



January 18, 2018

Honorable Representative Matt Claman, Chair
House Judiciary Committee
Alaska State Legislature
State Capital
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Re: Support for HB 15 – Marriage & Spouses

Dear Chair Claman and Committee Members,

Alaskans Together For Equality (ATE) supports House Bill 15 as written: "An Act relating to marriage, adoption, birth certificates, state custody of a minor, divorce, dissolution, and legal separation; replacing the terms 'husband' and 'wife' in certain statutes relating to loans, trusts, spousal immunity and confidential marital communications, probate and nonprobate transfers, life and health insurance, workers' compensation, and property ownership; and making conforming amendments."

ATE represents hundreds of members across the state of Alaska. We are a nonpartisan, civil rights organization with a mission to advance civil equality for all Alaskans through education, grassroots organizing, and advocacy. While ATE's primary focus is on lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) Alaskans, ATE advocates for all Alaskans because the stronger the foundation of equal civil rights across institutions and practices, the more Alaskans are enabled to take advantage of opportunities to create healthy lives and produce income that allows for a stronger state.

HB15 resolves standing issues with gendered language on State of Alaska paperwork regarding individuals and relationships; the current conventions may potentially result in unnecessary harm, confusion, and costs that could negatively impact the State. HB15 brings all state forms into alignment with state and federal laws for all Alaskans.

Thank you for addressing this important issue that has been left undone, we thank you on behalf of the LGBT community, and appreciate your efforts to align our state statutes with existing federal laws.

Sincerely,



Elias Rojas
Board President

CC: Andy Josephson, Representative

Representative.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov