

Dear Alaskan legislators,

My name is Lily and I am writing to voice my support of house bill 112.

On one occasion, I had a police officer initiate sexual contact with me before there was a knock on the door and I was arrested for "solicitation".

On another occasion, an officer let me go only after we made a deal that I would exchange sex for my freedom.

I was addicted to heroin at the time and afraid of withdrawal symptoms if he locked me up.

I felt very taken advantage of and violated.

I still have PTSD symptoms when I see police cars because of these sexual assaults and rape that have taken place in my life as a sex worker.

Having had the chance to speak with many other workers at this point in my life, I have learned that this behavior is sadly very commonplace and not out of the ordinary. Sex workers are always being targeted for sexual assault by police officers which endangers their wellbeing and welfare and makes it unlikely for them to ever go to the police when they've been raped, assaulted, robbed, etc when that trust is broken repeatedly.

Please vote yes on house bill 112 to prevent these horrendous occurrences from happening.
Thank you for your time, Lily

Dear Lawmakers,

I'm writing in support of House Bill 112.

Sex is not an investigative tactic. The possible use if it erodes public trust. Please close this loophole.

Please vote yes on House Bill 112.

Thankyou,

Jennifer Andrews.

Dear Alaska State Legislators:

I am writing in support of house bill 112.

Our state has appalling rates of sexual abuse, child molestation, rape and domestic violence. Sex trafficking contributes to and capitalizes on this violence, yet the law has made sex workers the criminals and used that vulnerability to justify further violation and distrust. This needs to stop.

Police should not be allowed to use their power and position to have sex with sex workers. Period.

Like many women, I am very aware of the short and long-term impact of sexual violence on those who experience it. What police are now allowed to do is exactly the kind of power-based violation and manipulation that has harmed Alaskans across our state.

Please vote yes on house bill 112.

Thank you,

Ruth Carter
Anchorage, AK

Alexandria Glass

Dawnell Smith

Dear Representative Claman -

Thank you for drafting Alaska H.B. 112, an effort to end allowing sexual interaction between police and sex trafficking victims and/or prostitutes during on going investigations and sting operations related to sex trafficking and prostitution.

For those of us who have lived the sex trade, especially those of us who have also worked in Alaska, the understanding of how empty it feels to be disqualified from equal protection under the law, along with being disqualified from fair and ethical treatment during investigations, is beyond disheartening -

I commend your effort to have law enforcement find more intelligent, ethical and humane ways to determine proof of coercion when investigating sex work and sex trafficking. Police should not be having sexual contact with prostitutes during investigations, nor should they be able to lie about being affiliated with law enforcement if asked direct while engaging in sexual contact with the intention of arrest.

In remembrance of the 1980s "Lower 48" Donna Gentile cold case murder / NHI file, a case that touches my heart and community, and also from my own personal experiences, I thank you for your compassion and dedication to humane ethics and fair policy.

Melanie (Goodman) Dante
Community United for Safety and Protection www.BDC-Lancaster.net

February 13, 2017

I am writing in support of HB 112.

In the mid-1990s, I was employed in the mental health profession, as a mental health clinician/counselor, and was then licensed as an LCSW (licensed clinical social worker) and as an LMFT (licensed marriage and family therapist).

During that time, I worked with a number of individuals, groups, and families.

One individual for whom I provided (primarily) individual services, as well as limited family services, was a police officer in a rural community I served at that time.

At one point, the Officer in question reported to me, during individual therapy, that he was once on loan to another police agency in Alaska, specifically related to, and engaged in, a sting operation regarding sex workers, or 'prostitutes.'

In his relating of a specific encounter, he chuckled, laughed, and appeared to boast about having engaged in sexual act(s) with a woman he immediately after, facilitated the arrest of, for offenses related to her profession as a sex worker.

The obvious ethics infractions involved in such misuse of a community relationship and unequal power, or compromising of the standards of policing in Alaska in general, by engaging in or permitting such behavior, or even simply tolerating those officers who would engage in such antics, brings to mind such terms as 'reprehensible,' 'outrageous,' and even 'criminal.'

While I am bound by confidentiality regarding the identity of the Officer in question, and even his departmental affiliation(s) at that time, I feel compelled to bring this case forward, as it relates to what I understand are current deliberations regarding legislation, HB 112, that I understand would criminalize such actions by law enforcement, and bring a greater balance of deserved trust and obligation to our law enforcement community in Alaska as a whole.

I am told that both the Department of Public Safety and APD have claimed that such incidents do not occur. While I cannot accurately report the frequency of such incidents, I can report that I have had at least one officer admit to such behavior, while meeting with me in a professional mental health setting. And I have no reason to assume this is a completely unique and isolated incident, considering human behaviors and motives, as a whole.

But for sake of playing devil's advocate, thus entertaining the apparently specious argument that such behavior doesn't exist, let us, consider the implications of passing such a bill into law.

Even if it were true, the assertion that such behaviors don't occur, what would be the harm in the State of Alaska making a formal statement, via legislation, bringing greater definition to this poorly addressed issue, stating clearly and plainly, that such behavior by law enforcement officers is -not- acceptable, and, in fact, is criminal in nature?

To grant tacit approval to some of the most empowered persons in our communities to prey on the least empowered, is to exacerbate the injurious inequity and injustice that already exists in so many ways, in a Country that boasts 'equal treatment under the law.'

If you have any further questions of me, please feel free to contact me at the mailing address, e-mail address or telephone number below.

Again, I urge you to support HB 112.

Sincerely,

Dirk R. Nelson
Ester, Alaska, 99725-0283

Hello,

I am a current Sex Worker who has lived and worked in Alaska and I am in support of HB 112. I'd like to remain anonymous due to the risk of retaliation and anonymity. Please consider the importance of the bill and do the right thing. Won't you vote for HB 112? Thank you for your time.

Sincerely, "Jane"

To whom it may concern,

My name is Kim Whitaker. I am a 25 year resident of Alaska. My employment is running my own Child Day Care also I am the President of a nonprofit REAL About Addiction.

I am writing this letter in support of HB112 First of all I can't believe that it's not already a prosecutable law for a person in described words of HB112 "peace officer" to have sex with a victim, witness or perpetrator.

I help and voluntarily work for and with many sex workers that are in the horrible cycle of drug addiction. Most everyone of these precious people are in a very bad situation they are sex workers to provide an addiction. I've never met one yet that isn't an addict because of being sexually molested as a child they are traumatized and have PTSD. They learned young not to respect their bodies and to be used they become a victim.

I have spoken with many police officers, they are very good kind people that respect the fact that sex workers are victims they are kind and compassionate I would like to think none of them are the type of a peace officer that we're talking about.

I also would like to add that if a person is a sex worker out of choice and are mentally sound they should not be subject to being arrested by a peace officer that has had sex with them.

Thank you for your time

Kim Whitaker



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907-688-0163
907-388-2866-cell

February 11, 2017

Representative Matt Claman
State Capitol Room 118
Juneau AK, 99801

Re: HB112

This is to indicate my support for HB112 and to thank you for sponsoring this bill. I am particularly happy that (in spite of my mailing address) I am a constituent of yours.

As you well know, HB112 addresses a shortcoming in the statute that addresses law enforcement officers having sex with a victim, witness or perpetrator of a crime. The Alaska State Troopers did the right thing ethically and morally when they fired an officer who had "consensual" sex with a victim of domestic violence. I can only imagine how demoralizing it was to have that dismissal overturned.

In my work over the past 30 years in the area of child sexual abuse I have been fortunate to know and work with many outstanding, kind and ethical law enforcement officers. Sadly, I have also been exposed to those who bring shame to their discipline – child molesters, rapists and murders. In fact, years ago a Detective Sergeant told me, as I was bemoaning the recent spate of criminal behavior among the ranks of law enforcement in Alaska, "It's a fine line between a cop and a criminal." Of course no profession is free from criminals in their midst. In fact I can't think of a single career field, economic or educational level, in which I haven't worked with a case of the sexual abuse of a child.

Law enforcement officers literally put their life on the line every day. They save people's lives, they protect our communities, and they help make the world a safer place for our children. They deserve to be trusted by ALL citizens, even those who break the law. Sex workers often witness and have knowledge of many crimes, including child abuse, child pornography, child sex trafficking, assault, etc. Hopefully HB112 will help change, over time, the well-merited climate of distrust. All of the committed and dedicated law enforcement officers in our state deserve no less. Victims, witnesses, and yes – even perpetrators – of crime deserve no less.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pam Karalunas".

Pam Karalunas



To: Rep. Matt Claman, Chair of the House Judiciary Committee

15-02-2017

Re: A Letter in Support House Bill 112

Dear Representative Claman and members of the House State Affairs Committee,

Please accept this letter as a **testament of our strong support of House Bill 12** introduced on February 8 2017. Expanding Alaska's sexual assault statute to prohibit police officers from engaging in sex with sex workers while undercover is a critical step in protecting individuals from sexual assault by peace officers, and one that should be moved forward quickly. Sex workers who may be victims, witnesses, or perpetrators of a crime have an inalienable right to their bodily autonomy and to be safe from assault - particularly assault sanctioned by the state.

As an international organisation that opposes the legal oppression, discrimination and stigmatization of sex work, we urge you to listen to the individuals and communities most impacted by problematic legislation and policy around sex work in Alaska.

We then urge you to vote yes on HB 112.

Thank you so much for your time and consideration, and for moving forward with HB112. Should you have any questions about our position, please contact me by e-mail directly at louise@redumbrellafund.

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Louise LaFleur", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Louise LaFleur
Programme Associate
Red Umbrella Fund

February 15th 2017

In Support of HB 112

Honorable Representative Matt Claman:

My name is Bella Robinson. I am the executive director of Coyote RI (Call Off Your Old Tired Ethics) We are a group of current and former sex workers, sex trafficking victims, and our allies, working towards safety and protection in New England's sex industry.

I am writing you today to support HB 112 for the following reasons.

Coyote RI and the [Center for the Study of Slavery and Justice \(CSSJ\)](#) at Brown University, conducted action research on 62 Rhode Island sex workers from 2014-2016. Our goal was to measure the effects of the 2009 criminalization of prostitution in RI.

Our findings revealed that 11% of Rhode Island sex workers reported being sexually assaulted by a police officer and 15% reported being robbed or assaulted by a police officer. Police officers get away with this behavior because prostitution is criminalized. If a sex worker were to come forward about a police officer who coerced them into sex under threat of arrest, it would be the word of a marginalized, criminalized person against the word of a police officer - and the worker would of course be risking arrest to come forward. While that may be only a quarter of Rhode Island sex workers who have been traumatized at the hands of police officers, people in the sex work community talk to each other. We know about each others' experiences and we don't feel safe going to the police to report crimes like assault or sex trafficking. Those who oppose the decriminalization of our industry are supporting human rights violations like the institutionalized, state sponsored sexual and physical assault of sex workers and sex trafficking victims.

77% of Rhode Island sex workers reported to the Brown researchers that they had been the victim or witness of a crime they didn't report to police. This could be because they'd heard from their colleagues who had been assaulted by police officers, or maybe they had heard of colleagues who had tried to report crimes to police: 4% reported being arrested while trying to report a crime and 26% reported being threatened while trying to report a crime. One research participant explained, "they made fun of me, called me names and asked me "what did I expect." They told me that if I want to report a client who raped me that they would arrest me for prostitution."

28% of sex workers reported being arrested and 20% reported being detained for questioning. When sex workers are arrested and classified as criminals it means that they face discrimination and sometimes extreme difficulty in finding other employment and housing. This can keep sex workers trapped in the underground economies and reliant on other people to access housing.

14.52% of the sex workers reported having been to graduate school and only 1 sex worker reported not obtaining their high school diploma or GED.

In light of this I ask you to vote yes on HB 112

Thank You

Bella Robinson
Bella@Coyoteri.org
<http://coyoteri.org/wp/>

Elena Shih, Assistant Professor of Women's and Gender Studies, American Studies for the Study of Slavery and Justice at Brown University
Elena_shih@brown.edu

XXX

To Whom It May Concern:

February 14, 2017

My name is Terria Walters. I am writing this letter in support of HB 112. I am a former sex worker and heard about the bill and the reason why the bill was submitted. I am asking for this bill to be passed due to what is morally right and to protect sex workers from being manipulated and legally raped by law enforcement. In my personal opinion it is unjust to think officers can just sexually violate sex workers while doing a sting and then turn around and arrest them right after they rape the woman.

I am a woman who is formally incarcerated and while I was incarcerated I watched correctional officers rape inmates by using their status and power to do it. These correctional officers are held to a standard to not cross that line and if they do they are held accountable for their conduct and abuse of power. They are arrested, charged and convicted of rape EVEN if the sex was consensual; this is due to the position they hold. It should be no different for any law enforcement officer that is supposed to protect and serve our communities, people and those that may be suspects in cases or stings.

I am asking the House and Senate to pass HB 112 to protect sex workers from sexual assault by law enforcement and so that if sexual assault does happen by law enforcement these officers are held accountable. Rape should NEVER be legal under a loop hole in the system. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Terria Walters
Fallen Up Ministries
President
907.748.0316