



Planned Parenthood Votes Northwest and Hawaii

Representative Josephson
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: House Bill 184

March 22th, 2017

Dear Representative Josephson,

On behalf of Planned Parenthood Votes Northwest and Hawaii, I write today to thank you for sponsoring House Bill 184, 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,

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