

Jody Simpson

From: linda heck [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 15, 2021 7:30 PM
To: Sen. David Wilson
Subject: SJR 4 concerns

Senator David Wilson:

Thank you for your service to Alaska and for considering my SJR 4 opposition concerns below.

I oppose SJR 4, regarding a constitutional amendment criminalizing abortion care in Alaska. SJR4 will diminish the Alaska Constitution's, and the Alaska Supreme Court's, privacy protections and guarantees of an Alaskan's right to abortion care.

Alaska has some of the highest rates of sexual, domestic, and child abuse in the country. Eliminating Alaska's constitutional rights regarding abortion care would place more Alaskans at risk every day. Consider sexual assault victim Ashley Johnson-Barr (Kotzebue), and the many unreported sexual assaults that occur in Alaska each day. Consider the family struggling to get out of poverty that has an unplanned pregnancy due to the inherent imperfections of birth control methods – even if perfectly using two methods simultaneously. Consider that Alaska prides itself on individual rights that this bill puts at risk. Without access to abortion care, these (and all) Alaskans would lose the personal right to manage their own health, lives and future.

I strongly oppose SJR 4 for its restrictions to abortion care and Alaskans' personal rights.

Sincerely,

Linda Heck
Fairbanks, AK 99709
House District 4/Senate District B

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

Jody Simpson

From: Lisa Bricker <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, March 15, 2021 8:32 PM
To: Sen. David Wilson; Sen. Shelley Hughes; Sen. Mia Costello; Sen. Tom Begich; Sen. Lora Reinbold; Sen. Elvi Gray-Jackson
Subject: Oppose SJR 4

I oppose SJR 4. If you, as members of the Health Social Services Committee and my district representative, oppose abortion you have several options available to you.

There's the fiscally conservative and socially responsible route of increasing prosecution of sexual offenses (our rates of sexual assault in this state should cause national shame) while also ensuring access to comprehensive sexual education, assault prevention courses, and contraceptives. Preventing a problem is always cheaper than dealing with the consequences.

There's the fiscally irresponsible path of ignoring all prevention and simply paying for emergency contraception after the fact, increased law enforcement, hospital care for those assaulted, legal bills for court prosecution, and mental health care. Obviously, there will also be costs associated with the children.

There's also the blinders version, which is what this bill represents: Simply deny last ditch options to those who have already been failed by their community at every level. And continue to maintain the status quo of horrific rates of sexual assault and a growing number of unprepared and ill-equipped mothers.

Please do NOT support this bill--take actual preventive action that will result in a lower number of abortions by taking the more difficult route of genuine prevention.

Thank you,
Lisa Bricker
Anchorage resident

Jody Simpson

From: laura sievert <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, March 15, 2021 8:35 PM
To: Sen. David Wilson
Subject: SJR 4

I oppose SJR 4.

This is an unconscionable legislation that takes away the rights of women to control their own bodies and their futures.

Certainly you know that abortion rates throughout the world remain about the same whether abortion is legal or not. When outlawed, women with the resources will go elsewhere; poor women and children suffer.

Please support women and children by making birth control and vasectomies readily available and cheap or free. Make sure that girls and boys receive good educations and are able to control their reproductive lives.

A ban on abortion does not mean fewer abortions. Spend our valuable legislative time and money doing something more productive than hurting women and children.

Laura Sievert
[REDACTED]

Kenai

Jody Simpson

From: Ann Rappoport [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 10:26 AM
To: Sen. Shelley Hughes; Sen. Mia Costello; Sen. Lora Reinbold; Sen. Tom Begich; Sen. David Wilson
Subject: Vote NO on SJR 4 which would take away Alaskan's rights!

Dear Senators –

I am appalled that once again, your valuable time is being taken up by a completely unnecessary, illogical, illegal, and harmful proposed piece of legislation: SJR 4. Contrary to the many decades upheld Supreme Court decision of Roe v. Wade and the Alaska Constitution's privacy clause, some are trying to again worm their way into a woman's body and her most personal choices.

This proposed amendment would set the stage to ban abortions in Alaska. If an Alaskan personally opposes an abortion, fine, that is their choice and their body. But others, particularly men, have no right to impose that very personal choice on the very personal choice of what another may find at some time a necessary choice for them.

Abortion is perhaps the most difficult choice a person ever makes . . . except perhaps in cases of rape, incest, other violence, or risk to the life of that woman. And then, are there people jumping up to care for the future life they may doom some woman to carry? If that fetus was created while someone was addicted to drugs or alcohol, does the state have resources ready to pay for the medical, emotional, and other tremendous social service costs that may result from a person being forced to carry a fetus to term that may be born in a condition requiring extensive medical or psychological or other interventions in order to thrive. If someone does not want to be pregnant, will they eat healthy, not smoke or drink, or do they even have access to healthy food and knowledge on how to produce a healthy baby?

Are those working so vehemently to prevent abortions also so enthusiastically speaking up to adopt the babies who would instead need to be adopted? Too many of these babies would each likely need hundreds of thousands of dollars in medical and social services care throughout their lives. That will be the expected fate of fetuses born addicted to drugs through a drug addicted mother, born with Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and subsequent learning, social, and emotional challenges, or those which may be brought up in an abusive, violent, or unloving atmosphere. Our Governor and Legislature have already significantly cut funding for health and social services – raising this amendment and its potential passage would result in a huge unfunded mandate.

Nor does there seem to be any concern for the poor woman who would be forced to go through this trauma, after making a tremendously difficult decision to pursue an abortion she cannot safely have. Why is the Legislature considering a bill that will push the government into a woman's body and her most personal decision? Our State Constitution has, from its inception, protected an individual's right to privacy, a right of which all Alaskans have been proud and protective since statehood. Thus, the Legislature has no business raising an amendment that would interfere with a woman's decision that has resulted from an accident, a mistake, or is the result of an act of violence or other abuse.

Your Committee time, and the time of the Legislature as a whole would be much better spent balancing our State budget, fully funding education for all our children, and addressing overall public safety, rather than on the personal issues of a few women. Shame on you if you vote to approve this bill. Please vote **no** on SJR 4 now, and do not consider raising or passing anything similar!

Sincerely,

Ann Rappoport

[REDACTED]

Anchorage, AK 99516

P.S. I regret that a previously scheduled medical appointment prevents me from presenting these comments at today's hearing on SJR 4.

Jody Simpson

From: Miriam Beck [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 15, 2021 2:18 PM
To: Senate Health and Social Services
Subject: Opposed to SJR4

My name is Miriam Beck and I am an Anchorage resident. I am utterly opposed to SJR4 and to all restrictions on abortion rights in our state. Our state constitution protects our rights to privacy. I do not want the state government involved in any decisions women make about their bodies.

Jody Simpson

From: Margo Waring <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, March 15, 2021 2:37 PM
To: Senate Health and Social Services
Subject: SJR 4 comment-please keep with bill file

RE: SJR 4 introduced by Sen. Hughes

Dear Senate Health and Social Services Committee members,

I urge you to oppose SJR 4. Our most basic liberty is to make decisions for our own bodies. The ultimate tyranny is government making all decisions about our bodies and our healthcare.

SJR opposes the Alaska Constitution's privacy protections and equal protection guarantees.

SJR 4 proposes to return us to the days of dangerous back street abortions, because, make no mistake, pregnancy terminations have always and will always be performed, the only difference is how safe the procedure is.

Margo Waring
[REDACTED]

Juneau, AK 99801

Jody Simpson

From: Katlian Stark <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, March 15, 2021 3:19 PM
To: Senate Health and Social Services
Subject: Emailed testimony for SJR 4

Hello,

My name is Katlian Stark and I live in Fairbanks, Alaska. Thank you taking the time to read my email.

I strongly oppose SJR 4, let me tell you why. Alaskans are rightly proud of our constitution, which contains robust privacy protections and guarantees of equal protection. These protections include safeguarding a person's right to choose whether and when to become a parent. It is one of my favorite things about Alaska; it's a thing people on all sides of the aisle can agree on. When people can make decisions that are best for their lives, families thrive, and we build communities where each person can participate with dignity and equality. Those are the guarantees enshrined into the U.S. and Alaska Constitutions – and those are guarantees we must protect. When someone decides to have an abortion, it should be safe, affordable, and free from punishment or judgment. SJR 4 would only endanger people's health. In fact, states with more abortion restrictions tend to have higher rates of maternal and infant mortality than those without restrictions, among other poor health outcomes.

I oppose SJR 4 because it seeks to alter our constitution, and endangers the lives of families and women all across Alaska. Again, thank you for your time.

-Katlian

Jody Simpson

From: Cindy Roediger [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 15, 2021 10:43 PM
To: Senate Health and Social Services
Subject: Please include my testimony for SJR 4

Please accept my testimony for SJR 4 below:

My name is Cindy Roediger
I'm representing myself and the Abolitionist Society of Anchorage and Mat-Su Valley

I'm opposed to SJR4

I want to remind Senator Hughes and all listening; The U.S. Constitution already trumps all federal or state court opinions, statutes, and state constitutions, and their courts, and laws;
-- The Fifth Amendment "No person shall be deprived of life without due process of law."
-- The Fourteenth Amendment "No State shall deprive any person of life without due process of law."
Providing equal protection for every person is NOT optional.

You all swore an Oath or Affirmation to support the US Constitution. May I remind you of Article VI which declares that the constitution itself, and not the federal court's opinion of it, is the supreme law of the land. Y'all need to stop trying to use Roe as justification for your refusal to do your duty.

Senator Shelley Hughes makes it clear in her Sponsor Statement to SJR4, that she wants the ability to have the same compromised laws applied to Alaskans as other states who have regulated the murder of their preborn. Regulating Murder is sin.

The time for the regulation of who, what, when, where, why, and how, Alaskan mothers are permitted to murder their children is OVER. You must act with urgency on this matter! Do not waste time on this bill to put a vote to the people to amend the Alaska Constitution. All this amendment will do is ensure that the murder of the preborn will continue. If we truly want to "protect unborn babies" write a bill to Abolish Human Abortion providing Equal Protection and Equal Justice for all Alaskans... and include the defiance of any and all opinions to the contrary.
God is watching!
STOP REGULATING CHILD SACRIFICE!!!

Sent from Cindy's iPhone

Exodus 23:2 (CSB)
"You must not follow a crowd in wrongdoing. Do not testify in a lawsuit and go along with a crowd to pervert justice.

Proverbs 24:9 (CSB)
A foolish scheme is sin, and a mocker is detestable to people.

Proverbs 24:10 (CSB)

If you do nothing in a difficult time, your strength is limited.

Proverbs 24:11 (CSB)

Rescue those being taken off to death, and save those stumbling toward slaughter.

Isaiah 10:1 (CSB)

Woe to those enacting crooked statutes and writing oppressive laws

Isaiah 10:2 (CSB)

to keep the poor from getting a fair trial and to deprive the needy among my people of justice, so that widows can be their spoil and they can plunder the fatherless.

Amos 5:7 (CSB)

Those who turn justice into wormwood also throw righteousness to the ground.

Micah 6:8 (CSB) Mankind, he has told each of you what is good and what it is the LORD requires of you: to act justly, to love faithfulness, and to walk humbly with your God.

James 1:27 (CSB)

Pure and undefiled religion before God the Father is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself unstained from the world.

Jody Simpson

From: Cheryl Keepers [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 8:43 AM
To: Senate Health and Social Services
Subject: SJR 4

Dear Senators,

I am deeply concerned by SJR4. We should be upholding the privacy protections and guarantees of equal protection in our state constitution, not opening a door to their dismantling.

The goal of SJR 4 is clear: to erode the Alaska Constitution's privacy protections and equal protection guarantees and to dismantle people's ability to get safe, legal abortion care.

Alaskans are rightly proud of our constitution, which contains robust privacy protections and guarantees of equal protection. These protections include safeguarding a person's right to choose whether and when to become a parent.

The Alaska Supreme Court has affirmed the constitutional protections by making clear that reproductive rights, including the right to abortion, are fundamental rights.

When someone decides to have an abortion, it should be safe, affordable, and free from punishment or judgment. SJR 4 would only endanger people's health. In fact, states with more abortion restrictions tend to have higher rates of maternal and infant mortality than those without restrictions, among other poor health outcomes.

I oppose SJR4 and urge you to do the same.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Cheryl Keepers
[REDACTED]
Fairbanks AK 99707

Jody Simpson

From: Robin Beebee <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 9:24 AM
To: Senate Health and Social Services; Sen. Tom Begich
Subject: OPPOSE SJR4, keep government out of private decisions

Dear Senators,

My name is Robin Beebee and I live in Anchorage, I am a constituent of Senator Begich.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition to SJ4, the bill to amend the Alaska State Constitution to take rights away from pregnant people.

I oppose SJ4 for many reasons. The first is that it is not the place of the government to tell women and girls that they must carry and give birth to a baby. Alaskans have known this for a long time. Abortion has been legal in this state since before Roe vs. Wade was decided.

Politicians don't know the first thing about a pregnant person's personal situation, her ability to safely carry a child, finish school, provide for her family. It is the ultimate example of government overreach to legislate what happens INSIDE a person's body. Given the hysteria and outrage some on this committee have shown over being asked to cover their nose and mouth with a small piece of material to avoid spreading infected respiratory droplets that have killed over a half million Americans, it is unbelievable that they would suggest that it is okay for the government to mandate what a certain class of Alaskans can and can't do with their innermost organs.

Secondly, bans on reproductive healthcare result in some Alaskans having more rights under the Constitution than others, which violates the concept of equal protection. People who are not pregnant have the right to take prescription medication and to have medical care in consultation with their healthcare provider without government interference. Men or boys who impregnate women do not lose any autonomy over their body. Women and girls with unwanted pregnancies and financial means can travel to obtain a safe and legal abortion, while those without the means are left with desperate measures.

Thirdly, there is little evidence globally that banning abortion leads to fewer abortions, and much evidence that it leads to higher maternal and neonatal mortality and poorer health outcomes for women. Consider that Latin America has very few circumstances where abortion is legal, but 3 times the abortion rate as the United States. The death toll from non-medical abortion attempts is already rising in parts of this country where abortion care is hard to access.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify in opposition to this proposed legislation. Keep freedom for ALL Alaskans in the Alaska Constitution.

Sincerely,
Robin Beebee

Jody Simpson

From: Vivian Underwood <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 10:12 AM
To: Senate Health and Social Services
Subject: Fw: Senate Joint Resolution 4 Hearing Testimony

To the Alaska SHSS Committee:

Please accept my testimony on Senate Joint Resolution 4, that attempts to change the Alaska Constitution to allow for regulation of abortion.

PLEASE DO NOT PASS THIS RESOLUTION! By inserting this into the Constitution, it will de facto recognize abortion as an acceptable practice, forever enshrined. Abortion is the shedding of innocent life, and deprives the unborn of equal protection under the law, and allows for **HORRIFIC** acts performed on defenseless small persons. **PLEASE STOP THIS BEFORE IT GOES ANY FURTHER.**

Thank you for accepting my testimony,

Vivian Underwood
[REDACTED]
Anchorage, AK 99515
[REDACTED]



Senate Health & Social Services Committee
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99081

Re: SJR 4 – Constitutional Amendment: Prohibit Abortion/Funding

March 16, 2021

Dear Chair Wilson and Members of the Senate Health & Social Services Committee:

Planned Parenthood Votes Northwest and Hawai'i ("PPVNH") writes today in strong opposition of SJR 4, an extreme resolution that would permanently amend our Constitution and pave the way for banning safe and legal abortion. Alaska is experiencing public health crises on multiple fronts, including an ongoing pandemic, a rising sexually transmitted infection ("STI") crisis, and pervasive structural racism; yet instead of helping people get the care they need and stay afloat during COVID-19, lawmakers are spending their time waging an all-out attack on abortion. With the budget in crisis and people rebuilding as the state recovers from COVID-19, we call on legislators to reject this draconian attack on our health care and access to safe and legal abortion care by voting no on SJR 4.

PPVNH provides high-quality, cost-effective health care, including abortion care. We work every day to make sure every person has a safe, compassionate, respectful experience and we advocate for all people in Alaska to have equitable access to sexual and reproductive health care. SJR 4 does the opposite and distracts us from real strategies aimed at reducing unintended pregnancy.

Alaska already has abysmal health outcomes because of limited access to sexual and reproductive health care. Alaska is a nationwide leader in poor indicators of sexual and reproductive health, with some of the highest rates of unintended pregnancy, STIs, and sexual assault in the country.¹ Alaska is also facing a provider shortage, with people living in rural and remote areas struggling to access lifesaving reproductive health care.² And Alaska's sexual and reproductive health outcomes are only getting worse – in 2019, the Trump Administration's unethical gag rule forced many health care providers in Alaska out of the Title X program and many people in both urban and rural Alaska are now facing limited sexual and reproductive health services. With the Governor threatening to further limit health care funding on top of these Title X cuts, the integrity of Alaska's family planning safety net is already in grave jeopardy.

¹ Power to Decide, *Alaska Data* (2021). Available at: <https://powertodecide.org/what-we-do/information/national-state-data/alaska> (highlighting that 48 percent of pregnancies in Alaska are unplanned); Center for Disease Control and Prevention, 2018 STD Surveillance Report: State Ranking Tables (2019). <https://www.cdc.gov/std/stats18/2018-Surveillance-Report-EMBARGOED-FINAL-State-Ranking-Tables.pdf> (stating that Alaska ranks highest per capita among state for chlamydia, second highest for gonorrhea, and is facing a resurgence of syphilis); Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, Complete Health Indicator Report of Adverse Childhood Experiences: Sexual Abuse (2017).

http://ibis.dhss.alaska.gov/indicator/complete_profile/xacesexs.html (concluding that Alaska has the highest rate of reported rape in the country – almost three times the national average – and that child sexual assault in Alaska is estimated to be the highest in the country, with nearly 14 percent of people in Alaska experiencing some form of childhood sexual abuse).

² Alaska Department of Health and Social Services: Division of Public Health, *Health Professional Shortage Area Designations* (2021). Available at: <http://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/HealthPlanning/Pages/primarycare/hpsa.aspx>.

Given this appalling public health data, the provider shortage, and an underfunded family planning program, Alaska lawmakers need to focus on improving health outcomes, not restricting access to care even further. This resolution is just the latest in a troubling nationwide trend of extreme abortion bans. So far in 2021, state legislators have introduced 384 antiabortion bills in 43 states, some of the highest rates of abortion bans introduced since *Roe*.³

Outlawing abortion through SJR 4 would put pregnant people's health and lives at great risk. People denied a wanted abortion are more likely to suffer negative health outcomes – including increased maternal and infant mortality⁴ – and are more likely to stay tethered to abusive partners.⁵ Those denied access to abortion care are also more likely to fall into poverty and be less financially secure, which decreases their overall health.⁶ With Alaska's flagging economy and limited resources, our communities cannot afford policies that further harm their pocketbooks and their health. Furthermore, while abortion is one of the safest medical procedures in the United States, history tells us that banning or restricting funding for abortion care undoubtedly harms health and risks lives, especially for historically marginalized communities. We know this because, before *Roe*, thousands of people lost their lives to unsafe abortions.

The impact of SJR 4 would be predominantly felt by those who already experience barriers to reproductive health care in Alaska. This includes people with low incomes, BIPOC people (Black, Indigenous, people of color), immigrants, LGBTQ people, people with disabilities, young people, those who live in rural areas, and those whose identities intersect. While increased access to birth control and family planning services has substantially reduced unintended pregnancies in Alaska, rates of unintended pregnancy remain elevated in communities of color due to factors such as structural racism and discrimination that create income inequality and barriers to accessing health care. These communities, including American Indian and Alaska Native people, have endured a history of state-controlled reproduction, coercion, and denial of bodily autonomy. Banning abortion in the state would continue this legacy by denying people of color the ability to meaningfully consider all options available to them, threatening their health and lives in the process.

Furthermore, people in Alaska do not want SJR 4. Alaska voters are coming out stronger than ever in their support for increased access to reproductive health care, including abortion care - nearly 80 percent of Alaska voters say they would have doubts about a law that bans abortion care, according to a 2019 poll conducted by Planned Parenthood Votes Northwest and Hawai'i.⁷ Alaska people know that access to abortion is critical to their health, the health of their families, and the stability of their

³ Nash, Elizabeth. The Danger Ahead: Early Indicators Show States Will Be the Main Abortion Battleground in 2021, *Guttmacher Institute* (March 2021). Available at: <https://www.guttmacher.org/article/2021/03/danger-ahead-early-indicators-show-states-will-be-main-abortion-battleground-2021>

⁴ Advancing New Standards in Reproductive Health, *The Turnaway Study*, The Harms of Denying a Wanted Abortion (April 16, 2020). Available at: https://www.ansirh.org/sites/default/files/publications/files/the_harms_of_denying_a_woman_a_wanted_abortion_4-16-2020.pdf; Gerds C, Dobkin L, Foster DG, & Schwarz EB. Side effects, physical health consequences, and mortality associated with abortion and birth after an unwanted pregnancy. *Women's Health Issues*, 26(1):55-59 (Nov. 2015). Available at: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1049386715001589>

⁵ Bixby Center for Global Reproductive Health & Advancing New Standards in Reproductive Health Care, *Turnaway Study* (2019). Available at: https://www.ansirh.org/sites/default/files/publications/files/turnaway_study_brief_web.pdf

⁶ *Ibid* (noting that women denied an abortion had almost four times greater odds of a household income below the federal poverty level and three times greater odds of being unemployed)

⁷ Buxton, Matt. Poll: Majority of Alaskans oppose abortion ban. *The Midnight Sun* (Feb. 2020). Available at: <https://midnightsunak.com/2020/02/26/poll-majority-of-alaskans-oppose-abortion-ban/>

communities. With the balance of the federal Supreme court now turned against abortion rights, we face the threat of abortion care being dismantled even more aggressively and systematically. **It is more important than ever for the Alaska Constitution to protect our right to obtain or reject medical treatment without government interference into our personal, private decisions.**

Instead of giving people in Alaska the support they need to rebuild from COVID-19 – like a living wage, unemployment benefits, and paid sick leave – lawmakers are focused on the wrong thing: limiting access to health care. The Alaska Constitution should and must continue to protect our right to obtain or reject medical treatment without government interference. PPVNH urges the committee to reject SJR 4, and instead be courageous by devoting your time and energy to proactive policies that actually improve public health, help pregnant people, and ensure access to sexual and reproductive health care across Alaska.

Sincerely,

Morgan Lim
Alaska Government Relations Manager
Planned Parenthood Votes Northwest & Hawai'i

Jody Simpson

From: Laura Green <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, March 11, 2021 6:23 PM
To: Sen. David Wilson; Sen. Shelley Hughes; Sen. Mia Costello; Sen. Lora Reinbold; Sen. Tom Begich
Cc: Sen. Elvi Gray-Jackson
Subject: SJR 4 testimony

Senators,

I respectfully submit my strong opposition to SJR 4.

I do not support any amendment to the Alaska Constitution that does not protect fully our right to obtain or reject medical treatment without government interference into our personal, private decisions. Senator Hughes' SJR 4 would amend the Alaska Constitution to eliminate our constitutional right to an abortion. Termination of a pregnancy is often a necessary and vital form of reproductive health care for women. I personally know several women - women who desperately wanted to start or expand their own families - that needed to have an abortion as a valid health procedure to protect their own lives. One of whom without abortion, would have had to carry a fetus with no brain to term at a great personal mental health cost to her, her husband, and their toddler at the time. Given that you cannot create legislation that accounts for all the myriad of valid cases where abortions should be accessible, we must continue to trust Alaska women and doctors. The Alaska Constitution was purposefully founded with strong protections of our right to privacy as Alaska citizens, there is nothing - especially not any serious public health driver - that indicated we should lessen those rights.

Thank you,
Laura
Anchorage AK resident (99517)

Jody Simpson

From: Katherine Ellison <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, March 11, 2021 5:57 PM
To: Sen. David Wilson; Sen. Shelley Hughes; Sen. Mia Costello; Sen. Lora Reinbold; Sen. Tom Begich
Subject: SR 4

Hughes, Wilson, Reinbold, Begich and Costello,

I am a third generation Alaskan, I am also a mother to 3 daughters. What Hughes is proposing through SJ 4 is an insult to Alaskan's, not just women. I suggest you 4 really look at what average everyday Alaskan's are going through right now. Rehashing a topic that our Alaska Supreme Court has already ruled on is not just irresponsible, it's insulting.

My husband and I didn't need Wilson, Hughes, Reinbold or Costello in the doctor's office with us, and my daughters certainly don't either. Especially when Reinbold can't even be bothered to follow simple health protocols that are required of Anchorage Kindergarteners.

Alaskan's need the Health Social Service Committee to actually do the work that is necessary during a global PANDEMIC, not rehashing the failed culture wars of the 1990's. Be better and work on issues that Alaskan's need during 2021. Good Grief.

Katherine Ellison
[REDACTED] Anchorage Ak,
99502

Jody Simpson

From: Alana Vilagi [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 11, 2021 5:49 PM
To: Sen. David Wilson
Subject: SJR 4

Hello Senator Wilson,

It is imperative that we protect safe access to legal abortion care in Alaska. Women have a right to decide what is best for their bodies. Alaska is a state that values independence, and bodily autonomy should be no exception. Please protect our rights to a choice and oppose SJR 4.

Thank you,
Alana Vilagi
Fairbanks, AK

Jody Simpson

From: Shayla Agli [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, March 12, 2021 10:32 AM
To: Sen. David Wilson
Subject: Abortion ban

Dear senator David,
if you agree with the proposed abortion ban you will be turning your back on a lot of Alaskan women. It is not your decision or anybody's else's decision to decide what a woman can and can't do her body it's up to the person who inhabits the body. Alaska has a high rates of sexual assault banishing abortion would force women who get impregnated by their rapist to keep those children they didn't choose to have . It would also cause an arise in unsafe alternatives for abortion. The abortion ban would cause more harm than good, in the first 3 months that "baby" is nothing more than a clump of cells. Are you really going to protect a clump of cells rather than the women of Alaska ? Keep abortion legal so women can have access to safe abortions for what ever reason they may have.

Thank you for the consideration,
Shayla Agli from anchorage Alaska.

Jody Simpson

From: Karen Murdock [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, March 14, 2021 3:48 PM
To: Senate Health and Social Services
Subject: SJR4

Dear Committee Members,

I am vehemently opposed to a constitutional amendment limiting the funding of abortions. Our Alaskan constitution has been upheld in the courts, giving Alaskan women the right to choose. This proposed amendment is discriminatory against lower income women. Protect our constitutional rights and do not proceed with the proposed amendment.

Thank you,
Karen Murdock
[REDACTED]
Homer, AK. 99603
[REDACTED]

Jody Simpson

From: Lili Misel [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, March 13, 2021 9:22 AM
To: Senate Health and Social Services
Subject: Public comment - SJR 4

Dear members of the Health & Social Services committee,

I have read SJR 4 which is being discussed on Tuesday, March 16th. The bill requesting a change to the Alaska Constitution to restrict abortion rights and encourage the committee to reject this bill.

First, the Alaska Constitution expressly protects the privacy rights of Alaskans. To chip away at those rights through this bill is undermining the freedoms that so many politicians cry out against. Abortion is legal in the United States, and is a private decision between a woman and her doctor. Do not work to erode a woman's right to control her own health decisions for herself and her family.

Second, under Alaska state law, Alaska Medicaid program must, under certain circumstances, provide funding for abortions for women who receive Alaska Medicaid but for whom the abortion is not covered by the federal Medicaid program. Abortion decisions by a woman and her doctor are not made lightly and decisions about women's health should not be made by politicians or those who do not know a woman's circumstance or health risks.

I encourage all of you to not forward this bill and support the health rights of women to make their own decisions on their health.

Lili Misel
Fairbanks

Jody Simpson

From: Joan Clover [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, March 13, 2021 7:33 PM
To: Sen. David Wilson; Sen. Shelley Hughes; Sen. Mia Costello; Sen. Lora Reinbold; Sen. Tom Begich
Subject: SJR 4

Senators Wilson, Hughes, Costello, Reinbold, and Begich:

While I sincerely favor birth control over abortion--who wouldn't--I adamantly oppose the government telling women what they can and cannot do with their bodies. Enduring an unwanted pregnancy is both taxing to the body and mind and no one should be compelled to be a broodmare against their will.

Thank you for considering my opinion.

Sincerely, Joan Clover

Jody Simpson

From: Kasey Casort [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, March 13, 2021 3:47 PM
To: Sen. David Wilson
Subject: Please Oppose SJR 4 - Protect Alaskan Abortion Access

Hi Senator Wilson & Staff,

I hope you are all doing well and staying safe during these scary times. I just got my first vaccine dose this morning and it was such a relief!

I'm writing today to urge you to oppose SJR 4, which would ban all abortion care in Alaska if *Roe v Wade* were overturned. Abortion is essential health care for Alaskans— it gives us fundamental agency over our lives, careers, family choices, and our safety. I'm writing today as an Alaskan, a voter, a woman, and a survivor. I know that with your experience in health care you know that when legal abortion is eliminated abortions don't stop happening, they just become more dangerous. When abortion is regulated like other health care procedures, it is safe. Please oppose SJR 4 and keep the government out of our bodies and choices.

Thank you for your time!

Best,
Kasey Casort

Jody Simpson

From: Analise [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, March 12, 2021 5:31 PM
To: Sen. David Wilson
Subject: Opposing SJR 4

Dear Senator Wilson,

I am writing the Senate Health and Social Services Committee to express my strongest possible opposition to the recently proposed amendment to the State Constitution, SJR 4 relating to abortion.

Access to safe medical treatment is a fundamental human right and no person, group, or entity, including the government of the State of Alaska, has the right or responsibility to interfere in private healthcare decisions.

Please protect our citizens and keep abortion care safe and legal in Alaska.

Thank you,
Analise Hartnett Goedeke
Homer, AK