

From: [Judy Andree](#)
To: [John Church](#)
Subject: SB 72: Letter of Support from the League of Women Voters of Alaska
Date: Tuesday, March 28, 2017 5:31:14 PM
Attachments: [image.png](#)



The League of Women Voters
A Voice For Citizens, A Force For Change

P.O. Box 101345, Anchorage, AK 99501-1345

March 28, 2016

Dear Senator Gardner and Member of the Senate Health and Social Services Committee:

The League of Women Voters of the United States believes in equality in education, housing, and employment for all persons regardless of their race, color, gender, religion, national origin, age, sexual orientation or disability. In addition, the League supports the equalization of legal rights, obligations, and benefits available to same-gender couples with those available to heterosexual couples, including the right to marry under civil law. The League believes that one of government's responsibilities is to protect the rights of all its citizens. Therefore, the League of Women Voters of Alaska strongly supports SB 72, a bill to protect the rights of persons regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, or expression.

The 1992 LWVUS Convention added language to their Equality of Opportunity position, making it clear that this position referred to "all persons, regardless of their race, color, gender, religion, national origin, age, sexual orientation or disability." The League position focused particularly on equal opportunity for education, housing, and employment, three important requirements for inclusion and survival in society. The League was established in the early 1900's during the fight for women's suffrage, but that work has grown to include all citizens and the guarantee of equal opportunity and civil rights for all. A society is weakened when it excludes some of its citizens from full participation in rights and opportunities afforded to only certain citizens.

We urge the members of the Senate Health and Social Services Committee to consider the rights of all your constituents and pass HB 72 out of committee. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Pat Redmond, President LWVAK

Judy Andree, Vice-President

Marianne Mills, Past-President

Gail Knobf, Secretary

Carol Dickason, Treasurer

Hetty Barthel, Director

Diane Mathisen, Director

Lois Pillifant, Director

Phyllis Tugman-Alexander, Director

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)

5985 Lund Street
Juneau, Alaska 99801
907-780-6767 (home)
907-321-1559 (cell))



Dear Senator Gardner,

Thank you for sponsoring SB72, which seeks to prohibit discrimination in housing, employment, and public accommodations on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity/expression. Your commitment to this important issue is appreciated. **I would like to take this opportunity to express Pride Foundation's support for SB72.**

Pride Foundation is a regional community foundation that inspires giving to expand opportunities and advance full equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) youth, adults, and families across the Northwest. As a member of the LGBTQ community myself, I can attest to the difficulties of growing up gay in Alaska. Alaska is an expansive state—much of which is lacking resources and support for LGBTQ people—and as a result, many in our community face isolation and fear for their safety.

It is Pride Foundation's hope that the legislature will take action to create a more inclusive and welcoming Alaska for the following reasons:

- Equality is good for business. Eighty-eight percent (88%) of Fortune 500 companies prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation and nearly 6 in 10 prohibit discrimination based on gender identity. Changing our laws to reflect our values will help Alaska attract and retain the best and the brightest in the workforce.
- All hardworking people—including those who are gay or transgender—should be treated fairly and equally by the laws of our state. All Alaskans should have the opportunity to earn a living to provide for themselves and their families.
- For youth, losing a job can be a pathway to homelessness, and discrimination in the hiring process can prolong one's experience with homelessness. Nearly 40% of youth experiencing homelessness identify as LGBTQ, in contrast with 8% of youth overall. Discrimination and homelessness affects LGBTQ youth disproportionately.
- Updating the law will ensure that all people in our state are judged on their job performance and qualifications. Nothing more, nothing less. No one should have to live in fear of being legally fired for reasons that have nothing to do with job performance.
- There is broad-based support, including from within the business community, for creating a more inclusive Alaska. Locally in Anchorage, Pride Foundation is partnering with the Anchorage Chamber of Commerce and the Anchorage Economic Development Corporation to recognize local businesses that have policies and practices supporting LGBT inclusion. Watch the video here: <https://vimeo.com/117326439>.

Again and again, people are surprised to learn that discrimination against gay and transgender people is still legal in Alaska. Unfortunately, there are people who will only treat others fairly if the law requires it, and so we need these protections for those times when good judgment breaks down. We can all agree that people deserve to be treated fairly, and that it's not for any of us to judge. We strongly urge you to pass SB72.

Together, we can protect all Alaska families and ensure that we stand on the right side of history.

Sincerely,

Joshua Hemsath, Regional Development Organizer in Alaska
Josh@pridefoundation.org
3201 C St #110
Anchorage, AK 99503



10111 East Eagle River Loop Rd.
Eagle River, AK 99577
(907) 694-9601

Senator Berta Gardner
State Capitol Bldg., Room 9
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Senator Gardner:

Please allow me to add my full-throated support for SB 72. As a faith leader in my community, I have witnessed the heartbreak of injustice as good, law-abiding, tax paying Alaskans have been fired from their jobs after their bosses discovered the employee's sexual orientation. I have heard from my LGBTQ friends the horror stories they have experienced in the inability to secure housing due to discrimination regarding their orientation or gender identification.

Such injustice is wrong, and does not reflect the best of who we are as people or Alaskans. As a faith leader, I seek to represent the tradition of a God who seeks to embrace the "least among us," that is those who are on the fringes of any society, and those who are vulnerable to violence, persecution, and the denial of basic civil rights.

I firmly believe that SB 72 is a civil rights amendment, one that embraces a far too long neglected population on our community. Thank you for your leadership on this essential issue.

Sincerely,

The Rev. Dr. Martin W. Eldred, pastor.

SEAGLA
P.O. Box 21542
Juneau, AK 99802

To Whom It May Concern,

The Board of Directors of the Southeast Alaska LGBTQ Alliance (SEAGLA) wishes to express our strong support for Senator Gardner's bill that adds sexual orientation and gender identity and expression into the anti-discrimination policies of the state.

Last August in Juneau, we passed an ordinance that prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression. We heard dozens of Juneau residents testify in support of the ordinance that protects LGBTQ people in the areas of housing, employment and public accommodations. We are proud to live in another Alaskan city where it is illegal to discriminate against someone because of who they love or what their gender is.

There are many LGBTQ people outside of Anchorage and Juneau who are not currently protected by these important pieces of legislation and need to be. We know that people hide who they are every day out of fear of losing their job, being refused services in their community or hearing that someone won't rent an apartment to someone "like them". It is not only morally reprehensible in 2017 to allow intolerance and hatred to persist, but it is also unconstitutional under the Equal Protections clause.

Please vote in favor of Sen. Gardner's bill to support your neighbors, family members, friends and those too fearful of discrimination to "come out".

Thank you,

Board of Directors
SEAGLA



Planned Parenthood Votes Northwest and Hawaii

Senator Gardner
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: Senate Bill 72

March 22th, 2017

Dear Senator Gardner,

On behalf of Planned Parenthood Votes Northwest and Hawaii, I write today to thank you for sponsoring Senate Bill 72, which would add the words “sexual orientation, gender identity or expression” to Alaska’s non-discrimination statutes. Our state already prohibits discrimination based on race, religion, color, national origin, age, sex, disability, and marital status in the areas of employment, housing, public accommodation, and financing practices. However, these important protections do not extend to lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) people.

Everyday Alaskans across the state live in fear of being fired or denied housing, public service, or other opportunities because they are gay or transgender. It doesn’t have to be this way. Each of us should be free to build loving adult relationships and to create families without discrimination based on our personal, private lives.

As a health care provider and employer, Planned Parenthood knows that this legislation is good for public health and good for business. Because of discrimination, and fear of discrimination, many LGBT employees hide their identities, are paid less, and have fewer employment opportunities than their non-LGBT counterparts. This prejudice puts LGBT people at increased risk for poor physical and mental health. Businesses that support anti-discrimination measures for LGBT people recognize that having a corporate culture that embraces diversity improves worker productivity and helps recruit the best talent. Sexual orientation and gender identity have no relationship to workplace performance, and hardworking Alaskans shouldn’t be fired because of who they love or who they are.

Access to stable and secure housing is also essential for successful and healthy families, but LGBT people often experience housing discrimination and are denied the security of one of life’s most basic necessities. Like everyone else, they just want to contribute to the economic health of our state, earn a living, and be able to provide for their families.

Equality is everyone’s concern and it’s time that our state catches up. Thank you for your leadership on this issue. We look forward to supporting your efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Alyson Currey'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Alyson Currey
Regional Field Organizer and Legislative Liaison

Planned Parenthood Votes Northwest and Hawaii
3231 Glacier Hwy, Juneau, AK 99801
907.957.8708 | Alyson.Currey@ppvnh.org

John Church
Staff to Senator Berta Gardner
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801
March 17, 2017

RE: Testimony in Support of SB 72

SB 72 - "An Act adding to the powers and duties of the State Commission for Human Rights; and relating to and prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity or expression."

My name is Sam Rhodes. I reside at [REDACTED] in Anchorage, Alaska. I have resided with my wife Karen Hamilton for nearly 12 years in Anchorage. We have both involved ourselves in numerous community and political activities.

I write today in support of Senate Bill 72 for many reasons. First, as a community we are stronger and more vibrant when we are more socially inclusive rather than exclusive. SB 72 provides for more inclusion. It modernizes and expands current anti-discrimination statutes to include protections against discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. SB 72 updates protections from discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations, financing or credit based on sexual orientation and gender identity. Inclusive neighborhoods and communities only happen when everyone gets the opportunity to be included in having a job, buying or renting a place to live and affording to have a decent mode of transportation to get to work and home.

Second, as a unionist working as staff and a dues-paying union member for over 25 years, I know of no trade union or public employee union that might preclude membership in its organization based on who a union member loves or how they identify or express themselves sexually. But the current language in the powers and duties of the State Commission for Human Rights makes no provision for unlawful prohibition by a labor organization to exclude or to expel a person from its membership, or to discriminate in any way against one of its members or an employer or an employee based on sexual orientation or gender identity or expression. Unions have historically stood steadfast in commitment to inclusiveness. The language of SB 72 more appropriately reflects that commitment.

Third, employers should most certainly be required to include sexual orientation or gender identity or expression as part of their prohibition against discrimination in employment practices. When we don't give everyone equal opportunities though wrongful acts of hiring and employment discrimination, some of the most talented and brightest get excluded, get bypassed for promotional opportunities or get frustrated and quit. When great workers aren't working, we lose.

It's time to set the record straight with a 21st century rewrite. SB 72 reaffirms true inclusiveness in our communities by recognizing everyone. It extends all rights and privileges in all aspects of collective citizenry and codifies a commitment to respect to every citizen in Alaska.

Sincerely,



Sam Rhodes

[REDACTED]
Anchorage, Alaska 99517

From: [Jane Groseclose](#)
To: [Sen. Berta Gardner](#)
Subject: In support of SB 72
Date: Tuesday, March 28, 2017 11:20:02 PM

Hello Senator Gardner,

I live in Fairbanks and am not able to attend the public hearing of SB 72, but I wanted to voice my support of adding sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression to the state's anti-discrimination policy. I want you to know how glad I am that you are seeking this change and that I want it to pass. As an ally to LGBTQA+ Alaskans, I agree it's the right thing to do both to protect the rights of everyone and create an inclusionary culture. For me, it's more than protecting my LGBTQA+ friends, but also about shaping the future I want Alaska to have.

My gratitude to you, Megan Holland, and anyone else who is helping you pass this bill.

Jane

Jane Groseclose


Fairbanks, AK 99712

From: [Leighanne Atwood](#)
To: [Sen. Berta Gardner](#)
Subject: SB 72 - Support
Date: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 1:12:07 PM

Hello,

I am writing to lend my support of Senate Bill 72. I expect that you will support it as well.

Thank you,

Leighanne D. Atwood

[REDACTED]

Anchorage, AK 99501

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [Tammie Willis](#)
To: [Sen. Berta Gardner](#)
Subject: My support for SB 72
Date: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 8:47:52 AM

I am writing to express my strong support for Senate Bill 72. As a member of the LGBTQ community that lives on the Kenai Peninsula, it is an incredibly important bill to me.

I lived most of my life in the lower 48 where I faced discrimination, violence, harassment and fear on a daily basis. As an older lesbian who came out at a time when it was not okay to come out, I have far too many experiences to share in a short email.

I've been denied jobs. I've been spit on as I've walked down the street. I've been called names when I tried to make purchases in stores. I've spent evenings in the emergency rooms when friends were beat up. I've watched friends die of AIDS. I've been scared as I've been followed on my way home. I've been mocked by police when I've filed police reports for graffiti and broken windows.

When I came to Alaska there was none of this. My sexual orientation didn't seem to matter to anyone. I was accepted for who I was and given the respect and dignity that often eluded me in the lower 48. My wife was even accepted and respected even though Alaska did not recognize my marriage. We were welcomed at work and in our community.

When marriage equality became law, so many people here on the Peninsula celebrated with us and not a single one of them was gay. They were not gay and many barely knew me or my wife but they celebrated with us. When the tragedy of Orlando happened, people hugged us and backed us up and cried with us. When Trump came to office, they worried for us and continue to worry for us as much as we worry for ourselves as state after state starts to pass legislation legalizing discrimination against the LGBTQ community.

But Alaska...it's working to pass legislation that reflects the respect, dignity and rights of the LGBTQ community. It is moving against the tide of hate taking over elsewhere and reinforcing the fact that Alaska is the right place for my wife and I.

Please pass this bill. It is the only thing that is giving me hope in this age of hate.

Sincerely,

Tammie D Willis,
Sterling Alaska


From: [Bhree Roumagoux](#)
To: [Sen. Berta Gardner](#)
Subject: SB 72
Date: Tuesday, March 28, 2017 8:26:49 AM

Dear Sen. Gardner:

Thank you for proposing this legislation. No one should be discriminated against, and LGBTQIA deserve the same protections as other classes of citizens who have historically suffered discrimination just for being.

Who you love, how you look, how you are born should never be a cause for discrimination. Yet, people discriminate against LGBTQIA all the time. Some even use religious freedom as an argument to try to support their actions. Treating people with basic human kindness and dignity should be common in our society. But when it isn't, it is the role of government to ensure our community has legal protections.

Again, thank you so much for sponsoring this legislation. You have my full support and deep gratitude.

- Bhree
Bhree Roumagoux
99502


--
CONFIDENTIAL NOTICE: This document is for the sole purpose of the intended recipient(s) and may contain confidential and privileged information. Any unauthorized review, use, disclosure, or distribution is prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient, please contact the sender and destroy all copies of the original document.

From: [Chelsea Lindquist](#)
To: [Sen. Berta Gardner](#)
Subject: SB 72
Date: Tuesday, March 28, 2017 10:17:56 PM

Senator Gardner,

I would like to thank you for proposing SB72 which would add "sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression" to our existing state's anti-discrimination law.

The LGBT+ community is one of our most vulnerable and discriminated against and these protections are much needed. All people are deserving of the same rights under the law, regardless of sexual orientation.

I whole heartedly support this bill.

Thank you,
Chelsea Vukovich
Anchorage 99516

From: [Allison Hourigan](#)
To: [Sen. Berta Gardner](#)
Subject: Support for SB72
Date: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 12:10:40 PM

Senator,

Thank you for proposing SB72. I strongly support all efforts decrease violence, oppression, and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. I feel safer knowing our state leaders are willing to take active steps to reach this shared goal.

Thank you again,

Allison Hourigan
Resident of Juneau

From: [Waltraud](#)
To: [Sen. Berta Gardner](#)
Cc: [Samantha Harris](#)
Subject: SB 72 an act related to discrimination and protections for the LGBTQ community
Date: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 1:13:22 PM

Dear Senator Gardner,

I support SB 72

Thank you for introducing it.

Waltraud Barron, Anchorage



From: [Yvonne Goldsmith](#)
To: [Sen. Berta Gardner](#)
Subject: Support for SB72
Date: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 1:15:24 PM

Dear Members of the AK State Senate, Health & Social Services Committee:

I fully support SB 72, for the following reasons:

1) LGBTQ Alaskans are experiencing discrimination

2) Sexual orientation is a trait one is born with, it is not a chosen behavior or an idea. There is agreement in American and Alaskan society that discrimination against people with natural born traits such as gender or race is against our values. Sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression fall in this category as well.

As an American of Chinese ancestry, I have felt the sting of discrimination in the 60's and 70's myself, with no recourse available. When I finished graduate school in 1975, there were only three places I could live and find a job: the East Coast between NYC and Boston, the California Bay Area, or Hawaii. Happily, my husband Scott Goldsmith was offered a job at UAA and I urged him to do his best to get that job. Why? In 1971 I was traveling standby from Tokyo to NYC and was kicked off the plane in Fairbanks for 24 hours. I felt positive qi and terrific karma there – I always attributed that comfortable, laid-back feeling to the Alaska Natives I saw walking around. I felt sure that a place with a 20% minority population must be welcoming, and I was right. In the 40+ years since, I received only one racist comment (1976: "I didn't know they let Chinks on the train"). No hostile staring, no "Wow your English is so good", no "Go back to where you came from", nor "I can't rent you this apartment, you're going to cook smelly food".

I wish other minorities were so lucky as myself. That is perhaps the most important reason I support SB 72. I wish to treat other people the way I want to be treated myself – with equality based on merit and inclusive behavior, not based on natural born traits. The spirit of my 1975 Alaska needs to be defended and preserved. The people who do not support SB 72 have no idea what it is like to be discriminated against. They are not bad people, they merely lack life experiences. This is the context that should be considered when reading the public comments.

Sincerely, Yvonne Wu Goldsmith, [REDACTED], Anchorage 99516

From: [Sally Mead](#)
To: [Sen. Berta Gardner](#)
Subject: truly support SB 72
Date: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 12:48:37 PM

Dear Berta and your team,

Please add my name, Sally Mead [REDACTED] 99508 to the list of supporters for this bill. A courageous bill presented at a necessary time.

Thank you,
Sally Mead

From: [Laura Herman](#)
To: [Sen. Berta Gardner](#)
Subject: Strongly Urge Protections for LGBTQ community statewide
Date: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 11:59:29 AM

Hi Berta and colleagues in Juneau,

Please support SB72 to add LGBTQ protections to our current statewide non-discrimination ordinance so that all Alaskans can work and be housed in our state without discrimination based on gender identity and sexual orientation. This has been passed in several cities in Alaska with zero negative effects, as well as the great positive effects of making our communities safer for ALL Alaskans.

Currently, although LGBTQ people have the right to marry, they do not have the right to be EMPLOYED or be able to RENT without that being legally held against them. It is a huge misplacement of justice that it is legal to discriminate against LGBTQ people for no other reason but an innate quality within their being.

Please stand up for ALL Alaskans and pass this protection for Alaskans.

Thank you,
Laura Herman

[REDACTED]
Anchorage Ak 99503
[REDACTED]

From: [Maureen Longworth](#)
To: [Sen. Berta Gardner](#)
Subject: SB 72 SUPPORT
Date: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 1:48:31 PM

I am an Alaskan physician of 24 years and a lifetime member of the American Academy of Family Physicians and a member of the Alaska Academy of Family Physicians. All evidence based medical studies agree that equal rights increase the health of the individual, the family, the community, and the state. Whereas discrimination creates medical disease by direct link from the stress and related illnesses.

Any vote other than in support of SB 72 would be further detriment to the health of all Alaskans and our communities.

VOTE YES in support of SB 72. ALL people deserve equal protection under the law of our land.

Sincerely,

Maureen Longworth, M.D.

[REDACTED]
Juneau, AK 99801
[REDACTED]

From: [Mary Parker](#)
To: [Sen. Berta Gardner](#)
Subject: SB 72 - urging support in protection of sexual orientation and gender identity/expression
Date: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 3:53:50 PM

Dear Senator Gardner and members of the Senate Health and Social Services Committee

I am writing in full support of SB72, pertaining to discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity or expression. I am a life-long Alaskan, mother of two adult daughters, one of whom identifies as lesbian, both of whom were born and reared here in our state.

While my heterosexual daughter has remained in Alaska, working and co-owning a home while completing a master's degree through UAA, with the intent of remaining in the state, my lesbian daughter left for college Outside at age 18 and will never return to live here. She also works for a living, co-owns a home, and has completed a master's degree. Unfortunately, Alaska will never benefit from her energy, intelligence, and high work ethic. Since age 18, she has chosen to live where her rights to full protection from discrimination in educational programs, employment, housing and the right to marry as she chooses have been protected by law. I know she is not alone. We have lost hundreds and perhaps thousands of potentially productive state citizens like her over the years, because we fail to protect their rights.

While I could urge you all to 'do the right thing' in protecting all Alaskans from unfair discrimination, or point out that the Alaska I know and love promotes tolerance and understanding of people from different backgrounds, I will let all that remain as said. I have two daughters, one of whom never has to worry about whether she will ever lose a job or a house here because of her sexual orientation, while her sister is not that fortunate. I urge you to support SB 72; I see it as one good step toward offering other sons and daughters who happen to be lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender a reason to remain in Alaska as productive, valued citizens.

Thank you.

Mary Parker

From: [susan.jabal](#)
To: [Sen. Berta Gardner](#)
Subject: Support of SB72
Date: Thursday, March 30, 2017 8:22:38 AM

Good morning -

My name is Susan Jabal, I am a resident of Juneau, Alaska, at [REDACTED].

I am writing to request that you support SB72, as I know you agree that honoring diversity strengthens our community and state. As I tell my children on a daily basis - everyone makes their own choices, there is no better or worse, just different.

Thank you -
Susan Jabal

[REDACTED]
Juneau, AK 99801
[REDACTED]

From: [Tesia Meade](#)
To: [Sen. Berta Gardner](#)
Subject: SB 72
Date: Thursday, March 30, 2017 5:50:04 AM

Hi Senator Gardner,

I want to thank you for sponsoring SB 72 and show my support for the bill.

Tesia Meade
[REDACTED]
Juneau, AK
99801

From: Amy
To: Sen. Berta Gardner
Subject: SB 72
Date: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 7:30:24 PM

Thanks for sponsoring SB 72, discrimination is not an Alaskan value and all people deserve equal rights and protections.

Amy

Sent from my iPhone


From: [April Wisebaker](#)
To: [Sen. Berta Gardner](#)
Subject: Constituent Opinion on SB 72
Date: Thursday, March 30, 2017 7:58:52 AM

Senator Gardner-

I am writing to let you know my support of SB 72 (Inclusive Statewide Non-Discrimination Bill). I am an ally, and strongly believe it is important to ensure all of the residents in our state have equal treatment and opportunity, regardless of sexual orientation. I hope this bill is passed by the state legislature. Thank you for introducing this bill; this makes me proud to live in your district!

Regards,

April R Wisebaker


Anchorage, AK 99507

From: [Tracey Burke](#)
To: [Sen. Berta Gardner](#)
Subject: support for Senate Bill 72
Date: Thursday, March 30, 2017 12:42:49 PM

Dear Senators, c/o Senator Gardner:

I am a Christian, a practicing church-goer, raised Catholic and now Episcopalian. I came to Alaska some 25 years ago as a Jesuit Volunteer. I write to support adding sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression to the Alaskan non-discrimination law. Jesus loved the outsider; we must do the same. Self-identified "Christians" who have hijacked the name who claim religion as an excuse to discriminate do NOT speak for all of us. I do not really believe anyone's religion should drive public policy, but I do believe that individual voters' values are shaped by their faith. Mine says clearly that everyone deserves to be treated well and fairly, and to have legal recourse when not treated that way. As a voter, I support this bill and hope you will as well.

Tracey Burke


Anchorage, AK 99504

From: [Eddie Bailey](#)
To: [Sen. Berta Gardner](#)
Subject: What: SB 72 an act related to discrimination and protections for the LGBTQ community.
Date: Thursday, March 30, 2017 2:02:23 PM

As a straight foster mom I have fostered about 15 LGBT kids. I URGE you to vote to include this group into protection from discrimination. If you want to hear of some of the descrimination my kids have gone through, just let me know and I will share them. I don't share them now because I doubt you will actually read them -- or call me.

--

Eddie Bailey

[REDACTED]

Eagle River, Alaska

99577

[REDACTED]

From: [Gayle & Julie](#)
To: [Sen. Berta Gardner](#)
Subject: SB 72
Date: Thursday, March 30, 2017 1:06:33 PM

SB 72 is so important to Alaskans as the first inclusive statewide non-discrimination law, granting protections we have long fought for in Alaska and across the region. Prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identify in housing, employment, and places of public accommodation only makes sense in light of the push by some to compromise these protections.

When asked if I have ever been discriminated against I frequently forget how often I ignore what others take for granted. Should I have to ask when I enter a bakery to buy a cupcake if they sell to lesbians or is my money good enough as long as I keep my sexual orientation to myself and I don't want a wedding cake. If I wear my "Big Wild Lesbian" T shirt into a store can I be denied service? Can I ask that my taxes not pay for the sidewalk or the street lights, or the snow removal from outside of any business that discriminates? Can I ask that those who seek to discriminate post a sign in their window and on their website so that I and all the LGBT allies know to take our business elsewhere?

Thank you for SB 72.

Gayle Schuh


Eagle River, AK 99577

