Care supports “a basic level of care that includes . . . prenatal and reproductive health.” This basic care for reproductive health can have far-reaching positive effects including healthier babies and stronger and more financially stable families. Prenatal and reproductive care can also save public monies. The Guttmacher Institute reports that in 2010, Title-X supported reproductive health services resulted in a net savings in Alaska of \$17.9 million due to the prevention of unintended or closely spaced pregnancies, low birth weight babies, STD transmission, and cervical cancer cases.

This type of success is possible only when sexually active men and women have access to sound medical information and medical care. To ban the use of a Title-X funded reproductive health facility from teaching young men and women simply because in some cases they also provide, with private funding, abortion services is unwise. Such facilities have as one of their main purposes the prevention of unintended pregnancies.

And who might know better the difficulty in having to end a pregnancy than those who work with families facing that most difficult of decisions. It is a decision best left to a woman and her health care provider; it is a very private and personal and painful decision. Preventing the need to make such a decision is the goal of all women’s health clinics.

Those who oppose the teaching provided by Title-X funded reproductive health workers should experience the classes taught by them. Those parents who are uncomfortable with a science-based approach to sex education can always opt-out. But to most parents, education is not an activity to be avoided, especially when it comes to the important area of reproductive health.

LWVAK strongly urges the members of the Alaska Legislature to reject both of these bills.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Hetty Barthel, Secretary

League of Women Voters of Alaska

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

--emailed by
Judy Andree, Chair
LWVAK Legislative Action
5985 Lund Street
Juneau, Alaska 99801
907-780-6767 (home)
907-321-1559 (cell)