

As a resident of Anchorage for the past 48 years, I have known individuals who were discriminated against because of their sexual orientation or gender identity. There were no legal protection for such an Alaska resident; therefore, no attorney would take their discrimination case. In 2015 we in the Municipality of Anchorage extended legal protection for such individuals. Now it is time to extend those protections to all Alaskans.

Please support HB 184 when it is time to vote.

Thomas U Rachal Jr
Anchorage, Alaska

In 1945 the Territory of Alaska paved the way in civil rights by adopting the Alaska Anti-Discrimination Act. This was 20 years before the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Alaska has always proven itself to be a state that cherishes and supports its citizens' rights to privacy, independence, and "life, liberty and pursuit of happiness".

It is time that these rights now be extended to include sexual orientation and gender expression or identity. While our country as a whole has made great changes in attitude towards the LGBT+ community, they are still one of the most discriminated against. In the past year, especially, the number of hate crimes and acts of discrimination against gay, lesbian and transgender people has been on the rise. Sadly, under the current administration the LGBT+ community has been losing the protections and rights they have fought hard to win. Including the President's ban on transgender people serving in the military and the Secretary of Education backing off on investigating instances of discrimination against LGBT+ students in schools.

It is time, once again, for Alaska to show the rest of the country what it means to protect the freedoms of its citizens. It's time for Alaska to show that we care more about a person's character than their sexual or gender identity.

I implore the Alaska Legislature to continue the legacy of Elizabeth Peratrovich who was instrumental in passing the Anti-Discrimination Act almost 75 years ago. Please pass HB 184 and expand the current anti-discrimination statutes in Alaska to include protections against discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

Thank you for your time,
Chelsea Vukovich
Anchorage, AK

Thank you for scheduling a public hearing for HB 184 in the State Affairs Committee.

I fully support expanding the current anti-discrimination statutes in Alaska to include protections against discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

Thank you.

Gina Ashman
4150 Lakeridge Cir
Anchorage AK 99502

It's time to add sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression to the list of those protected from discrimination. Please vote in favor of HB184.

Sincerely,
Alison Carter
3012 Riverview Drive
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709

I support HB184. Please add "sexual orientation", gender identity, and gender expression" to our existing state anti-discrimination law.

Thank you,
Nancy Simpson
Juneau

Members of the House State Affairs Committee:

I am writing to express my support of HB 184 which adds to a variety of state statutes the prohibition against discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity/expression. I urge your support in favor of this bill. To hold otherwise is to allow a particular religious belief to trump equal rights for all.

Please add this email to the public testimony about this legislation.

Thank you.
Susan Olsen
Anchorage

Dear House State Affairs Committee members:

I'm writing to you today to express my support for HB184. This measure adds sexual orientation and gender identity to those groups protected statewide against discrimination.

I encourage you to pass this inclusive, forward-looking legislation. Promoting tolerance and nurturing diversity are two simple but all-important steps toward a bright future for Alaska.

Respectfully,

Cindy Lelake
Anchorage

In a world where you can be anything, be kind.