STATE OF ALASKA

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

BILL WALKER, GOVERNOR

800 A STREET, SUITE 204
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99501-3669
PHONE: (907) 274-4692 / 276-7474
TTY/TDD: (907) 276-3177
FAX: (907) 278-8588

RESOLUTION 2016-2

WHEREAS, Alaska's Human Rights Law, AS 18.80, currently prohibits discrimination based on race, religion, color, national origin, physical or mental disability, age, sex, marital status, changes in marital status, pregnancy or parenthood;

WHEREAS, the Municipality of Anchorage and the City & Borough of Juneau assemblies have both passed non-discrimination ordinances for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer (LGBTQ) residents;

WHEREAS, the above referenced laws and orders are commendable progress in protecting the human rights of Alaska's LGBTQ residents, there is currently no holistic and comprehensive statewide regime for legal recourse concerning LGBTQ discrimination, resulting in inadequate enforcement and protection of LGBTQ residents;

WHEREAS, the Alaska State Commission for Human Rights recalls Resolution 83-01 (February 26, 1983) which reiterates the Commission's important charge to help "set policy and interpret Alaska's Human Rights Law" and to "direct the activities of the chief civil rights enforcement agency in the state";

WHEREAS, the Alaska State Commission for Human Rights is cognizant of these important and vital components of its mission and also maintains high awareness of other states' and national human and civil rights enforcement organizations, noting the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission's interpretation of Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act as prohibiting employment discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and/or gender identity or expression;

WHEREAS, the Alaska State Commission for Human Rights recalls Resolution 90-01 (February 27, 1990) to raise awareness of anti-LGBTQ discrimination and encourage efforts to provide equal protection for Alaska's LGBTQ citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska State Commission for Human Rights recalls and applauds recent efforts by state legislators of both parties with the introduction of HB139 (2013), HB19, HB42 and SB20 (2015) to revise the Alaska Human Rights Law, AS 18.80, to expressly prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity and expression.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Alaska State Commission for Human Rights:

1. calls on the Alaska State Legislature to revise the Alaska Human Rights Law, AS. 18.80, to expressly prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity and expression, and

2. requests that its staff work with the Department of Law to draft proposed regulations addressing the inclusion of prohibitions against discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity and expression under the existing law prohibiting sex discrimination and to consider in that process the administrative application of the EEOC's interpretation of Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act prohibiting employment discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and/or gender identity or expression.

Copies of this resolution shall be forwarded to the Office of the Governor and all members of the Alaska State Legislature.

ADOPTED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 2nd day of November 2016.

Kathryn Dodge, Acting Chairperson
Alaska State Commission for Human Rights

STATE OF ALASKA

Alaska State Commission for Human Rights
Roll Call Sheet
Vote on Resolution 2016-2

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

COMMISSION MEETING
November 2, 2016

COMMISSIONER	YES/NO/NOT PRESENT
Chairperson Lester Lunceford	Not Present
Vice Chairperson Kathryn Dodge	*YES*
Commissioner Christa Bruce	YES
Commissioner Michele Christiansen	Not Present
Commissioner Jason Hart	*YES*
Commissioner Grace Merkes	*NO*
Commissioner Brandon Nakasato	*YES*

St. John
United Methodist Church

March 30, 2017

To the Alaska Senate Health and Social Services Committee
c/o Senator Berta Gardner

RE: Supporting Senate Bill 72

Dear Senator Gardner,

Let us begin by thanking you for sponsoring Senate Bill 72 to add "sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression" to our existing state anti-discrimination law. As leaders of St. John United Methodist Church, we walk alongside dozens of individuals and families whose lives will be measurably improved by such protections.

The United Methodist Church as a denomination states in our Social Principles that: "all persons are individuals of sacred worth, created in the image of God...We affirm that God's grace is available to all. We will seek to live together in Christian community, welcoming, forgiving, and loving one another, as Christ has loved and accepted us. We implore families and churches not to reject or condemn lesbian and gay members and friends..." (*The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church*, ¶161.f).

As United Methodists, we affirm this statement of our church, and add our own urging that public institutions, including federal, state, and local governments, reject discrimination of all people regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression, and actively seek to fully protect all people under the law.

The daily acts of discrimination and micro-aggressions committed against LGBTQ+ continue to cause real harm to real people. We see this harm perpetuated against people we know and love. These individuals, persons of sacred worth, are some of the most incredible Alaskans we have met, whose contributions to our community and state are enormous. It is our hope and prayer that this change in the law is another step towards establishing a just and peaceful society for all Alaskans.

Once again, thank you. Our prayers are with you in this effort.

Sincerely,
The Rev. Andy Bartel, Lead Pastor
The Rev. Nico Romeijn-Stout, Pastor of Discipleship and Social Justice

1801 O'Malley Rd., Anchorage, AK 99507 | www.stjohneagle.com | (907) 344-3025

FRONTIER
Tutoring

FRONTIER TUTORING LLC
AN ALASKA COMPANY

ANCHORAGE CENTER
500 E. Tudor Rd., Ste. 100
Anchorage, AK 99503

MAILING
2440 E. Tudor Rd., PMB 128
Anchorage, AK 99507

Tel: 907-268-4233
Fax: 907-268-4760
frontiertutoring.com

March 31, 2017

Via Email (Through Senator Gardner's Office)

Senate Health & Social Services Committee
State Capital
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: SB 72 – Prohibiting Discrimination Based on Sexual Orientation or Gender Identity/Expression

To the Honorable Members of the Senate Health & Social Services Committee:

I am writing to respectfully urge you to support SB 72 by voting to advance it out of committee. It's the right thing to do for Alaska's people—and the smart thing to do for our economy.

At Frontier Tutoring, the largest Alaska-based test prep and tutoring brand, our success is critically dependent on our ability to recruit, retain, and develop skilled and diverse Alaskan team members—including LGBT talent. We know from firsthand experience the value that empowered and fully-engaged employees, along with their varied backgrounds and perspectives, bring to our operations and decision-making capabilities. And this year, as an MBA candidate at Harvard Business School, I have had the opportunity to confirm that the insights Frontier Tutoring has gained regarding the value of maintaining a diverse team are generalizable across many types of organizations. Here are three specific lessons I have learned from the curriculum and my peers which I feel are important to share back at home:

- **Employers and employees alike bear the cost of "covering":** Many employees—and certainly LGBT individuals—feel compelled to "cover" (obscure or actively avoid disclosing elements of their identity) in the workplace. Not only do employees suffer emotionally when they cover, but employers also bear the real economic costs of lost productivity, reduced engagement, and lower retention when their employees do not feel comfortable bringing their genuine selves to work. It is easy to imagine how being forced to expend significant extra effort on even the simplest tasks—such as answering the question, "How was your weekend?" when an employee believes he or she could be fired for being gay—needlessly diverts focus and energy away from an employee's capacity to engage professionally. The perceived need to cover is only exacerbated in Alaska, where LGBT employees currently have no legal basis for protection against discrimination based on their sexual orientation or gender identity and therefore may have good reason to believe that their best bet at work is hiding an important part of who they really are.

- **Diverse teams help firms make better decisions:** In studying decisions that have gone wrong, one important commonality that emerges is groupthink—the tendency for teams to operate with a bias toward consensus in their decision-making and neglect to consider alternative, superior courses of action. One countermeasure against groupthink is ensuring that teams are comprised of individuals with a diversity of backgrounds who feel comfortable expressing opposing viewpoints. But people who fear the consequences of being

themselves at work—because, for example, they worry their LGBT status may be used against them—aren't able to bring the full complement of their experiences and perspectives to bear when important corporate decisions are made. Proving to LGBT employees through law that they will be evaluated based on their professional performance—nothing more and nothing less—will help unlock their best insights.

- **Alaska is missing out on top talent:** I have frequently spoken with LGBT classmates at Harvard Business School who are enthralled by the promise of opportunity in Alaska that attracted many of our residents in the first place—but they are reluctant to consider applying their talents in Alaska knowing that they could be fired from their jobs or evicted from their homes for no other reason than their LGBT status. I empathize with their position: Why bother bearing additional risk in Alaska when they could just as easily lead fulfilling lives in many other states that have affirmed through their laws that LGBT professionals are welcome and valued? It is reasonable to assume other accomplished professionals across the country are making the same decisions to deploy their talents elsewhere. It is even more disturbing to consider the capable LGBT youth born and raised in Alaska who depart the state and are dissuaded from returning for similar reasons. For a state that routinely bemoans the economic and social consequences of brain drain, SB 72 provides an obvious and low-cost way to plug one hole in our leaky funnel.

The financial benefits of inclusion are clear and critical to leverage at a time when our forward-going economic viability depends more on our ability to harness human capital than ever before. At an even more fundamental level, providing LGBT people with the same protections we afford to other Alaskans is a matter of demonstrating basic kindness and respect for everyone—something I think we can all agree is a core Alaskan value. And although we can easily discuss the bright spots where employers already stand up for their team members' equality and individuality, top LGBT talent will continue to question Alaska's credibility until we codify their equality in the law.

Like many Alaska organizations, Frontier Tutoring is a people business. For over eight years, we have grown because of our ability to assemble a high-caliber team who we believe could compete successfully against our industry peers anywhere in the country. The passage of SB 72 would give me great confidence in Alaska's ability to remain an attractive destination for employees, entrepreneurs, and investors eight years from now.

Very truly yours,

Brian J. Franklin
Board Chair

PFLAG
Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays
P. O. Box 210874 Anchorage, AK 99521-0874
Voice Mail: (907) 566-1813
Find Us On Facebook

March 30, 2017

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

Re: Senate Bill 72 - An Act Related to Discrimination and Protections for the LGBTQ Community

On behalf of the Anchorage Chapter of PFLAG (Parents, Family and Friends of Lesbians and Gays), I am writing to urge your full support of Senate Bill 72, concerning protection against discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression.

Our PFLAG chapter has been active in Anchorage for over twenty years, working with and on behalf of families and individuals whose lives have been affected, sometimes very severely, by such discrimination. We have seen people be refused jobs and housing because of their sexual orientation or gender identity and left without the resources or legal right to challenge discrimination.

We are all Alaskan citizens, proud that our state's population, though limited in number, embraces great differences in background. We believe in tolerance and fair treatment for all, regardless of any difference in identity or background.

On behalf of our many friends and family members, we ask that you support and work to pass SB 72, and provide the same protection to them as is now enjoyed by other Alaskans.

Thank you.

Andy Robichaud

Andy Robichaud, President

AARP Real Possibilities in Alaska

3601 C Street, #1420 | Anchorage, AK 99503
1-866-227-7447 Fax: 907-341-2270 TTY: 1-877-434-7598
aarp.org/ak | ak@aarp.org | twitter: @aarpalaska
facebook.com/AARPAK

March 30, 2017

Sen. Berta Gardner
State Capitol, Room 9
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: SB 72 – An act prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity or expression

Dear Sen. Gardner,

AARP Alaska offers our appreciation to you, Sen. Gardner, for your sponsorship, and to the members of the Senate HSS Committee for consideration of SB 72. AARP's policy is that it is the fundamental right of all people to be free from discrimination, including discrimination based on a person's sexual orientation or gender identity/expression.

Discrimination toward LGBT individuals is historically well documented, and ranges from mild harassment to violence and hate crimes. But, I wish to provide yet another aspect of the importance of non-discrimination protections for LGBT individuals. AARP, nationally, has undertaken a partnership with SAGE USA (Services and Advocacy for GLBT Elders) to help shine a light on the little understood situation LGBT individuals face as they grow old.

In short, the very unfortunate choice older LGBT individuals must face is whether they must go "back in the closet." As people age, we typically experience a series of losses which create varying degrees of dependency on others, and a consequent sense of vulnerability. The need to feel safe (including the need for respect and dignity) increases when having to depend on persons or systems other than one's self. While research on the experience of older LGBT individuals is only now beginning to describe their situation, results show some patterns that underscore the need for increased protection. We know, for instance, that LGBT older adults are:

- Five times less likely to access senior services
- Experience higher poverty rates than senior heterosexual counterparts
- Significantly more likely to delay or not seek needed medical care
- More likely to have problems with substance abuse
- At higher risk for cancer and other serious health conditions (including depression)
- Half as likely as heterosexual elders to have family members to call for help, and are three times less likely to have children.
- Hesitant to disclose sexual orientation to their primary care provider

Many of these disparities can be attributed to the effects of historical prejudice, including disruption to families (who are so necessary to our long term care system), and diminished opportunities to earn a living and save for retirement (often due to lifelong employment discrimination). Ongoing stigma often interferes with full participation in community and society, leaving a significant number of LGBT older adults reluctant to seek needed services and support from potentially hostile aging and health service

providers. Almost a third of gay and lesbian Baby Boomers identify discrimination as their greatest concern about aging....as if aging weren't concerning enough!

The experience of discrimination over a lifetime (remembering today's LGBT elders could have been a victim of violence, or seen their expressions of love labeled a psychiatric disorder, a criminal activity, anti-family, immoral, and a security risk) takes a toll and predisposes to being highly vigilant and cautious. When faced with the vulnerabilities of long term care, one might have to "sweep the house" of all evidence if a home health aide is due to pay a visit; or if living in an assisted living home or nursing home, one would have to make continuous decisions about whether this person or that one, whether staff or other residents, might be safe enough with whom to share the stories of one's life. For all persons coming to the end of life, the story of that life is among the most precious things a person has. It is hard to imagine the sense of loss and grief if that story had to be kept secret or denied. Furthermore, to live in a dependent care situation might have implications about who the LGBT elder is able to have in to visit, or whether those friends would themselves feel comfortable coming into that environment to visit...all of which has the potential to increase an unnecessary sense of loneliness and isolation.

The protections most people take for granted are urgently needed for LGBT older adults, especially with regard to public accommodations, which would include senior centers, health care facilities, assisted living homes, and skilled nursing facilities. No one should have to feel unsafe when they are old and vulnerable, and when so few choices may remain. Nor should anyone have to hide their own life out of fear of what others might say or do. SB 72 is a long-needed and crucial part of Alaska's proud history of self-determination and respect for individual human beings.

AARP Alaska offers our thanks to you and the Senate HSS Committee, and we furthermore offer our strong support for the passage of SB 72 out of committee. Please feel free to contact us if we can be helpful with any further information.

Respectfully,

Ken Helander
Advocacy Director
762-3314
khelander@aarp.org

CC: Sen. David Wilson, Chair, Senate Health and Social Services Committee
Sen. Natasha Von Imhof
Sen. Peter Micciche
Sen. Cathy Giessel
Sen. Tom Begich

March 31, 2017

Honorable Senator David Wilson, Chairperson
Senate Health & Social Services Committee
Alaska State Legislature
State Capital
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Re: Support for Senate Bill 72 – Prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity or expression.

Dear Chairperson Wilson and Committee Members,

Alaskans Together for Equality (ATE) fully supports making all Alaskans equal and protected from discrimination through passing Senate Bill (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."

ATE represents hundreds of members across the state of Alaska. We are a statewide, nonpartisan, civil rights organization whose mission is to advance civil equality for all Alaskans through grassroots organizing and advocacy, with a primary focus on lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) Alaskans. We advocate for all Alaskans because the stronger the foundation of equal civil rights across institutions and practices makes for a better Alaska. All Alaskans will be enabled to take advantage of opportunities to create healthy lives and produce income that allows for a stronger state.

ATE believes that SB72 is imperative to securing the rights and opportunities of all Alaskans and provides the tools to pursue these opportunities. SB72 positively impacts all Alaskans by strengthening the foundation of equality and protecting civil rights.

As Alaska continues to weather economic challenges, it is imperative that the State do all that it can do to attract and retain a skilled and diverse labor force. When the United States Congress Joint Economic Committee examined the economic consequences of discrimination

P.O. Box 202453, Anchorage, Alaska 99520 | e alaskanstogether@gmail.com | w www.AlaskansTogether.org | p 907-382-6153

based on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity in November of 2013[1], it found that discrimination results in detrimental economic impacts including: lower profits; higher turnover costing business more to train and retain employees; reduced wages and underemployment; reduced economic growth through lost productivity, inefficiencies in the economy and an overall misallocation of crucial human capital.

We urge you to support the justice, fairness and equality for all Alaskans by supporting SB72. With this bill's passage, the Alaska legislature ensures the right for individual Alaskans to work, innovate, and contribute to our state. SB72 is integral to meeting Alaska's economic challenges and will send a strong message to Alaska's LGBT community and those talented LGBT individuals and their families who are considering making Alaska their home, that our state is a welcoming state to all.

Thank you for hearing this bill and after years of waiting for a vote, we hope you pass this bill through this committee but also encourage your fellow legislators to move this bill to the Senate floor and pass it. Not only is it the right thing to do but it also aligns with our Alaskan values of fairness and equality for all.

On behalf of ATE Board and our members,

Elias Rojas
Board President
Alaskan Together for Equality

[1] http://www.jec.senate.gov/public/_cache/files/42dc59a0-6071-46d0-8ff2-9bd7a6b0077f/enda---final-11.5.13.pdf

HUMAN
RIGHTS
CAMPAIGN

March 31, 2017

Senate Health and Social Services Committee
State Capitol Room 205
Juneau AK, 99801

Dear Chairperson Wilson and Members of the Committee,

My name is Sarah Warbelow, and I am the Legal Director for the Human Rights Campaign (HRC), America's largest civil rights organization working to achieve lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) equality. By inspiring and engaging all Americans, HRC strives to end discrimination against LGBTQ citizens and realize a nation that achieves fundamental fairness and equality for all. On behalf of our nearly 2,000,000 members and supporters nationwide, I am writing you today in support of Senate Bill (SB) 72, which would extend nondiscrimination protections to LGBTQ Alaskans in employment, housing, and public accommodations.

America has a proud history of valuing liberty, freedom, and hard work. Anti-discrimination laws put those values into practice. By expanding the state's civil rights laws to include LGBTQ people, Alaska will send a strong message that all of its residents matter. It is time to ensure that discrimination does not trump merit or basic fairness by extending protections to include sexual orientation and gender identity.

Discrimination against LGBTQ people continues to be a very real problem. Far too often, LGBTQ Americans have lost their livelihoods simply because of an employer's fear, lack of understanding, or intolerance. Some are highly skilled professionals who, though seemingly irreplaceable in their positions, suddenly become expendable when they wish to live openly in their communities or are outed by colleagues. Others are people forced into whatever jobs they can find, some scraping together money for the tremendous medical costs of gender transition, which are rarely covered by health insurance. They are people in every walk of life—doctors and lawyers, plumbers and bus drivers. Many are parents and spouses, whose efforts to find secure, fulfilling employment are also a struggle to provide for their families. And for these Americans, the threat of discrimination does not end once they leave the workplace. It is well-documented that LGBTQ people are shown less desirable properties for purchase or rent, receive less favorable customer service, or encounter outright refusal of service. The time has long since passed when we as a nation ought to tolerate arbitrary discrimination against any group of people, in any aspect of life.

I cannot overstate the real-life implications this bill would have for Alaska. It would extend vital protections in the most fundamental aspects of life to all Alaskans. Now that marriage equality is a reality nationwide, this bill would eliminate the untenable possibility of an individual marrying the person they love, only to be fired from work, evicted, or denied access to public places for doing so. Moreover, this bill would send an unequivocal message to businesses that Alaska is a place where they

can find the best and brightest; where their employees can live, grow, and thrive without fear of discrimination.

Finally, passing the SB 72 will place the state in good company. Beginning with an ordinance passed in Minneapolis in 1975, 19 states, the District of Columbia, and more than 100 cities and counties have enacted fully-inclusive, comprehensive laws prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. Additionally, more than 600 private businesses across the United States, including 66% of Fortune 500 companies, have voluntarily adopted policies that prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. It is clear that employers and governments nationwide agree that they are at their best—their most competitive and most productive—when they do the right thing and affirm that they're open to everyone.

It has never been more important for Alaska to act and ensure that discrimination has no place in this great state. Please vote in favor of SB 72.

Sincerely,

Sarah Warbelow

HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN | 1640 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W., WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036
P 202-628-4160 | *F* 202-423-2861 | HRC@HRC.ORG

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 Identity Inc.'s support for SB72.**

Identity Inc. is a statewide LGBTQ organization that works to advance the lives of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Alaskans. We envision a world where all Alaskans can be their authentic self and still feel safe, supported and welcomed in their community. 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 Identity Inc.'s hope that this 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.
- 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, Identity Inc. is partnering with Pride Foundation, 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,

William Farrell, Executive Director
billy@identityinc.org
336 E 5th Ave
Anchorage, AK 99501

Anchorage Assembly

Elvi Gray-Jackson
Chair: Budget/Finance Committee

Municipality of Anchorage

March 31, 2017

The Honorable David Wilson
Alaska State Senate
State Capitol, Room 115
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Wilson:

I am thankful that Senator Gardner introduced SB72 which prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity or expression because I have always advocated for and believed that everyone deserves equal rights. After many, many years attempting to provide this right to our LGBTQ citizens within our community, I was honored to be one of nine Assembly Members who approved AO 2015-96(S-1) on September 29, 2015.

There are some who truly believe that this is a lifestyle choice. This mentality could not be further from the truth. You see, when I was 14 years old, my sister's son was three years old. Even at that early age, we both knew he was gay. Unfortunately, at the age of 21 years, my sister died from birth control pills which caused a brain hemorrhage and heart failure. She was my idol and died in my arms on the way to the hospital. Before she died, I promised her that I would emotionally take care of Darren as he grew older in a world of hate because of his identity. Darren is now an adult, has been in a relationship with Keith for 19 years, and they married just last year.

I, personally, know what it is like to experience discrimination. I have been a victim more than once because of the color of my skin. I will always be grateful to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. for making a difference in my life and the lives of many. This behavior is simply unacceptable.

I am hopeful that you and your colleagues will support this proposed legislation because it is not just the right thing to do, but the "only thing" to do. Please make this human right a reality.

Sincerely,

Elvi Gray-Jackson
Chair

P.O. Box 196650 • Anchorage, Alaska 99519-6650 • Telephone: (907) 343-4118
gray-jacksonc@muni.org

From: Kaia Erickson-Pearson
To: Sen. Berta Gardner
Subject: Letter in support of SB72
Date: Friday, March 31, 2017 10:03:22 AM

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to express my strong support for SB 72. This is a necessary step in securing fairness and equality for all Alaskans.

I am a family medicine physician in Anchorage and a queer cis-gender woman. I can speak from both personal and professional experience how important it is to have institutionalized protections for marginalized communities.

On a personal level, I have experienced a level of anxiety and physical fear that I was entirely unprepared for following the national election in November. Even as a white woman with an abundance of privilege, the hatred towards the LGBTQ community and people of color that was validated by the political establishment made me fear for my personal safety and basic rights. I was far more anxious over that threat than I have ever felt in my medical training. And that insecurity seeped into my life in ways I didn't expect and affected my ability to do my job well. Messages are powerful. We need to think about the messages we are sending to young queer and gender non-conforming kids who are already coping with bullying and prejudice. If I felt as shaken as I did after the election, despite all the professional security and racial privilege that I have, I cannot imagine the level of anxiety and insecurity felt by others. They ought to be told they are beautiful and deserving of living a healthy meaningful life. SB 72 is at least a good start.

As a primary care physician, my role is to provide preventive care to keep people healthy. I am trained to manage chronic diseases and complex medication regimens and keep track of screenings. I discover, though, that before I can address any of these things I must address more basic needs. Many of my patients lack adequate access to food and housing, and many of those patients are LGBTQ folks or immigrants whose lack of access has more to do with discrimination than lack of funds. In addition, as a primary care physician in a state without adequate access to mental health care, I spend a significant portion of my visit time addressing anxiety and stress that are often driven my experiences of either direct or insidious discrimination and injustice. I love my patients and will continue to do I need to support their wellbeing, but I am frequently more a counselor and social worker than a physician. We need better social support services in this state, and SB 72 is a great step in that direction.

LGBTQ people are beautiful, courageous, and loving contributors to our families and communities. Our perspectives and experiences should be celebrated, not persecuted.

Thank you for your time,

Kaia Pearson, MD

From: jason jordet
To: Sen. Berta Gardner
Subject: LGBTQ equal rights
Date: Friday, March 31, 2017 11:14:39 AM

Ms. Gardner,
I am writing briefly today to voice my support, 100%, for your efforts to ensure that LGBTQ members of our community receive equal treatment under the laws of this state. Thank you for your efforts on this topic.
Jason Jordet
Anchorage, 99508

Sent from my iPad

From: Pastor Julia Seymour
To: Sen. Berta Gardner
Subject: SB 72
Date: Friday, March 31, 2017 3:38:22 PM

Sen. Gardner-

As an Anchorage-based clergy person, I would like to show my **support** of SB 72 and adding the words to the state's non-discrimination policies and structures. Particularly at a time when the federal government is pulling back from these protections, Alaska needs to stand firmly in support of all residents *and visitors* who seek equal opportunities and treatment in Great Land. I strongly encourage your committee and your colleagues to support this bill and move it forward into passage. Such protections are overdue and *do not go without saying*, but it is better late than never.

Thank you,

The Reverend Julia Seymour
Anchorage, AK

Lutheran Church of Hope

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(907,

From: joanie ak
To: Sen. Berta Gardner
Subject: Fwd: SB 72
Date: Friday, March 31, 2017 10:06:06 PM

On Mar 27, 2017, at 9:59 PM, joanie ak <joanieak@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Senator,
I am extremely concerned about SB 72.
As a lesbian living in Anchorage I have experienced horrible discrimination.
My partner and I lived in a 4-plex. I moved in first to start a new job and she moved in a month later when she got a job.
I chose the apartment because the landlord, his wife and young daughter lived directly above us. My thinking was with the landlord there it would be quiet, no drugs, loud parties and drinking.
When I got the apartment I told my landlord that another woman would be moving in later.
Long story short, the neighbors across the hall from us drank, even so it was ok for awhile. They took care of their 7 year old niece. The sister moved in with the neighbors across the hall. On court search we found all sorts of drug offensives, robbery, assault etc.
One day the man was in his apartment with only his neiece. He was screaming obscenities, racist and homophobic ugly things. We could here it all. When his wife got home from work we asked her to let him know that we do not want to hear that language and we were concerned about the their niece being exposed to this.
Next thing we hear is "I'm gonna kill those fucking dykes!!"
We called the police. The police were appropriate but after they left the landlord told us if we ever called the police again that he would raise OUR rent.
The landlord was a church going guy... Didn't drink, smoke or do drugs. He knew all about the felon sister living there. He knew exactly what this guy was screaming and yet he would rather expose his wife and daughter to drugs, drinking, and all of the foul drama that goes with than 2 quiet lesbians that paid their rent on time and never made trouble.
This is just one example. Fortunately for us we were able to move. Many people don't have this option.
I just want to live quietly and be a good neighbor and contribute to my community.
We need this protection.
I just want to be safe and know that me, and all lgbt people, are protected and safe.
Discrimination is a terrible thing.
I would have testified but I have a very important medical appointment.
Sincerely,
Joanie Fogel

From: Christians for Equality
To: Sen. Berta Gardner
Subject: Glad Supporting SB 72
Date: Friday, March 31, 2017 12:47:53 PM

Dear Senator Gardner and members of the 2017 Alaska Legislature,

Thank you so much for your consideration of SB72, a bill to provide discrimination protection to LGBT persons in Alaska. **We are in full support of this legislation.**

This bill aligns with faithful Christian values that affirm that no person should experience the sting of discrimination. As Christians we are called to advocate on behalf of marginalized communities and believe that this bill provides legal protections. We continue to pray that the Alaska Legislature passes this bill and that legal discrimination because of sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression ends. We also believe that discrimination is not an Alaskan value.

Christians for Equality is the social justice ministry of the Alaska Christian Conference, representing congregations, clergy and leaders from across the state.

Kind regards,

Steering Committee - Christians for Equality
Candace Bell, Rev. Michael Burke, Rev. Matt Schultz, Nora Ortiz Fredrick, Rev. Martin Eldred

Christians for Equality

christiansforequality@gmail.com
www.christiansforequality.org

"Raising up a faithful voice for peace, justice & equality rooted in the Hebrew prophets and the gospel of Jesus Christ."

Jody Simpson

From: Barbara McDaniel <'
Sent: Friday, March 31, 2017 2:16 PM
To: Senate Health and Social Services
Subject: Testimony SB72

Good afternoon:

I am writing in support of SB72 in the interest of strengthening our Human Rights statutes by including a prohibition against discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations, and banking based on gender identity, orientation or expression. My ethical compass is grounded in the universal ethical code that one should treat others as they would want to be treated, a common-sense approach to developing safer communities.

One's gender identity, orientation, and expression is harmless to others. There is no justification for someone to harmfully discriminate against another over purely personal, gender identity concerns.

Sincerely,

Barbara McDaniel

adler Lp

Wasilla, AK 99623

Jody Simpson

y

From:
Sent: Friday, March 31, 2017 1:23 PM
To: Sen. David Wilson; Sen.Natasha.vonImhoff@akleg.gov; Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Tom Begich
Cc: Sen. Berta Gardner; Laura Bonner
Subject: Support SB72 Written testimony

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Chair David Wilson ,Vice-chair Natasha von Imhoff, and committee members,

Elizabeth Peratrovich, a Tlingit, was the last to testify before the territorial Senate on the Anti-discrimination Act in 1945. She talked about herself, her friends, her children, and the cruel treatment that consigned Alaska Natives to a second-class existence. She described what it means to be unable obtain housing in a decent neighborhood because Natives weren't allowed to live there. She described how Native children felt when they were refused entrance into movie theaters or saw signs in shop windows that read "No dogs or Natives allowed". The territorial Senate passed the bill 11-5 for House Resolution 14, providing "...full and equal accommodations, facilities, and privileges to all citizens in places of public accommodations within the jurisdiction of the Territory of Alaska; to provide penalties for violation." That was in 1945.

Some Alaskans still experience those same feelings and lack of opportunities as it was for Natives back then. Employment opportunities, fairness in credit and financing practices, access to public accommodations and housing accommodations should be available to all.

Isn't it time for Alaska to make it unlawful to discriminate against all citizens no matter who they love? I believe it's time.

Please support SB72 and thank you for bringing this bill forward.

Laura Bonner
Anchorage, Alaska

Jody Simpson y

From:
Sent: Friday, March 31, 2017 12:43 PM
To: Sen. David Wilson; Sen. Natasha Von Imhof; Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Tom Begich
Subject: SB72

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

I am a 74 year old lesbian and my wife and I have been together 40 years, most of those years spent in the closet for fear of losing our public school teaching positions....a very real threat. Only after retiring, did we come out and live openly as a couple. We are deeply involved in the Anchorage LGBT community and advocate for equal protections. The protections we are seeking are those rights that all peoples in Alaska take for granted....not being refused services, housing, or employment simply because of who we are, in other words, basic civil rights.

As LGBT seniors, we want to feel safe going to health care providers or care facilities and know that we will be treated with respect and dignity.
We have been treated as second class citizens for far too long. It is time for the state of Alaska to treat all peoples equally.

Sincerely,
Julie Schmidt, Eagle River

Jody Simpson

From:	Debby Broneske <d... m>
Sent:	Friday, March 31, 2017 11:53 AM
To:	Sen. David Wilson; Sen. Natasha Von Imhof; Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Tom Begich; Sen. Berta Gardner
Subject:	SB 72 Civil Rights
Follow Up Flag:	Follow up
Flag Status:	Flagged

Dear Committee Members and Senator Berta Gardner,
Please support Senate Bill 72 to ensure civil rights to the LGBT community. As a member of the LGBT community I am thankful for the recent national legislation that was necessary to ensure the LGBT community received equal rights in the United States of America. It is time Alaska legislated the very important measures in SB 72 protecting the LGBT community from discrimination in areas of employment , housing, education and public services.
Thank you, Debby Broneske, Palmer, Alaska, 99645

Jody Simpson

4

From: Jeff Chen <jchen21@...
Sent: Friday, March 31, 2017 3:12 PM
To: Jody Simpson
Subject: SB72 Testimony

My name's Jeff Chen from Anchorage. I support SB72. I work closely with the Chinese community and with the youth conservation community throughout the state. Through the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, the Chinese community knows first hand what it's like to face legal discrimination. The LGBTQ community currently faces legal discrimination. I support SB72 because our LGBTQ family and friends should not have to face discrimination in the workplace, in public, or at home. I urge you to support SB72 as well. Thank you.

y

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Health Social Services Community
Committee Name

Committee on SB 72 Dated 3/31/17
Bill / Subject

Unlike many legislative packets that are brought forward, this addendum to the human rights statutes of Alaska should have no legs for [illegible] to stand on. Considering and protecting the rights of all citizens regardless of race, color, gender distinction, or creed. Inclusion and protection of all persons has been shown to increase economic progress, decrease crime, increase childhood development, and bring communities together. Alaska, also, has problems that other states do not have. We struggle to retain and attract talent, young families, and community builders. Young people in America overwhelmingly support the twin policies of equality and inclusion. By posting Alaska at the forefront of inclusive policy such as this, we position the state to grow as a vibrant, inclusive, and self sufficient community. If not we risk fading into economic ruin and obscurity

SIGNED: Erin Tilly
Testifier

self
Representing

Drive Fairbanks, Ak 99709
Address / Phone Number

y

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Health and Social Services
Committee Name

Committee on Senate Bill 72 Dated March 31, 2017
Bill /Subject

My name is Alyssa Quintyne from Fairbanks. I have been apart of and worked closely with serveral LGBTQ organizations, including UAF Gender and Sexuality Alliances I would like to thank Senator Gardner and Health and Social Services Comittee for this bill. This addition is exactly the long anticipated and well needed protections for the LGBTQ community. Not only that, but this is necessary and essential in every single aspect of our livelihood and safety. His essential for our students, k-12 and post secondary, to job security and workplace safety, for home ownership and other living accomadations, for the ability and access to public goods and services, and for our community of diversity and inclusivity If anything has taught about equal rights bills, it's to be specific about the people, "who" you're trying to protect. The bill's current definition of sexual orientation is a start, a very good start, but I would like to add the following for conditions: asexuality and pansexuality. This will further strengthen the inclusivity of this essential bill. Nothing warms my heart to think we have a future in Alaska where all of us will be treated with equality, respect, justice, and inclusivity. Thank you.

SIGNED: Alyssa Quintyne
Testifier

[redacted] UAF Gender and Sexuality Alliance
Representing

, Fairbanks Ak 99709
Address / Phone Number

y

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the _____
Committee Name

Committee on SB72 Dated 3/31/2017
Bill / Subject

Senators

As a Fairbanksan I ask you to support SB72. Honestly, this seems rather straightforward - it won't hurt our budget, our economy, or any people. ~~Indeed~~ Indeed, I feel it can do nothing but help our community become a safer and stronger place. Let's send a message to the rest of the country that despite being in the relative hinterlands of the country we are a modern welcoming place

Thank you

Lindsey Parkinson

SIGNED: _____ Lindsey Parkinson
Testifier

Myself
Representing

_____ Rd, Fairbanks
Address / Phone Number

y

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the _____
Committee Name

Committee on SB 72 Dated 3/31/11
Bill / Subject

I am a Former public School Teacher from Fairbanks. I am a lesbian. In my 30 years in Alaska, I have faced discrimination several times due to my sexual orientation. To those who say that discrimination based on sexual orientation is not a problem in Alaska I say this, "walk in my shoes". Now, more than ever, we need protection — the same afforded to others. LBGT people are not going to go away. Make life even harder for us is not going to change that. Do the right thing, pass SB 72. We (all Alaskans) are in this together & we must protect one group to protect all.

SIGNED: Lisa Slayton
Testifier

LBGT + All Alaskans
Representing

Fairbanks Alaska
Address / Phone Number (907)

y

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Health / Social service
Committee Name

Committee on Senate Bill 72 Dated March 31, 2017
Bill / Subject

I support, and encourage you to support, Senate Bill 72.

All people deserve and need to feel safe in our society — for work, home and in general.

I personally appreciate the diversity of cultures, races, LGBTQ etc in this country. — Such diversity makes us rich and better!

Please support SB 72 Thank you!

SIGNED: [signature] Marilyn Russell
Testifier

self
Representing

St.
Address / Phone Number Fbx AK 99701

907.7...

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ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Health + Social Services
Committee Name

Committee on SB 72 Dated 3·31·17
Bill / Subject

I urge you to enact and include the prohibiting the discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity or expression.

All of Alaska's citizens deserve protection as expressed in this legislation

SIGNED: Laurie Walton Laurie Walton
Testifier

Lay and member of Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Fbks
Representing

Fairbanks AK 99712
Address / Phone Number

Jody Simpson

From: Maya Heubner <maya.[illegible]
Sent: Friday, March 31, 2017 5:58 PM
To: Sen. Berta Gardner; Senate Health and Social Services
Subject: I support SB 72 (and you should too!)

Dear Senator and committee,
When I heard about Senate Bill 72, a bill to protect LGBTQIAP+ people in Alaska, I knew I had to show my support. I know a bill like this will not necessarily change the minds of certain people towards accepting all orientations/genders, but it will change their behavior and I believe eventually accepting people the way they are will be the norm. It's unacceptable to me that people are still allowed to discriminate on others based on something they can't change. It angers me that people often have to hide their true selves in fear of losing the right to live like everyone else. Not only is this morally wrong, but it doesn't make practical sense. For example, an employer might discriminate against someone perfect for a job and have to choose someone with less skill, which harms both the potential employee and the employer.
SB 72 is a step in the right direction to ensure 'justice for all' and I thank you for supporting this bill.

Sincerely,
Maya Heubner
Please save this for public record.

Jody Simpson

From: Elizabeth Wachel <elizabeth.[illegible]
Sent: Sunday, April 02, 2017 8:00 PM
To: Senate Health and Social Services
Subject: Senate Bill 72

Dear Senate Health and Social Services Committee,

My name is Elizabeth Wachel. I live in Fairbanks Senate District A and I would like to testify regarding Senate Bill 72. I am an Alaskan voter; I live and work in Alaska, and I was very worried when I discovered that there are no state laws protecting the LGBT community from discrimination including job and housing loss. The reality of being able to loose everything you have worked for because of who you are or who you are perceived to be is unacceptable. I understand that state employees have some additional protection from job loss due to discrimination, so why can't everyone in the state have these sorts of protections.

I am asking that you please move this bill from committee meetings to a vote in the state senate. Discrimination is real and every human being has a right to be treated with dignity and respect.

Thank you for your attention to this matter,

Elizabeth Wachel

Jody Simpson

y

From: Monte Lynn Jordan <mjresource...
Sent: Sunday, April 02, 2017 7:21 PM
To: Senate Health and Social Services
Subject: SB72

My name is Monte Lynn Jordan (Ms). I am not sure of my exact legislative district but my zip code is 99709. I have lived in Fairbanks since 1977 and several other places such as Glennallen, Delta, Anchorage dating back to 1966. All 3 of my children were born in Alaska and two graduated from UAF.

I was born in 1943 and graduated from high school in 1961. I have seen many changes during that time in how people in our country interact and accept each other. Many ways of relating to each other in the work place and in our communities have changed but more change is needed. I grew up believing that in the United States everyone was equal and would be treated that way. However I learned that wasn't exactly how our country (The Home of the Free) was, exactly. Many people have changed their attitudes toward one another, especially those who are not quite like them in various ways and beliefs. However, it is always uncomfortable and never easy to give up beliefs and behaviors that we grew up believing in. Nevertheless, if we are going to be a country that holds ourselves out to be against discrimination, to treat our citizens, all citizens, equally then we must live our convictions. I am not personally part of the LGBT community but I do have good friends that are.

Therefore, I support SB72 and believe it is time that there is progress now so SB72 can become the law in Alaska.

Thank you,

Monte L. Jordan
P.O. Box
Fairbanks,AK 99707

Jody Simpson

From: hillary Webber <hillary_v
Sent: Sunday, April 02, 2017 3:50 PM
To: Senate Health and Social Services
Subject: SB 72

To Whom It May Concern,
My name is Hillary Brandenburg, and I am a resident of Fairbanks, Alaska. I am e-mailing to notify the Senate Health and Social Services Committee of Alaska that I support the addition of "sexual orientation" and "gender identity and expression" to the state anti-discrimination statute. I believe this change is important for ensuring liberty and inclusion for LGBTQI Alaskans. Thank you for your time.
Sincerely,
Hillary Brandenburg

Jody Simpson

From: Amy Tanna <atann
Sent: Saturday, April 01, 2017 1:52 PM
To: Senate Health and Social Services
Subject: Bill SB 72

Dear Alaska Senators,

Thank you for collecting public testimony on this bill.

SB 72 provides an important and necessary addition to Alaska's existing anti-discrimination laws in order to ensure truly equal rights for our LGBTQ neighbors, friends, and families. I have lived in Alaska for almost five years and consider it my home; it is my sincere hope and belief that all residents of our state should be afforded the same rights and opportunities that I have been given regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity or expression. Thank you to Senator Gardner for introducing this legislation, and thank you to all of our legislators for considering this important update in order to ensure that we remain an inclusive and progressive state that truly represents freedom for all.

Sincerely,

Amy Tanna
Fairbanks, AK 99709

Jody Simpson

From: Gretchen Nelson <glnelson[illegible]
Sent: Monday, April 03, 2017 1:29 PM
To: Senate Health and Social Services
Cc: Sen. Berta Gardner
Subject: In support of HB 184 SB 72

I am writing in support of equaility for all and ask that you support these two peices of legistlation. Please convince your collegues as well, that this is the right thing to do. We must extend crucial protections that end descrimination toward those in our community who identify as lesbian, gay, trans gender, or bisexual. By embracing diversity in our communities we will improve our workforce, support families who contribute to our city and provide basic right to people who also live, work and play in our great state.

Thank you for your work to do the right thing.
Gretchen Nelson

Anchorage,AK 99508

Jody Simpson

From:	Barbara Belknap <barb
Sent:	Tuesday, April 04, 2017 12:04 PM
To:	Sen. Berta Gardner; Sen. David Wilson; Sen. Tom Begich; Sen. Natasha Von Imhof; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Dennis Egan; Representative.Cathy.Munoz@akleg.gov; Rep. Sam Kito
Subject:	Senate Bill 62 - Do not codify discrimination against LGBTQ Alaskans
Follow Up Flag:	Follow up
Flag Status:	Flagged

I live in Juneau, Alaska, and urge you to pass Senate Bill 62 and make it the law.

Martin Luther King said, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." We have a state Constitution that clearly affords justice towards all. It is simply and unequivocally stated in the Alaska Constitution in Article I, Section One on Inherent Rights, where it says, "…all persons are equal and entitled to equal rights, opportunities, and protection under the law."

What are we? Mississippi? South Carolina? Indiana? With an ugly history of discrimination against Alaska Natives, one would think legislators in Alaska would steer clear of singling out any group for discrimination. The trend in the United States is to legalize same sex marriage, not go out of our way to codify discrimination. Large corporations have pulled out of states that allow discrimination against LGBTQ citizens. I doubt the oil companies would do that, but the trend is not towards more discrimination, but for less. Thousands of Alaskans all over the state have gay family members. My sister is gay.

There is actually a website (movoto.com) that provides the names of communities that are LGBTQ friendly. Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau, Talkeetna, Dutch Harbor, Cold Bay, and Barrow are listed as "protective enclaves" for LGBT people. That is a good start. Please make it statewide.

Barbara Belknap

Juneau, AK

Jody Simpson

From: Lily Cohen <lily.ra
Sent: Tuesday, April 04, 2017 5:15 PM
To: Senate Health and Social Services
Subject: I support SB72

Dear Lawmakers,

I urge you to stop make it illegal to discriminate against people based on their sexual orientation or gender identity. Its absurd that this is still legal in Alaska.

I wish I could speak to you in person at the hearing on Monday the 10th. I will be on the east coast to celebrate my cousin's wedding! So I cannot say that I am sad to miss the hearing because I will be participating in a joyous event. I also would have come to the hearing last week, but alas, I was doing field work in Nome. This email will have to suffice.

Thank you!

Lily Cohen
Fairbanks Resident

Jody Simpson

From: Tully LaBelle-Hamer <blabe
Sent: Tuesday, April 04, 2017 4:25 PM
To: Senate Health and Social Services; Sen. Berta Gardner
Subject: SB 72 - Support

To the members of the Health and Social Services Committee,

Please support SB 72 and pass protections for LGBTQ Alaskans. No one should be fired or denied housing simply because of who they are.

Thank you,

Brendan Tully LaBelle-Hamer
Anchorage, AK

Jody Simpson

From: Anne Ruggles <a[illegible]g>
Sent: Wednesday, April 05, 2017 10:33 AM
To: Senate Health and Social Services
Subject: SB 72

To Members of the Senate Health and Social Services Committee:
This email is my written testimony in support of SB 72. It is time for us to treat everyone equally no matter their color, gender, or sexual orientation. If we don't do this we are losing the creativity, expertise, and hard work of many of our fellow citizens. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important bill. I urge you to pass the bill out of committee.
Sincerely,
Anne Ruggles

Fairbanks, AK

Anne Ruggles

Jody Simpson

From:	Paul Boling <paul.[illegible]n>
Sent:	Monday, April 03, 2017 10:22 AM
To:	Sen. David Wilson; Sen. Natasha Von Imhof; Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Tom Begich
Subject:	SB 72
Follow Up Flag:	Follow up
Flag Status:	Flagged

Greetings Senators David Wilson, Natasha von Imhof, Cathy Giessel, Peter Micciche, and Tom Begich:

I strongly believe it's the State's responsibility to defend the rights of every Alaskan and to safeguard them from discrimination.

I support SB 72.

Please stand up for the residents of our great State and disregard the position of religious organizations and individuals that promote or support discrimination.

Thank you for protecting the rights of every Alaskan,

Rev. Paul L. Boling

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Jody Simpson

From:	Larri Spengler <lspen
Sent:	Wednesday, April 05, 2017 4:09 PM
To:	Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Natasha Von Imhof; Sen. Tom Begich; Sen. David Wilson; Sen. Peter Micciche
Cc:	Sen. Berta Gardner; Sen. Dennis Egan
Subject:	yes on SB 72

Hello —

I strongly strongly support SB 72, the anti-discrimination bill.

In Alaska statutes, the protection of basic civil rights has been extended to a variety of classes including "race, religion, color, national ancestry, physical or mental disability, age, sex, marital status, change in marital status, pregnancy, or parenthood." Given the history of attacks on the civil rights of those within the LGBTQ community in Alaska, it is imperative that "sexual orientation, gender identity, or expression" be added to that list.

Please support quick and positive action on this bill.

Thank you.

Larri Spengler

Larri Irene Spengler

Juneau, Alaska 99801

From: Claire Stump
To: Sen. Berta Gardner
Subject: Please Support SB 72!
Date: Friday, March 31, 2017 12:33:12 PM

Dear Senator Gardner,
I am an Alaskan Christian woman urging you to support SB 72. As a bisexual woman, I know the value of anti-discrimination bills. They not only do they do their intended job of preventing discrimination, they also help me and the rest of the GLBT community feel whole and pure for who they are. Please help keep our state on the path that supports liberty and justice for all of its citizens by voting in favor of this bill. Help me to be able to live a peaceful life without fear of discrimation, a basic privilege that our heterosexual community gets to experience everyday.

In prayer,
Jennifer Claire Stump

Anchorage, AK 99508

From: Allison Mendel
To: Sen. Berta Gardner
Subject: SB 72
Date: Friday, March 31, 2017 9:22:30 AM

I know you are on the right page, but I urge you to support SB 72. It would be about time to make this change to state law. I have worked almost my entire professional career to get equal treatment of LGBT citizens. It has been an uphill battle, with some notable recent successes. But even our successes are still under attack. I have served LGBT client for more than 30 years, and have witnessed the unequal treatment we have received at the hands of state and local government. This unfairness is not only harmful to the victims, emotionally and economically, it is harmful to business, to the next generation, and to our society at large.

Allison Mendel

Mendel Colbert & Associates, Inc.

Anchorage, AK 99501

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From: Shanah Stone
To: Sen. Berta Gardner
Subject: SB 72
Date: Saturday, April 01, 2017 7:12:29 PM

Y

Dear Legislators:

Just as there should be no discrimination on race, sex, color, or religion, there should be no discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity, or expression.

I know this discrimination exists and needs protection. I've seen the pain some of these people go through working at API.

I myself have suffered discrimination as a female, as a Jew, as a democrat working for a right wing republican boss in a state job.

I can more than imagine the pain and suffering in others, I have seen it.

We can not be like other backwards thinking communities and states. This is the morally right and thing to do.

Sincerely,

Shoshanah Stone
Anchorge, AK 99515
907-

From: Rachel Lescher
To: Sen. Berta Gardner
Subject: SB 72
Date: Friday, March 31, 2017 2:28:27 PM

I am a pediatrician and I provide medical care for transgender children and adolescents. This population of people suffers from many negative health effects directly related to systemic discrimination and harassment leading to homelessness, joblessness, and poverty. With increased support from family, friends, and caregivers and with increased social support, individuals who identify as trans have improved mental and physical health, decreased suicide attempt rates, and improved social/economic outcomes. I stand in support of senate bill 72 to protect the rights of transgender individuals.

Please contact me if you would like to discuss this more.

Sincerely,

Rachel Lescher, MD

From: Alyse Galvin
To: Sen. Berta Gardner
Subject: SB 72
Date: Friday, March 31, 2017 3:43:57 PM

Dear Senator and committee,

I am writing in support of Senate Bill 72. Let's make sure every Alaskan is treated fairly!
There is evidence that many Alaskans have had difficulties finding employment, housing and in other areas, due to prejudice against their sexual orientation or gender orientation and that is wrong.

Two of my best friends from high school suffered severe depression and hid their orientation because 30plus years ago, there was little understanding and language for how they felt. Now we have language and we have pockets of acceptance but we must go further and have laws that protect them. We must help each person to feel they can be themselves, openly. This law will help ensure that every person has protections. The law can make sure that if a person is wronged, there will be a defense, that helps. It won't change the culture where there is disrespect and unkind thoughts toward Alaskans who identify as LGBQT right away but it will change the behavior of those with unkind thoughts. And in time, I hope more education and openness will bring about a much healthier culture of kindness and acceptance.

SB 72 is a step in the right direction to ensure 'justice for all' and I thank you for supporting this bill.

Most Sincerely,
Alyse Galvin

Anchorage, Alaska 99508
Please save this letter for public record.

Sent from my iPhone

From: Alexander Bergman
To: Sen. Berta Gardner
Subject: SB72
Date: Friday, March 31, 2017 10:06:52 AM

Hello Senator Gardner,

I would like to show my support of SB72.

As an index of human goodness and trustworthiness, the demographic uniqueness of the LGBTQIA+ community is not nearly so significant as the content of its individual characters, and therefore no more worthy of discrimination or regulation than any other set of demographics. I applaud and stand in solidarity with your pursuit of a more just social infrastructure, and thank you and your office for all your hard work.

Yours most sincerely,

Alexander Bergman

From: Daphne Coen
To: Sen. Berta Gardner
Subject: SB72
Date: Friday, March 31, 2017 12:45:52 PM

To whom it may concern:

I am a resident at .) Street Fairbanks, Alaska.

I was born and raised in Fairbanks, Alaska. I have raised 6 kids in this city. I am married to a man that I love and have shared a life with for 20 years but I have also loved women and transgender individuals. I was designated female at birth but struggled with that identification most of my life. I knew at a very young age that God had made a mistake when He made me female. I now embrace a non binary identity and use the pronouns they/them.

I may look just like you, raising a family going to work. I worked for 10 years at FMH in the lab. My background is important because you need to understand that we are doctors, lawyers, police, military service members, we bag groceries and we sweep floors. We are also shunned by our families, denied jobs, housing and the right to use the bathroom.

The beauty of Alaska and what brought so many people here was and still is the freedom. The freedom to be who you are, to pursue your dreams and goals. This is a place where we care for our neighbors because it is a matter of life and death. This protection is a matter of life and death. Please, care about your neighbors, care about us. Help protect our jobs and our homes, our children, your children.

Thank you,
D Coen

From:	Alavini
To:	Sen. David Wilson; Sen. Natasha Von Imhof; Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Tom Begich
Cc:	Sen. Berta Gardner
Subject:	Senate Bill 72 Letter of Support
Date:	Saturday, April 01, 2017 11:37:45 AM
Attachments:	SB72 Discrimination Ordinance Testimony.docx

Hello,

I didn't have a chance to testify on Friday but wanted to send you my written testimony.

Thank you Chairman Wilson and committee members for holding these hearings and allowing for public testimony. My name is Vini Lata of Juneau. I'm writing to encourage you to pass this SB72 out of Committe. You may have already been informed that Alaska has the highest suicide and alcohol/drug misuse rates in the county. Being transgender is a mental illness which will soon change, as a new edition of the International Classification of Diseases (ICD), it's the global codebook that influences national disease diagnostic manuals worldwide. The current version, ICD-10, has been around since 1990 and ICD-11 is expected to be approved in 2018. The goal for the declassification is to improve the access to healthcare but these Alaskan citizens still suffer from discrimination in housing, workforce which ties back to increased risk in negative behaviors to cope. Alaskan who are LGBT experience a lot of distress. Studies by the World Health Organization found distress and dysfunction were very powerfully predicted by the experiences of social rejection or violence that people had and they were not actually predicted by gender incongruence itself. Being LGBT doesn't have to equate to suffering. It's actually the external factors that cause the suffering: the societal stigma, the violence, and the prejudices. Remove them, and all that remains is the healthy individual. Young people who grow up in supportive environments" are not particularly distressed. They are receiving adequate social support, they come from families that are not treating them with stigmatization and violence, and they expect that there will be services available to them. So there's no reason for them to be distressed. Over and over again research has shown that those who experience LGBT discrimination may still activate negative coping strategies involving drug abuse, substance misuse, depression and suicide regardless of the stress they cause. This ties back to home for Alaska who also rates high in Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE) scores. I will be seeking letters of support from the State Suicide Prevention Council and the Alaska Mental Health Boards as well as the Governors Board of Alcohol and Drug Abuse. How I see it, discrimination, as long as it exist in society, contributes to the factors and risk behaviors that contribute to the mission of these two vital boards.

Thank you,

Alavini Lata

; Drive

Juneau, Alaska 99801

From: on behalf of Matt Schultz
To: Sen. Berta Gardner
Subject: Senate Bill 72
Date: Friday, March 31, 2017 12:49:05 PM

Greetings,
I am writing in support of Senate Bill 72. I believe that sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression should be to our existing state's anti-discrimination law, so that all of Alaska's citizens can have equal protection under the law.
Thank you,
Reverend Matthew D. Schultz
Pastor, First Presbyterian Church
Anchorage, AK

From: Jenn Wagaman
To: Sen. Berta Gardner
Subject: support for anti-discrimination bill
Date: Friday, March 31, 2017 11:25:33 AM

Hello-
I'm writing to express my support for the LGBTQ anti-discrimination bill you have put before the legislature. As a member of an LGBTQ, multi-racial family who works hard to contribute to and participate in our community, this bill is extremely important for me, my wife and our children. I know firsthand how discrimination affects those in our community, particularly our youth. Simple protections that allow us the same rights and access and all other people in our community are essential. I appreciate your support in this effort.

Jenn Wagaman

Fairbanks, AK 99709

From: Nora Ortiz Fredrick
To: Sen. Berta Gardner
Subject: Support for SB 72
Date: Friday, March 31, 2017 12:57:24 PM

Dear Senator Garder,

As a United Methodist church leader in Anchorage, I am glad to support your proposed SB72 which provides discrimination protection for the LGBT persons.

As a Christian, my faith requires that I speak out for people who have been marginalized by society. No person in Alaska or elsewhere should live with discrimination because of who God has made them to be. We honor all people for the gifts they bring to our community. Please add my voice to the many faithful Christians voices supporting this legislation. I am a member of the Christians for Equality coalition.

Thank you,

Nora Ortiz Fredrick

Anchorage, AK 99501

From: Carter, Richard J (LAW)
To: Sen. Berta Gardner
Subject: Support for SB 72
Date: Friday, March 31, 2017 2:35:43 PM
Attachments: image002.png

Good Afternoon,

Unfortunately, I am unable support this bill in person at the Capitol today because of responsibilities in my office. I would however like to send this brief but sincere email in support of the proposed anti-discrimination legislation that you are sponsoring. I believe that these rights and protections are not only constitutional, but they are fair and deserved human rights for all peoples of the LGBTQ community. Thank you for your work.

Sincerely,
Richard

Richard J. Carter
Law Office Manager I
Attorney General's Office – Juneau Civil Division
907.465.6722 – Direct Line
907.465.2520 – Fax

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From: Marcy Nadel
To: Sen. Berta Gardner
Subject: Testimony on Senate Bill 71
Date: Friday, March 31, 2017 10:14:25 AM

Dear Senator Gardner,

I am writing to register my strong support as a voting Alaskan for Senate Bill 71, and as I cannot testify in person today to share a personal story. As a pansexual woman I largely 'pass' as straight. In my first year at a new job in Fairbanks I was mistakenly outed by a friend at work, and faced an uncomfortable private meeting with my direct supervisor. Thankfully nothing came of it: although my supervisor did not approve of my lifestyle they agreed that my sexual orientation has no impact on my job qualifications or work ethic. However, in a different less welcoming workplace there may have been serious repercussions. If I had been fired, this would have been and remains perfectly legal. Passing SB 71 is not just a matter of symbolic importance, but of safety, security, and livelihood for countless Alaskans.

Thank you for you time,

Marcy Nadel

Fairbanks, AK

Jody Simpson

From: Dael Devenport <dae
Sent: Thursday, April 06, 2017 9:40 AM
To: Senate Health and Social Services
Subject: Alaska Senate Bill 72

Please support SB 72 to protect people from discrimination based on their sexual orientation, gender identity or expression. Homophobia is, as Dan Savage says, 'misogyny's snot-nosed little brother'. As I'm sure you know, we have incredibly high rates of violence against women in Alaska. Freedom from discrimination will allow us to start working towards safe, healthy communities for everyone. I urge you to pass the bill out of committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Dael Devenport
Anchorage, Alaska

With compassion for all beings

Jody Simpson

From: Nithya Thiru <nith
Sent: Wednesday, April 05, 2017 10:39 PM
To: Senate Health and Social Services
Cc: Sen. Berta Gardner
Subject: Expressing Support for SB72

To the Members of the Health and Social Services Committee,

As a lifelong Alaskan who believes firmly in equality and human dignity, I would like to express my support of SB72, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity or expression.

These same protections are now included in the University of Alaska's nondiscrimination policy, as well as Anchorage's municipal code. It was my honor to participate in the movements that made those policies possible.

In 2011, I testified to the University of Alaska Board of Regents in favor of protecting the rights of the LGBTQ+ community. At that time, I quoted Albus Dumbledore, a wizard from the Harry Potter series who also happens to be a gay man. During a turbulent and divisive period in wizarding history he said, "Difference of habit and language are nothing at all if our aims are identical and our hearts are open."

I think we all know that Alaska is stronger when we work together, when we are inclusive and most importantly, when we lead with love.

I was born and raised in Alaska. I was educated here, I work here and I continue to have a large stake in the future of this community. I also happen to be a queer person of color. This bill matters deeply to me, and I know it matters deeply to people across the state of Alaska. It is my hope that you pass this bill on to the senate floor, and that together we ensure the passage of an incredibly vital, and historically significant piece of legislation.

Sincerely,
Nithya Thiru

Jody Simpson

From: morganhostin
Sent: Wednesday, April 05, 2017 6:20 PM
To: Senate Health and Social Services
Subject: SB72

To whom it may be concerned,

My name is Morgan Hostina, I am a lifelong resident of Fairbanks, AK. I am writing to show my support for Senate Bill 72.

Over 200 years ago Thomas Jefferson wrote in the Declaration of Independence that "All men are created equal." I think that it is no far stretch to say that in the 21st century that it is absurd that one could not have protections from discrimination just because the person that they love is the same gender. We will have a happier, healthier and more productive society if we ensure same protections and opportunities to all peoples.

Thanks for your service and your consideration,

MDH

Jody Simpson

From: Judy <judyw7
Sent: Thursday, April 06, 2017 8:04 AM
To: Senate Health and Social Services
Subject: This email serves to provide written testimony in support of SB 72.

To Members of the Senate Health and Social Services Committee:

I was a young adult in Chicago in the 1970s, when there was an explosion of people who finally found the courage to let the world see who they really were. I have many, many friends...smart, artistic, talented, professional people...who are living authentic lives. I find it astonishing that some people -- almost FIFTY years later -- are still trying to limit their rights, still angry that those in the LGBTQ community aren't still hiding in closets.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important bill. I urge you to pass the bill out of committee.

Sincerely,
Judy Williams

Eagle River, AK 99577

Sent from my iPad