



February 26, 2022

Representative Ivy Spohnholz
Co-Chair, House Labor & Commerce Committee
State Capitol Room 406
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: Opposition to HB 58 (HSS)

Dear Rep. Spohnholz:

Alaska Family Action submitted extensive written testimony, dated May 11, 2021, explaining our reasons for opposing House Bill 58. A significant amount of time has elapsed since the House Labor & Commerce Committee last considered HB 58, and we wish to reiterate the problems we discern with this legislation:

- 1) **Coverage of abortion-inducing devices and drugs:** Although HB 58 has been described as a bill to expand access to “contraceptives,” the coverage mandate includes drugs and devices that destroy the life of an early-developing human embryo. Specifically, HB 58 would require coverage for drugs such as Ella (ulipristal acetate), Plan B (levonorgestrel), and the Copper IUD, which act to prevent the implantation in the uterine wall of an already-developing, genetically unique, human embryo. **HB 58 would force Alaskans who are opposed to abortion to subsidize, through their insurance premium dollars, drugs and devices that terminate human life at the earliest stages of development.**
- 2) **Eliminates consumer choice:** HB 58 would impose a sweeping, “one-size-fits-all” mandate to cover elective drugs and procedures—regardless of whether the covered services are *relevant to* or *desired by* the person or persons covered by the plan. Even though only a *minority* of Alaska health care consumers would likely utilize the mandated contraceptive and sterilization coverage, the provisions of the bill “globalize” the financial responsibility for providing these elective services. Proponents of HB 58 argue the measure is about expanding “choice.” **But many Alaskans, if they had a choice, would choose not to subsidize the voluntary lifestyle choices of others.**
- 3) **Parental rights:** Because the mandate in HB 58 applies to dependents—which would include minor children—we are concerned that HB 58 would allow teenage minors to receive contraceptives, or even sterilization procedures, without a parent’s knowledge, even though the parents are paying for the procedures through their premium dollars. **We’ve repeatedly questioned how HB 58 would interface with AS 25.20.025 (Examination and treatment of minors) and have received no clear answers.**

- 4) **Religious exemption is wholly inadequate:** The so-called religious exemption in HB 58 follows the flawed template of the federal Obamacare contraceptive mandate. It does not offer adequate protection for those who object to the mandate on grounds of religious beliefs or conscience. The exemption is *extremely narrow*—essentially including only churches, associations of churches, or the “exclusively religious activities of any religious order.” These categories *exclude* many entities, both in the non-profit and for-profit sectors, that serve a religious purpose.

Several other states with mandates to cover contraceptives and/or sterilizations have adopted robust religious exemptions that respect the diversity of thought that exists on this issue. For example, the law in Missouri provides the following:

“No employer, health plan provider, health plan sponsor, health care provider, or any other person or entity shall be compelled to provide coverage for, or be discriminated against or penalized for declining or refusing coverage for, abortion, contraception, or sterilization in a health plan if such items or procedures are contrary to the religious beliefs or moral convictions of such employer, health plan provider, health plan sponsor, health care provider, person, or entity.” (*RS Mo, Section 191.724*)

Alaska Family Action takes no position on contraception *per se*, but we oppose the specific mandate in HB 58 because it subverts religious freedom, undermines consumer choice, and threatens the right to life through the forced subsidization of drugs and devices that act as abortifacients. We respectfully urge you to oppose this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Minnery", is written over a light purple rectangular background.

Jim Minnery, President
Alaska Family Action

From: Ellie Hogenson [REDACTED]

Sent: Sunday, February 27, 2022 4:19 AM

To: Rep. Grier Hopkins <Rep.Grier.Hopkins@akleg.gov>; Rep. Ivy Spohnholz <Rep.Ivy.Spohnholz@akleg.gov>; Rep. Zack Fields <Rep.Zack.Fields@akleg.gov>

Subject: In support of HB 58

House labor and Commerce committee,

I am writing in support of HB 58, important legislation to ensure sterilization and contraceptive access for Alaskan patients.

The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) supports statewide efforts to increase access to contraception. According to the ACOG Committee Opinion, universal coverage of contraceptives is cost effective and reduces unintended pregnancy and abortion rates (<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/23168752/>). Additionally, birth control can be important medicine, with noncontraceptive benefits including decreased bleeding and pain with menstrual periods and reduced risk of gynecologic disorders, and contraceptives have been associated with a decreased risk of endometrial and ovarian cancer.

This legislation is especially important in our state with the geographic barriers to pharmacies and clinics that patients experience. Missing just one or two tablets of birth control pills, or failure to promptly restart contraceptive ring or patch methods on the day these are due can be associated with contraceptive failure. As insurance protections are being taken away, or at risk of being taken away, this legislation is important to the daily lives of Alaskan patients.

ACOG Committee Opinion: <https://www.acog.org/clinical/clinical-guidance/committee-opinion/articles/2015/01/access-to-contraception>

Thank you,

Eiluned Hogenson, MD, MPH

Alaska Chair of American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG)
Chena Health clinic in Fairbanks, AK, owner and staff physician

Personal address:

[REDACTED]

Fairbanks, AK 99709

From: [Carol szopa](#)
To: [House Labor and Commerce](#); [Rep. Zack Fields](#); [Rep. Ivy Spohnholz](#); [Rep. Calvin Schrage](#); [Rep. Liz Snyder](#); [Rep. David Nelson](#); [Rep. James Kaufman](#); [Rep. Ken McCarty](#)
Subject: Family opposes HB 58
Date: Monday, February 28, 2022 9:56:27 AM

- Our family opposes HB 58 because it includes drugs and devices that cause early abortions. We object to subsidizing such practices through our health premium dollars.
- HB 58 imposes a “one-size-fits-all” policy that takes away our ability to choose health plans that meet our needs, and forces us to subsidize elective services which we may not want or need.
- HB 58 violates the religious freedom of individuals and many faith-based organizations and businesses who object to providing or receiving the services which HB 58 makes compulsory.

Carol Szopa RN

From: [Irene Quednow](#)
To: [House Labor and Commerce](#); [Rep. Zack Fields](#); [Rep. Ivy Spohnholz](#); [Rep. Calvin Schrage](#); [Rep. Liz Snyder](#); [Rep. David Nelson](#); [Rep. James Kaufman](#); [Rep. Ken McCarty](#)
Subject: HB 58 Public Testimony
Date: Monday, February 28, 2022 1:36:48 PM

Dear Representatives,

I oppose HB 58. It is a bill that includes elective treatments and procedures in health plans without a choice to opt in or out, thus forcing people and businesses/organizations to pay for services that they might not want or support. As the word "elective" means "permitting or involving a choice" it should be a choice of the individual/business/organization purchasing a health plan to elect if they want to pay for this or not. For as long as I can remember the slogan for the pro-abortion movement has been "my body, my choice" and yet they are not willing to give exactly that choice that they are so boldly proclaiming to other people who do not agree with them.

With HB 58 you are denying a choice to people/businesses/organizations in regards to their health insurance, forcing your opinion on them. In fact, it seems to be a pattern with the progressives these days to take all the choices away from people/businesses/organizations who do not agree with the party line. That is not acceptable to me and it certainly does not fall into the category of representing all people of your district. If you want choice then you need to give a choice to everyone.

I urge you strongly to vote "no" on HB 58.

Respectfully,

Irene Quednow

From: [Jo Roberts](#)
To: [House Labor and Commerce](#)
Subject: HB 58
Date: Monday, February 28, 2022 10:33:24 AM

Alaska House Labor and Commerce Committee

This letter is in support of HB 58 to provide birth control coverage to Alaskans. Preventing unwanted pregnancies is not expensive, and prevents abortions. 19 states have already enacted similar legislation. Alaska patients in rural areas face unique challenges in access to pharmacies. Please pass this bill.

Thank you for your time.

Martha Jo Roberts

[REDACTED]

Fairbanks, AK 99712

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [House Labor and Commerce](#)
Subject: HB 58
Date: Monday, February 28, 2022 9:47:04 AM

- Our family opposes HB 58 because it includes drugs and devices that cause early abortions. We object to subsidizing such practices through our health premium dollars.
- HB 58 imposes a “one-size-fits-all” policy that takes away our ability to choose health plans that meet our needs, and forces us to subsidize elective services which we may not want or need.
- HB 58 violates the religious freedom of individuals and many faith-based organizations and businesses who object to providing or receiving the services which HB 58 makes compulsory.
- This bill raises the extraordinary cost of health insurance that is already a tremendous burden to our family

Bless you, David and Maryann Frazier, Anchorage Ak 99508

From: [Jeannie Bennett](#)
To: [House Labor and Commerce](#)
Subject: HB 58
Date: Monday, February 28, 2022 9:39:50 AM

I urge you to oppose HB 58 for the following reasons:

- It includes drugs and devices that cause early abortions. We object to subsidizing such practices through our health premium dollars.
-
- HB 58 imposes a “one-size-fits-all” policy that takes away our ability to choose health plans that meet our needs, and forces us to subsidize elective services which we may not want or need.
-
- HB 58 violates the religious freedom of individuals and many faith-based organizations and businesses who object to providing or receiving the services which HB 58 makes compulsory.

PLEASE do not endorse taking away people’s right to make decisions according to their faith-based conscience.

Thank you,
Jeannie Bennett

From: [Eva LoForte](#)
To: [House Labor and Commerce](#)
Subject: HB 58
Date: Monday, February 28, 2022 9:28:47 AM

Committee Members :

HB 58 does not represent many Alaskans desires, including mine, because it facilitates early abortion subsidies, covers most all health plans which leave no choice for families that object to abortion , thus violating religious freedom of these citizens and businesses.

Thank you for your attention to my letter,

Eva LoForte

From: [Linda Maywald](#)
To: [House Labor and Commerce](#)
Subject: HB 58
Date: Monday, February 28, 2022 9:23:47 AM

No on HB 58. In the name of Jesus Christ NO!

Get [Outlook for Android](#)

From: [sherri Jackson](#)
To: [House Labor and Commerce](#)
Subject: HB 58
Date: Monday, February 28, 2022 9:21:36 AM

Our family opposes HB 58 because it includes drugs and devices that cause early abortions. We object to subsidizing such practices through our health premium dollars.

HB 58 imposes a “one-size-fits-all” policy that takes away our ability to choose health plans that meet our needs, and forces us to subsidize elective services which we may not want or need.

HB 58 violates the religious freedom of individuals and many faith-based organizations and businesses who object to providing or receiving the services which HB 58 makes compulsory.

thank you,

Sherri Jackson and family!

From: [Kathy Williams](#)
To: [House Labor and Commerce](#)
Subject: HB 58
Date: Monday, February 28, 2022 9:19:52 AM

- I oppose HB 58 because it includes drugs and devices that cause early abortions. I object to subsidizing such practices through our health premium dollars.
- HB 58 imposes a “one-size-fits-all” policy that takes away my ability to choose health plans that meet my needs and forces me to subsidize elective services that I may not want or need.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Williams RN

[REDACTED]
Chugiak, AK 99567 [REDACTED]

From: [Jean](#)
To: [House Labor and Commerce](#)
Subject: HB 58
Date: Monday, February 28, 2022 12:40:54 PM

To the members of this House, please oppose this bill.

Our family opposes HB 58 because it includes drugs and devices that cause early abortions. We object to subsidizing such practices through our health premium dollars.

HB 58 imposes a “one-size-fits-all” policy that takes away our ability to choose health plans that meet our needs, and forces us to subsidize elective services which we may not want or need.

HB 58 violates the religious freedom of individuals and many faith-based organizations and businesses who object to providing or receiving the services which HB 58 makes compulsory.

Thank You,

Jean Kudyba

From: [Hannah Lotton](#)
To: [House Labor and Commerce](#)
Subject: HB 58
Date: Monday, February 28, 2022 1:10:43 PM

I oppose HB 58 because it includes drugs and devices that cause early abortions and object to subsidizing such practices through our health premium dollars.

HB 58 imposes a “one-size-fits-all” policy that takes away the ability to choose health plans—regardless of whether the covered services are *relevant to* or *desired by* the person covered by the plan—and forces Alaskans to subsidize elective services which they may not want or need.

HB 58 also violates the religious freedom of individuals and many faith-based organizations and businesses who object to providing or receiving the services which HB 58 makes compulsory. I urge you to support the right of religious individuals and organizations to act according to the principles of their faith.

Hannah Lotton
[REDACTED]
Anchorage, AK 99515
[REDACTED]

Sent from my Galaxy

From: [Lance Roberts](#)
To: [House Labor and Commerce](#)
Subject: HB58 contraceptive mandate
Date: Monday, February 28, 2022 12:11:53 PM

To the House Labor & Commerce committee:

I'm opposed to this bill that brings government deeper into healthcare. It attempts to override the constitutional protections of the freedom to practice one's religious beliefs. We don't need to be bringing an awful federal law into our healthcare system.

Lance Roberts

From: [Patricia Olsen](#)
To: [House Labor and Commerce](#)
Subject: HB58
Date: Monday, February 28, 2022 9:25:32 AM

Please support HB58. It is VERY important for women's health.

Thank you.

Patricia Olsen

From: [Tim Agosti](#)
To: [House Labor and Commerce](#)
Subject: HB58
Date: Monday, February 28, 2022 12:38:46 PM

All committee members

I am strongly OPPOSED to this bill and its mandated coverage. Please do not vote for this ill-timed proposed bill.

Tim Agosti

[REDACTED]

Anchorage, AK 99517



This email has been checked for viruses by AVG antivirus software.
www.avg.com

From: [Sarah Tyndall](#)
To: [House Labor and Commerce](#); [Rep. Zack Fields](#); Representativ.Ivy.Spohnholz@akleg.gov; [Rep. Calvin Schrage](#); [Rep. Liz Snyder](#); [Rep. David Nelson](#); [Rep. James Kaufman](#); [Rep. Ken McCarty](#)
Subject: House Bill 58 - Vote NO
Date: Monday, February 28, 2022 10:21:36 AM

Dear House Labor & Commerce Committee,

I'm writing to urge you to reject House Bill 58, or amend it to exclude drugs and devices that cause early abortions. I am morally opposed to my health premium payments funding the murder of innocent babies. This bill also creates a "one-size-fits-all" policy that takes away our ability to choose health plans based on individual needs, and forces us to pay for services we do not want or need.

Finally, HB 58 violates the religious freedom of individuals and many faith-based organizations and businesses who object to providing or receiving the services which HB 58 makes compulsory. If private businesses want to provide these services to employees, they can make that decision for themselves. Government has no place in mandating these types of choices, and oversteps and violates the religious freedoms granted in the Constitution.

Thank you for your consideration of the above viewpoint.

Respectfully,

Sarah Hoover

From: [Cheryl Seese](#)
To: [House Labor and Commerce](#)
Subject: House Bill 58
Date: Monday, February 28, 2022 12:11:59 PM

My husband and I (Gary and Cheryl Seese) oppose this legislation. Alaska is a sanctuary against this kind of tyranny. Support religious rights to protect life and the rights of our God led contraceptives and sexuality. Please do not bring to Alaska anymore Obama policies! Alaska is still majority conservative. Let's keep it that way.

We vote...

Most Respectfully,
Cheryl Seese



Seward, AK 99664

From: [Windy Perkins](#)
To: [House Labor and Commerce](#)
Subject: No on HB 58!
Date: Monday, February 28, 2022 11:12:22 AM

Please vote no on this horrible bill. Thank you!!

Windy Perkins
Anchorage Resident

Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life

From: [Robert Ferebauer](#)
To: [House Labor and Commerce](#)
Subject: No on HB 58
Date: Monday, February 28, 2022 10:16:13 AM

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Dixie D. Banner](#)
To: [House Labor and Commerce](#)
Cc: [Rep. James Kaufman](#); Rep.Ivy.Sponholtz@akleg.gov; [Rep. David Nelson](#); rep.liz.snider@akleg.gov; [Rep. Calvin Schrage](#); [Rep. Ken McCarty](#)
Subject: NO to HB 58: Anti-life, anti-freedom, anti-choice
Date: Monday, February 28, 2022 10:55:15 AM

No more money to social programs!

We need employment and personal accountability vs adding a band aid agenda to support Immoral values!

We are tired of funding Baby Mammias (spend the proposed funds on education and getting employment) and require baby dads to accountable but respected vs a venue of child support!

The real issue is you have lost your respect of Family Values and personal accountability!

Why we who are working and making a life are held accountable for those who are careless and fail to take personal accountability!

Wake Up and look at the real facts vs adding a band aid to a broken society issue!

Note we sent you to Juneau to operate effectively and efficiently vs destroying our resources!

We are also extremely tired of not listening and operating iaw with the Will of the People!

No to 25/75 PFD and no to a 5 million dollar hotel in Juneau! Move the Capital to the Road System'

>

From: [Priscilla Hurley](#)
To: [House Labor and Commerce](#)
Subject: Oppose HB 58
Date: Monday, February 28, 2022 12:05:38 PM

Honorable members,

I urge you to oppose HB 58 on the simple basis that the mandates will violate working individuals as well as medical providers to must have freedom in making confidential decisions with their patients.

In addition, our Constitutional right to express personal religious beliefs will be taken away, causing a seed of litigation potential. In the case where mandated provision is made for abortifacients, as you know, this practice is extremely controversial and a reason for conscientious objection among many of those practicing their religions.

This is a highly unfair and unnecessary legislation. It will create more bad than good.

Seek wisdom and consider the people of whom you serve, and not Pharma, or Insurance providers.

I thank you for your consideration and for your time reading this email.

Respectfully,

Priscilla A Hurley
Anchorage, Alaska

From: [Patty Wisel](#)
To: [House Labor and Commerce](#); [Rep. Zack Fields](#); [Rep. Ivy Spohnholz](#); [Rep. Calvin Schrage](#); [Rep. Liz Snyder](#); [Rep. David Nelson](#); [Rep. James Kaufman](#); [Rep. Ken McCarty](#)
Subject: Oppose HB58!!
Date: Monday, February 28, 2022 9:08:49 AM

Good morning:

Please OPPOSE HB 58. This bill imposes a policy that takes away our ability to choose health plans that meet our needs and forces us to subsidize elective service which we don't support. It violates the religious freedom of many faith-based organizations and businesses who object to the services HB 58 makes compulsory. NO! DO NOT PASS THIS HB.

Thank you for your time,

John Wisel

Patty Wisel

[REDACTED]

Fairbanks, AK 99712

[REDACTED]

From: [Judith Merry](#)
To: [House Labor and Commerce](#)
Subject: Opposing HB 58
Date: Monday, February 28, 2022 9:06:34 AM

I oppose HB 58 because:

it includes drugs & devices that cause abortion

it takes away health plan choices that fit our needs, creating one-size-fits-all

it violates our religious freedom

Please oppose it and vote against it.

J.E.Merry

From: [Pamela Samash](#)
To: [House Labor and Commerce](#); [Rep. Zack Fields](#); [Rep. Ivy Spohnholz](#); [Rep. Calvin Schrage](#); [Rep. Liz Snyder](#); [Rep. David Nelson](#); [Rep. James Kaufman](#); [Rep. Ken McCarty](#)
Subject: Please oppose HB 58
Date: Monday, February 28, 2022 12:05:52 PM

Good morning

I'm writing to you to ask that you oppose HB 58

Here are the reasons why I see this bill as dangerous to the public, to our freedoms and to our religious rights:

I oppose HB 58 because it includes drugs and devices that cause early abortions.

-I had to rush a loved one to a hospital because of this pill as she was hemorrhaging, I watched her face get whiter and whiter. It was horrible. She barely made it before she fell unconscious.

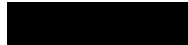
We object to subsidizing such practices through our health premium dollars.
It is against our religion to support abortion and the shedding of innocent blood.
It's a violation of our religious freedom as it targets faith based insurance companies and businesses.

HB 58 imposes a "one-size-fits-all" policy that takes away our ability to choose health plans that meet our needs, and forces us to subsidize elective services which we may not want or need.

Please kill this bill.

Thank you for your time

Pamela Samash



From: [Mike](#)
To: [House Labor and Commerce](#); [Rep. Zack Fields](#); [Rep. Ivy Spohnholz](#); [Rep. Calvin Schrage](#); [Rep. Liz Snyder](#); [Rep. David Nelson](#); [Rep. James Kaufman](#); [Rep. Ken McCarty](#)
Subject: Vote No On HB 58
Date: Monday, February 28, 2022 11:15:52 AM

Hello,
Please vote no on HB 58. This isn't about women's health, it is about killing babies.

Thanks,
Mike

Sent with [ProtonMail](#) Secure Email.

From: [Colleen Evanco](#)
To: [House Labor and Commerce](#); [Rep. Zack Fields](#); [Rep. Ivy Spohnholz](#); [Rep. Calvin Schrage](#); [Rep. Liz Snyder](#); [Rep. David Nelson](#); [Rep. James Kaufman](#); [Rep. Ken McCarty](#); [Rep. Andi Story](#); ron.gillham@akleg.gov; [Peter A. Micciche](#)
Subject: WE DO NOT SUPPORT HB 58!
Date: Monday, February 28, 2022 9:01:58 AM

- **HB 58 violates the religious freedom of individuals and many faith-based organizations and businesses who object to providing or receiving the services which HB 58 makes compulsory.**

Please vote NO on this bill and make the choice to protect future Alaskan lives.