

Hello my name is Robert Hockema and I'm a freshman at UAA, majoring in Political Science. I'm also the Communications Chair for Generation Action: Students for Reproductive Justice and UAA.

I'd like to take the time to point out a recent report from the New York Times from March 7th of this year. The Times reported that the unplanned pregnancy rate in the US have declined to their lowest levels in last three decades. I think that everyone here, regardless of how they feel about this bill, can agree that that's excellent news. Because we all have a shared interest in reducing the number of unplanned pregnancies, along with things like the rate of sexually transmitted infections and other health risks -- and it's because of the fact that we share those goals that I'm here expressing my deep concern for SB 89, which seems to contradict the methods that lead to great reports like this in the first place.

The problem with SB 89 is that ~~is~~ reduces accessibility to sex education. As it currently exists, there is an opt-out system where parents who feel that sex education would be for some reason damaging to their kid. They can exercise their parental rights and opt their kid out. But for some reason, we're trying to make it difficult to get kids into sex ed classes by creating an opt-in system. I think that anyone here who is a parent -- or someone with years of experience in education like Sen. Dunleavy -- understands that opt-in systems are the **worst** way to encourage participation in a program or class. It's very easy for kids to either accidentally neglect to give the opt-in form to their parents (or deliberately hide the form from them), or for parents to forget to sign the form because they're busy working 50 hours a week.. The form might not reach the front desk simply because there are parents who aren't involved enough in their kids' education and aren't even going to look at the form in the first place.

That right there discourages participation in sex education classes. That means less kids getting education that is vital to the protection of public health, like learning the risks and prevention methods associated with sexually transmitted infections, or unplanned pregnancies. That means less students becoming educated on what a healthy relationship means, and how they can identify the warning signs of an abusive partnership. It means that the evidence-based curriculum that sex ed provides becomes less accessible to students because of the inherent nature of the opt-in system this bill creates. I don't think this bill has a single thing to do with parental rights in education; those rights already exist under the opt-out system. And if you want to make parents more aware of that, why don't we suggest to schools that we mail or email a pamphlet about the opt-out system so that they know that's there for them? We can get the same results Dunleavy says he wants while also not reducing the amount of participants in sexual education classes.

Remember the New York Times report I mentioned at the top of my testimony. Remember that the reduction of unplanned pregnancy rates happens through education, sex education. I urge you to defeat this bill right here in this committee because we want to be seeing *more* reports like the one in the Times, not less.

Taneeka Hansen

From: DavidCindy Audet <3audets@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 08, 2016 8:20 AM
To: Rep. Paul Seaton; Rep. Liz Vazquez; Rep. Neal Foster; Rep. Louise Stutes; Rep. David Talerico; Rep. Geran Tarr; Rep. Adam Wool
Cc: Rep. Sam Kito; Sen. Dennis Egan; Rep. Cathy Munoz
Subject: Fwd: SB 89

Dear Members of Health & Social Services Committee and Juneau Delegation,

I attended the HSS Committee hearing, yesterday. When I arrived at 330p, I signed up to testify, but the meeting adjourned (at 5p), having run out of time for all testimony to be heard. I am not sure if I will make it to the continuation hearing next Tuesday at 3p, so have decided to submit additional written comments.

I am opposed to SB 89.

In my opinion, Planned Parenthood is a very professional organization, and they are good at what they do. Our school system is lucky to have them as a resource for encouraging safe and responsible choices by teens.

In addition, the present situation (because it includes Planned Parenthood's educational approach) provides a way for peers to support one another and share perspectives within a supportive structure, outside of school, through Teen Council participation.

The existing opt out process should be more than adequate to address parental direction or views that deviate from current practice of providing accurate and thorough information to students.

I urge you to vote against SB 89.

Thank you,

Cindy Audet
Juneau, AK

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **DavidCindy Audet** <3audets@gmail.com>
Date: Wed, Apr 6, 2016 at 7:47 AM
Subject: SB 89
To: Rep.Paul.Seaton@akleg.gov, "Rep. Sam Kito" <Rep.Sam.Kito.III@akleg.gov>, Rep.cathy.munoz@akleg.gov, senator.dennis.egan@akleg.gov

Hello ~

I am writing in opposition to SB 89, prohibiting education by Planned Parenthood in public schools.

The education services of this organization has, in my opinion, never harmed anyone (or led to abortions), and it has helped many.

Thank you,

Cindy Audet
Juneau, AK

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

Name: Doug Goester

Representing: Gachemak Bay Family Planning

Bill No./Subject Senate Bill 89

Committee: HESS

Date of Hearing: 4/7/16

Chair Representative Seaton, and members of the committee...

I am writing to say I oppose Senate Bill 89. I work in the schools teaching sexual wellness (set ed) with peer educators. We teach 7th, 8th, 9th grades. We continually hear from teachers and school administrators how important it is that people come in from the "outside" the regular school setting to teach this subject. The youth would rather not discuss this sensitive topic with their regular teachers. I am sure you are aware that STD and unplanned pregnancy rates are very, very high in Alaska. The need for these classes are extraordinary.

By keeping other teachers from any agency out of the school rather than teaching the students will undoubtedly cause more STD's and unplanned pregnancies to occur. The teachers (set ed) from planned parenthood are some of the most effective we have in the State. Just ask the students and teachers/school admin.

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Thank you,

D.G.