

Angela Steph!

From: Mary Corcoran [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 19, 2024 8:18 AM
To: House Transportation
Subject: Public Testimony--Oppose HB386

To Members of the House transportation committee,

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on HB386. I STRONGLY OPPOSE this bill-OBSTRUCTION OF PUBLIC PLACES; TRESPASSING. The intent of the bill is offensive on so many levels.

First and foremost it is a clear threat to our constitutional rights to assemble and free speech. The DOL admitted at a committee hearing that obstructing public transport already exists, This bill according to DOL increases punishments to serve as deterrents. According to statements from AST, these occurrences seem rare and basically have not been a problem.

This bill does not clearly define how permitting will happen. Permitting and enforcement place the burden on both law enforcement and the courts. To what gain? Where is the problem, this repression is going to solve.

Please vote NO on this bill that would violate our rights rather than protect them.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Mary Corcoran
Delta Junction

Angela Stephl

From: Mel Langdon [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 18, 2024 5:25 PM
To: Senate Transportation Committee; House Transportation
Subject: HB386 / SB 255

Dear Transportation committee members in the House and Senate,

As we saw in the 1960s, the right to demonstrate and assemble in public places is an essential way for marginalized people to assert their rights. "The only weapon we have in our hands ... is the weapon of protest," said the eloquent M.L.King Jr. Relevant to this bill, and to current conditions in Russia and China, Dr. King went on to say, "If we were incarcerated behind the iron curtains of a communistic nation - we could; do this. If we were trapped in the dungeon of a totalitarian regime - we could do this. But the great glory of American democracy is the right to protest for the right." And that particularly includes public spaces in the great state of Alaska.

I write to you opposing HB 386/ SB 255, which would crack down on Alaskans' ability to protest, demonstrate, and freely assemble in public places. This bill is vague and broad and proposes criminal consequences for everything from protests to homelessness. It would hold Alaskans civilly liable for exercising their constitutionally afforded rights without consideration for protected speech and other First Amendment defenses.

HB 386/ SB 255 does not work to address a current issue within Alaska. This legislation does not make Alaskans safer or address a current problem for people protesting across the state. It sends a threatening message to protesters that effectively chills free speech.

Freedom of speech and freedom to assemble are fundamental rights enjoyed by all Alaskans and Americans. Please oppose HB 386/ SB 255 to protect Alaskans' First Amendment rights.

Sincerely,
Mel Langdon
[REDACTED]

Anchorage

Angela Stephi

From: Kristine Schmidt [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 18, 2024 5:01 PM
To: House Transportation
Subject: Please Vote No on HB 386/SB 255

Dear Committee Members McCabe, Vance, McKay, Johnson, Sumner, Stutes and Mina:

The Alaska Constitution, Article I, Declaration of Rights, Section 6, recognizes the right of the people "peaceably to assemble." I am writing to oppose HB 386 and SB 255, which would interfere with Alaskans' constitutional right to freely assemble in public places. These bills are vague, make a felony out of what is now merely an offense or misdemeanor, and do not give notice in the language of the actual conduct that would constitute a crime, but leaves it up to "someone" else to decide.

As far as I am aware, this bill is not addressing any critical issue in Alaska right now. It's just overkill and frankly, part a frightening trend to criminalize ordinary behavior. Please vote against moving this bill to the House floor.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kristine A. Schmidt

[REDACTED]
Kenai, Alaska 99611
[REDACTED]