

SB 89 Emails in Opposition

4.6.2016 – 4.11.2016

I am both a parent and a life-long Alaskan. Like many Alaskans, I'm of the mind that government should do their job and leave the rest alone. Which is one of the many reasons why I find SB 89 to be a pretentious batch of moralizing red tape. It is an attempt to legislate where there is no need to do so, and simply creates more hoops for our schools to jump through and more restrictions on our individual rights.

Consider:

- SB 89 is advertised as protecting a parent's right to choose the health education of their child. A perfectly legitimate thing, right? Except that this protection already exists: a parent already has the right to request that their children be excused from any part – or all of – family life instruction.
- So we know that parents who would prefer their children not participate in family planning already have the option to opt out. Then what would SB 89 really be doing, since that parental right already exists? SB 89 would make it vastly more difficult to provide this education to parents who *would* like it for their children, effectively removing their right to choose as parents.
- Also, SB 89 would prevent people who even volunteer (in their private lives, on their own time) at institutions that provide abortions from instructing children. Good old big government at work. Perhaps they should extend the restriction to anyone who has gone through divorce, too, because wouldn't that encourage children to get divorced?
- Further, when asked why the bill's restrictions needed to extend to instruction on any topic and not just abortion or sex education, Dunleavy responded: "We want to make sure that there's no bleeding through." Not only is there no demonstrated instance of this bleed through occurring, this very logic flies squarely in the face of Dunleavy's support of public funds going to private (religious) institutions, and of public funds going towards purchasing materials from, and even supporting instruction by, religious institutions.

At the core of SB 89 is the desire of individuals in positions of power to force everyone to live our lives a certain way – their way. They believe that they know better, and everyone should be forced to fall in line. "Parental Rights" in this instance is code for "My Right to Dictate How You Parent". What SB 89 does is restrict the choices for all parents based on the feelings of a few (who, again, already are able to opt-out of life planning material they disagree with). Not only that, but it even goes so far as to restrict what an adult citizen is permitted to do on their own time (and fully within the bounds of the law), based solely on whether or not they adhere to someone else's variable moral code.

At a time when we need to be getting rid of useless red tape, ridiculous expenses, and a top-heavy government, it seems like some of our legislators are more interested in giving us more of the same. More pointless regulation, more pushing personal agendas, more restrictions on private citizens, and more expense. Instead of pushing pet projects that go against the very freedom we hold dear as Alaskans and Americans, how about you focus on balancing the bloated budget instead? Preferably with limited casualties to the people you're supposed to be serving.

Heather Rand

Parent, Property Owner, UAA Alumni – take your pick

Taneeka Hansen

From: Protect Healthy Youth Alaska <power4alaska@gmail.com> on behalf of G. Fries <ppaction@ppvnh.org>
Sent: Friday, April 08, 2016 10:27 PM
To: Rep. Paul Seaton
Subject: Please oppose SB 89 and keep our students healthy

Apr 9, 2016

State Representative Paul Seaton
State Capitol, Room 102
120 Fourth Street
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear State Representative Seaton,

I am writing to urge you to oppose SB 89, a harmful and likely unconstitutional bill that would dramatically restrict sexual health education in Alaska.

Legal Services has outlined the clear constitutional problems with SB 89. Alaska is going through a budget crisis, and the last thing our state should be doing is risking an expensive lawsuit over something that is probably not legal.

SB 89 would limit students' access to important information to help them make healthy decisions about their lives. It would restrict sexual health education across the state of Alaska, taking away decisions made by parents, teachers, and communities about what is best for their students.

We lead the nation in chlamydia rates, have child sexual abuse rates six times higher than the national average, and have higher teen pregnancy rates too. But instead of expanding evidence-based education about sexual health, SB 89 puts barriers between students and these life-changing programs, and creates burdensome requirements for school districts in a time when districts are struggling with an unprecedented budget crisis. Alaska's youth need us to face the facts, and give them the resources they need to reverse our state's troubling trends.

Please oppose SB 89 to make sure our students have access to the information they need to stay healthy. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mr. G. Fries
PO Box 2229
Homer, AK 99603-2229
kickbatkool@icloud.com

Taneeka Hansen

From: Protect Healthy Youth Alaska <power4alaska@gmail.com> on behalf of Margaret Craig <ppaction@ppvnh.org>
Sent: Friday, April 08, 2016 6:57 PM
To: Rep. Paul Seaton
Subject: Please oppose SB 89 and keep our students healthy

Apr 8, 2016

State Representative Paul Seaton
State Capitol, Room 102
120 Fourth Street
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear State Representative Seaton,

I am writing to urge you to oppose SB 89, a harmful and likely unconstitutional bill that would dramatically restrict sexual health education in Alaska.

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Please oppose SB 89 to make sure our students have access to the information they need to stay healthy. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Margaret Craig
PO Box 2317
Homer, AK 99603-2317
michaelandpeggy13@gmail.com

Taneeka Hansen

From: Protect Healthy Youth Alaska <power4alaska@gmail.com> on behalf of Chantel Grubb <ppaction@ppvnh.org>
Sent: Monday, April 11, 2016 11:32 AM
To: Rep. Paul Seaton
Subject: Please oppose SB 89 and keep our students healthy

Apr 11, 2016

State Representative Paul Seaton
State Capitol, Room 102
120 Fourth Street
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear State Representative Seaton,

I am writing to urge you to oppose SB 89, a harmful and likely unconstitutional bill that would dramatically restrict sexual health education in Alaska.

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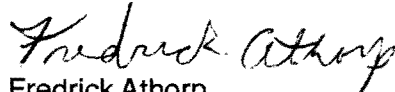
Sincerely,

Mrs. Chantel Grubb
3247 S St Mihiel Cir
Wasilla, AK 99654-0283
(907) 841-2370
chantel.grubb@gmail.com

Subject : House Bill 89

Dear Alaska House Members:

I have been made aware of House Bills 89 and 191 by Planned Parenthood. I raised six daughters, all born in Alaska, the oldest was 17 when Roe v. Wade was decided. I wish they would have had the opportunity to receive the professional counseling and education Planned Parenthood is now offering concerning legal abortion in public schools. Please don't pass a law that will deprive female students of this important information.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Fredrick Athorp".

Fredrick Athorp
294 Knudson Cove Road
Ketchikan, AK 99901
907-225-3452

Taneeka Hansen

From: Merry Ellefson / Wayne Carnes <merrywayne@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 07, 2016 5:30 PM
To: Rep. Paul Seaton; Rep. Liz Vazquez; Rep. Neal Foster; Rep. Louise Stutes; Rep. David Talerico; Rep. Geran Tarr; Rep. Adam Wool
Subject: Opposition to SB 89
Categories: Taneeka

Representatives,

As a coach of 15 years (XC, nordic, Team Alaska Snowshoe), a parent, a teaching artist and a person dedicated to the health of our community, I URGE you to reject the prohibition of Planned Parenthood.

I've worked closely with Planned Parenthood staff as they explain healthy options, choices and respect to Middle and High school students; I've also attended their workshops for parents. If you haven't had the opportunity, you are simply uninformed and have no understanding of the key role this group plays in efforts to keep our kids informed, healthy and in respectful relationships.

I encourage to think of the health and welfare of ALL our students, including those who come from homes less fortunate and simply do not have parents as mentors. I'm currently working on a project which explores youth addiction, disconnect and homelessness. Not that lack of information is limited to this group, but **Think about the 3000! homeless students in the school districts in the Matsu Valley and Anchorage alone.**

Sincerely,

Merry C Ellefson
8170 North Douglas
Juneau

Taneeka Hansen

From: ljbonner@acsalaska.net
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2016 2:18 PM
To: Rep. Wes Keller; Rep. Liz Vazquez; Rep. Jim Colver; Rep. Harriet Drummond; Rep. Paul Seaton; Rep. David Talerico; Rep.Ivy.Sponholtz@akleg.gov
Cc: Rep. Mike Chenault; Rep. Chris Tuck; Laura Bonner
Subject: Written testimony to Oppose SB89

Chairman Keller, Vice-Chair Vazquez, and members of the House Education Committee,

For the record, my name is Laura Bonner and my child is a student in Anchorage School District. I have no connection nor have I ever contributed to any organization that deals with sexual matters.

I drove to the LIO from South Anchorage (after getting my child off to school) to present testimony opposing SB89. I signed in, listened to testimony of at least 6 people, and then heard Chairman Keller ask if there was anyone in the room who wished to testify. I was waiting in the Anchorage LIO and was never called. How frustrating!!

SB89 was presented by the sponsor as a parental rights bill. Parents already have the right to withdraw their child from class, activities, or programs at their school. So this bill is not needed.

Further, I oppose it for the following reasons:

1. It is overreach by the Legislature, usurping local control from school districts and school boards across the state. Shouldn't local communities decide how to best educate the students in their schools? Urban areas and rural areas don't have the same access to resources for their schools.
- 2.The opt-in portion would be cumbersome for schools to administer.
- 3.Children of uninvolved, sexual-abusive, or otherwise dysfunctional parents will probably not have access to age-appropriate information on sexual matters. These are the children and teens who really need age-appropriate information on sexual matters and human reproduction.
4. SB89 dilutes and weakens the good policy work you did by passing Erin's/Bree's Law last year. I think SB89 conflicts with the bill you passed last year. I don't know how schools would address sexual abuse/date-rape issues without addressing sexual matters and human reproduction.

An amendment that contained much of what is in SB89 failed when Erin's/Bree's Law was considered last year for good reason. The amendment wasn't good policy then, and SB89 is not good policy now. Passage of SB89 will deny at-risk children and teens access to information they need.

Please oppose SB89.

Laura Bonner
3101 E 112th Ave
Anchorage, AK 99516
907-242-4875

Taneeka Hansen

From: bret connell <bret.connell@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 07, 2016 3:58 PM
To: Rep. Paul Seaton; Rep. Neal Foster; Rep. Liz Vazquez; Rep. David Talerico; Rep. Geran Tarr; Rep. Adam Wool; Rep. Louise Stutes
Subject: I am strongly opposed to SB89
Categories: Taneeka

Dear Representative Seaton and Members of the Committee,

I am writing today to express my strong opposition to SB89. I do not believe it is in the state's best interest to block information regarding human sexuality from being taught to the youth of our state. Our state has an extremely high rate of sexual abuse, STD transmission, teen pregnancy, and suicide - some of the highest rates in the nation. Preventing unwanted pregnancies and the transmission of STDs is something we absolutely cannot turn our back upon.

To do so is extremely short-sighted and will only continue to put a strain on our already depleted public health system, law enforcement, as well as the hope and well-being of the citizens of our state.

Thank you for your time,
Bret Connell

Taneeka Hansen

From: Rep. Paul Seaton
Sent: Thursday, April 07, 2016 3:20 PM
To: Taneeka Hansen
Subject: FW: SB89

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Sincerely,
Jenny

Jenny Martin
Legislative Aide
Office of Rep. Paul Seaton
120 4th St. #102 State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801
907-465-2689 1-800-665-2689 Fax: 907-465-3472
HouseMajority.org/Seaton

From: Cathy Daunais [mailto:cathyd2012@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, April 07, 2016 1:59 PM
To: Rep. Paul Seaton <Rep.Paul.Seaton@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Talerico <Rep.David.Talerico@akleg.gov>; Rep. Liz Vazquez <Rep.Liz.Vazquez@akleg.gov>; Rep. Neal Foster <Rep.Neal.Foster@akleg.gov>; Rep. Louise Stutes <Rep.Louise.Stutes@akleg.gov>; Rep. Geran Tarr <Rep.Geran.Tarr@akleg.gov>; Rep. Adam Wool <Rep.Adam.Wool@akleg.gov>
Subject: SB89

Greetings. I am a resident of Fairbanks and a constituent of District 4. I'm here to oppose SB 89, which as far as I can tell is a terrible waste of time for this legislative session. It is obvious from all relevant statistics regarding sex and teenagers in Alaska that we desperately need good sex education in our schools. I have a 16 year old grandson and I absolutely want sex ed available to him. If parents prefer their child not participate, they currently can opt out so this bill seems to serve no purpose other than to continue the very ugly war on women and the Republican party's effort to defund Planned Parenthood. It makes absolutely no sense for the legislature to spend time trying to prevent our teens from accessing good medically accurate sex education from Planned Parenthood. The State has a huge budget deficit. We need legislators to be addressing that issue with new revenues like a state income tax and restructuring of the permanent fund. I Cannot grasp why the Republican majority is so focused on destroying Planned Parenthood and restricting a woman's right to choose. And why they want to cut education and scholarships, prevent our teenagers from having access to sex education and at the same time attempt to pass legislation to allow college students to pack weapons? I have to ask: What are your priorities and plans for Alaska kids and their futures?

Sincerely,
Cathleen Daunais

Taneeka Hansen

From: Helen Clough <hcloughak@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 09, 2016 4:27 AM
To: Rep. Paul Seaton
Subject: HB 89

Dear Chairman Seaton and members of the committee,

I implore you to not pass House Bill 89. Providing sex education is critical in our schools. I graduated from Juneau Douglas High School in the late 1960s and remember two things about sex education: (1) the only person in our class not allowed to take sex ed by her parents was the first person in our class to become pregnant, and (2) even coming from a family that provided sex education at home, I learned things in the class that I did not learn at home. I helped raise three step-daughters and was very happy that the Anchorage school system provided sex education for them.

Any legislation that basically targets one organization is wrong. It is imperative that students be provided with accurate information. Just because an organization provides health services that other's object to should not be a reason to keep those people from providing important services in our public schools. What might we decide to restrict next - teachers who belong to organizations we don't like or volunteers who are of different religious backgrounds?

I also believe that it is imperative that this legislature only focus on the budget and not be distracted by other issues - especially those with no immediate need to be addressed.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Helen Clough
Juneau, Alaska
907 321 4004

Taneeka Hansen

From: Rep. Paul Seaton
Sent: Monday, April 11, 2016 11:09 AM
To: Taneeka Hansen
Subject: FW: Please oppose SB 89 and keep our students healthy

-

Sincerely,
Jenny

Jenny Martin
Legislative Aide
Office of Rep. Paul Seaton
120 4th St. #102 State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801
907-465-2689 1-800-665-2689 Fax: 907-465-3472 HouseMajority.org/Seaton

-----Original Message-----

From: Protect Healthy Youth Alaska [<mailto:power4alaska@gmail.com>] On Behalf Of Elisabeth Genaux
Sent: Monday, April 11, 2016 10:03 AM
To: Rep. Paul Seaton <Rep.Paul.Seaton@akleg.gov>
Subject: Please oppose SB 89 and keep our students healthy

Apr 11, 2016

State Representative Paul Seaton
State Capitol, Room 102
120 Fourth Street
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear State Representative Seaton,

I am writing to urge you to oppose SB 89, a harmful and likely unconstitutional bill that would dramatically restrict sexual health education in Alaska.

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We lead the nation in chlamydia rates, have child sexual abuse rates six times higher than the national average, and have higher teen pregnancy rates too. But instead of expanding evidence-based education about sexual health, SB 89 puts barriers between students and these life-changing programs, and creates burdensome requirements for school

districts in a time when districts are struggling with an unprecedented budget crisis. Alaska's youth need us to face the facts, and give them the resources they need to reverse our state's troubling trends.

Please oppose SB 89 to make sure our students have access to the information they need to stay healthy. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Elisabeth Genaux
17420 Andreanoff Dr
Juneau, AK 99801-8317
(907) 523-8017
edgenaux@uas.alaska.edu

Taneeka Hansen

From: Holleman, Andy <andyh@anchorageea.net>
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2016 10:10 AM
To: Rep. Wes Keller
Cc: Rep. Liz Vazquez; Rep. Jim Colver; Rep. Paul Seaton; Rep. David Talerico; Rep. Harriet Drummond; Rep. Ivy Spohnholz
Subject: SB 89

I want to thank the committee for making this available for additional study and testimony.

I just want to strongly urge the committee to be sure and actually review the materials that are used in classes at all the age levels so that they know for certain what they are reacting to in considering this legislation.

Classes are not simply turned over to Planned Parenthood to "sell their ideas" to a captive audience. They are invited in for a particular reason because of their expertise on reproductive health and human sexuality. One caller suggested that home contact information for students was given to Planned Parenthood. Another asked if schools might allow the marijuana or alcoholic beverage industry in to promote their products.

Home contact information is absolutely off limits for any outside group. To my knowledge, no school does this, and certainly, they should not, now, without SB 89 becoming law.

I think we all know that we do not promote use of intoxicating products in schools. But it's also the case that we might allow the CEO of a beverage company to talk about accounting or shipping obstacles in Alaska. We wouldn't treat them like someone that should be shunned but we absolutely would not let them promote their products to students. We promote the sport of marksmanship and we instruct in gun safety without "promoting" students to carry weapons or engage in inappropriate or illegal activities, though some parents do object to those activities.

If there are schools legitimately violating parent rights, I hope you'll facilitate them being able to challenge their local school boards and schools on an individual basis. Across this state you have thousands of employees working hard to have students know what they need to know while respecting individual choices and values that vary widely.

SB 89 doesn't help us do that. It does create spike strips in conducting certain classes that educators will avoid by a large margin.

Thank you.

Andy Holleman
President
Anchorage Education Association

907-274-0536
<http://AnchorageEA.org>

Taneeka Hansen

From: Dr. James Pizzadili <drjjp@ak.net>
Sent: Monday, April 11, 2016 12:23 PM
To: Rep. Paul Seaton
Subject: anti-planned parenthood bill

Thank you for holding on to the anti-Planned Parenthood bill.

I believe PP does more to prevent abortions than anyone else.

We don't need this.

All the Best,

James J. Pizzadili, D.C.

545 West Fireweed Lane

Anchorage, AK 99503



Virus-free. www.avast.com

Taneeka Hansen

From: Rep. Paul Seaton
Sent: Thursday, April 07, 2016 3:26 PM
To: Taneeka Hansen
Subject: FW: Please oppose SB 89 and keep our students healthy

-

Sincerely,
Jenny

Jenny Martin
Legislative Aide
Office of Rep. Paul Seaton
120 4th St. #102 State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801
907-465-2689 1-800-665-2689 Fax: 907-465-3472 HouseMajority.org/Seaton

-----Original Message-----

From: Protect Healthy Youth Alaska [<mailto:power4alaska@gmail.com>] On Behalf Of Janet ORourke
Sent: Thursday, April 07, 2016 3:25 PM
To: Rep. Paul Seaton <Rep.Paul.Seaton@akleg.gov>
Subject: Please oppose SB 89 and keep our students healthy

Apr 7, 2016

State Representative Paul Seaton
State Capitol, Room 102
120 Fourth Street
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear State Representative Seaton,

I am writing to urge you to oppose SB 89 and HB 352, harmful and likely unconstitutional bills that would dramatically restrict sexual health education in Alaska.

Legal Services has outlined the clear constitutional problems with SB 89 and SB 191 (HB 352's companion). Alaska is going through a budget crisis, and the last thing our state should be doing is risking an expensive lawsuit over something that is probably not legal.

These bills would limit students' access to important information to help them make healthy decisions about their lives. They would restrict sexual health education across the state of Alaska, taking away decisions made by parents, teachers, and communities about what is best for their students.

We lead the nation in chlamydia rates, have child sexual abuse rates six times higher than the national average, and have higher teen pregnancy rates too. But instead of expanding evidence-based education about sexual health, SB 89

and HB 352 put barriers between students and these life-changing programs, and creates burdensome requirements for school districts in a time when districts are struggling with an unprecedented budget crisis. Alaska's youth need us to face the facts, and give them the resources they need to reverse our state's troubling trends.

Please oppose SB 89 and HB 352 to make sure our students have access to the information they need to stay healthy. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Ms. Janet ORourke
PO Box 2336
Homer, AK 99603-2336
(907) 299-7578
janetorourke@ymail.com

Taneeka Hansen

From: Mackey, Emil <emil.mackey@juneauschools.org>
Sent: Friday, April 08, 2016 11:48 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. Cathy Munoz; Sen. Dennis Egan; Rep. Sam Kito
Subject: SB 89 - Juneau School Board Member Emil Mackey Feedback

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: Taneeka

Good Morning,

I was told that members of the House Health & Social Services committee desired feedback regarding SB 89 - Parental Rights. As an elected member of the Juneau School Board, I am writing in response to this request and to inform you of my opposition to SB 89. In respect of your time, I will use bullet points to expedite your review and reference, if needed. Please let me know if you would like clarification regarding any of these points and I will be happy to be more in-depth in a follow-up. Likewise, I have CC'd the Juneau legislative delegation so they are aware of my opinion regarding SB-89. This feedback is my own and is not necessarily representative of other members nor the Juneau Board of Education collectively.

1. **School board control how they spend student allocations, but have no control over revenue.** This is important because SB 89 would limit possible volunteer organizations with whom our district relies to provide free educational services to our students and staff. Disallowing school districts from utilizing the free educational resources of “Planned Parenthood” and other similar organizations deemed to be connected to be “abortion providers” means that our district will need to buy curriculum and staff to teach appropriate and necessary sex education to our students. This means that SB 89 will lead to higher district costs to the district. These costs will either lead to higher costs to the state in the form of a higher necessary Basic Student Allocation (BSA) or an erosion of existing resources; thus weakening education.
2. **If passed, there is not enough time between now and the next school year to identify substitute materials, train staff, and implement a new sex-education curriculum.** This means that many students will not have sex education for at least a year. The CDC has found that effective sex education courses lead to lower rates of STD and HIV. Furthermore, effective sex education programs like those offered for free through our partnership with Planned Parenthood, also leads to delaying first sexual intercourse, reducing the number of sex partners. and decreasing the number of times students have unprotected sex. Please see http://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/sexualbehaviors/pdf/effective_hiv.pdf for more information and references by the CDC concerning these facts. Once again, this means that the State of Alaska will see increased long-term costs for a generation associated with the students that will contract STD's, HIV, and produce unwanted pregnancies and the associated increases in social program support for these mothers and children. I would urge the committee to get an estimate of these associated legacy costs for each year sex education is not offered in the state.
3. **The bill is unnecessary because nothing prevents the parents from opting-out of the current curriculum.** Of all of the provisions, opting-in versus opting out of sex education is the only component

of the bill that has actual parental-rights merit. The remainder of the bill seems to be more focused on quashing the participation of Planned-Parenthood and other similar organizations outside the domain of parental rights.

4. **I have received no complaints from Juneau parents regarding neither the current Juneau Sex Education program nor their children being taught using the Planned-Parenthood material in the current program.** There is no problem concerning the current sexual education curriculum in Juneau. Likewise, I have heard of no significant complaints outside Juneau.
5. **The bill increases legal liability exposure of the state and individual districts.** In a time of fiscal crisis, do you want districts to lose funding because a child forges an opt-in statement? Under SB 89, Juneau would lose funding if a student forged an opt-in statement. Do you want the state to get sued for violating Section 1.5 of the Alaska Constitution ("Every person may freely speak, write, and publish on all subjects, being responsible for the abuse of that right.")? If such a suit goes federal as similar cases have done, does the legislature want to pay for the years of litigation costs as individuals and organizations argue that their Federal first and fourteenth amendment rights are violated by this law? I realize that efforts have been made to make it more "constitutional," however, I still have my doubts and any estimation either way is speculative. For the sake of argument, let's assume SB 89 is constitutional, is it worth the costs to the state and districts for the years or decades it will take to defend the suits?
6. **Public testimony to the legislature has been overwhelmingly opposed to this bill.** Regardless of attempts by both sides to muster support and opposition, the testimony has been overwhelmingly against passage. This appears to be more of a solution looking for a problem than well-considered and needed policy. I urge you to consider public testimony and weigh it heavily in your decision.
7. **SB 89 creates ambiguity, conflict, and legal liability for districts trying to reconcile the conflicts between Bree's Law and SB 89.** Bree's law changed statute so that 14.30.355 was mandated to "adopt and implement a policy, establish a training program for employees and students, and provide parent notices relating to sexual abuse and sexual assault awareness and prevention for students, enrolled in grades kindergarten through [grade]12. Under the current SB 89 proposal, "A school district and an educational services organization that has a contract with a school district may not contract with an abortion services provider. If we can't use the free services of Planned Parenthood to help with this training, who would the legislature suggest as a substitute? How much is the legislature prepared to pay for this service if it is not offered free as is our current service with Planned Parenthood? How do you suggest we enforce Bree's Law mandates until a provider is identified and contracted? Will districts be "held harmless" during the transition to locate, contract, and utilize a new provider? If we are, what does that say about Alaska's commitment to sexual violence prevention? How will this law be implemented in rural and remote school districts where resources are even more strapped than in Juneau?
8. **Are School Districts at liable if Charter Schools choose to contract with Planned Parenthood?** As I understand it, AS 14.03.250 allows districts to establish a Charter School, but the local school board has no real control over the curriculum once the charter is approved. This is important because Juneau and many districts have Charter Schools. As such, charter schools are basically free to choose whatever curriculum they desire and school district has no control over that decision until the charter or contract are up for renewal with the district. If a Charter School chooses to contract with Planned Parenthood, will the district be held liable when we have no control over the Charter School until their contract and/or charter is open for renewal? What guidance does the legislature have regarding the rights of districts versus the rights of charter schools in regards to this law and the potential consequences if violated by a charter school?

While there are other points I could make, I believe these represent the most important concerns I have with SB 89. Policy-wise, I see considerable liabilities to the state and my district caused by SB 89. If SB 89 is concerned about "parental rights," then the bill needs to be more focused on the opt-in versus opt-out debate. In contrast, banning districts, district personnel, and others from contracting with Planned Parenthood or similar organizations has no relation to "parental rights." The only reason for this provision is to prohibit a free organization from participating in the public educational process. As a consequence, this inhibits the ability of

districts to comply with the mandates of Bree's Law, efficiently and effectively conduct sexual education in Alaska, and increases an unnecessary financial burden on the district and community. For these reasons, I urge you to give a critical eye to SB 89 and do not pass. Juneau and Alaska school districts needs the support of the legislature, not unnecessary unfunded mandates that only hurts the ability of Alaska school districts to deliver effective, efficient, and locally-controlled curriculum.

Sincerely and Respectfully,

Emil Robert Mackey, PhD, MPA, MEd, BSE

Juneau School Board Member

Taneeka Hansen

From: Donna Knutson <donnaknuts@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2016 5:41 PM
To: Rep. Paul Seaton
Subject: SB89

Dear Rep Seaton. I'm writing to let you know that I really hope that you and your committee do not spend a lot of time on the above bill. I have taught Health classes in middle school before and in my experience folks who come in to speak to students about sex education focus on health risks and are very careful not to advocate for abortion rights. It annoys the heck out of me that the so-called "conservatives" seem to want to spend everyone's time on anti-abortion and right to carry a gun wherever you want. Seems like it's time to figure out the money situation

Thank you

Donna Knutson

Sent from my iPhone

Taneeka Hansen

From: Brian Lynch <lynch1@gci.net>
Sent: Friday, April 08, 2016 2:02 PM
To: Rep. Paul Seaton; Rep. Liz Vazquez; 'Rep.'; Rep. Louise Stutes; 'Rep.'; Rep. Geran Tarr; 'Rep.'
Subject: SB 89

Dear Chairman Seaton and Members of the House Health & Social Services Committee,

I am writing to urge you to oppose SB 89, a purely political, likely unconstitutional bill that will provide no redeeming benefits and, in fact, would be harmful by severely restricting young Alaskans access to vital sexual health education. You, as legislators should be working on ways to provide benefits to Alaskans, not restricting them.

SB 89 would limit students' access to important information to help them make healthy decisions about their lives. It would restrict sexual health education across the state of Alaska, taking away decisions made by parents, teachers, and communities about what is best for their children and students.

Alaska has some of the highest rates of sexually transmitted diseases, teen pregnancy rates and a sexual abuse rate that is six times higher than the national average. Instead of expanding evidence-based education about sexual health, SB 89 puts barriers between students and these life-changing programs, and creates burdensome in a time when districts are struggling with an unprecedented budget crisis. Alaska's youth need us to face the facts, and give them the resources they need to reverse our state's troubling trends.

In addition, Legal Services has outlined the clear constitutional problems with SB 89. Alaska is going through a budget crisis, and the last thing our state should be doing is risking an expensive lawsuit over something that is probably not legal.

Again, I ask you to please oppose SB 89 to make sure our students have access to the information they need to stay healthy.

Thank you for consideration of my request.

Sincerely,

Brian Lynch

PO Box 1247

Petersburg, AK 99833



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Taneeka Hansen

From: Melissa Griffiths <melissa.leeanne@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 07, 2016 11:41 AM
To: Rep. Paul Seaton; Rep. Liz Vazquez; Rep. Neal Foster; Rep. Louise Stutes; Rep. David Talerico; Rep. Geran Tarr; Rep. Adam Wool
Subject: Regarding SB 89 in HSS Committee
Categories: Taneeka

Dear Representatives Seaton, Vazquez, Foster, Stutes, Talerico, Tarr and Wool,
Though none of you represent my district directly, I do view your service on this committee as hopefully being in the best interests of all Alaskans.
I would like to encourage you to vote against passage of SB 89, which limits the provision of sex education in schools, from the Health & Social Services committee.
While it may be framed as an issue of parental rights, the stakes here are too high; a lack of education in sexual health can lead to unhealthy and unsafe decisions about sexual behaviors with consequences including contraction of serious sexually transmitted infections. The more education Alaskans receive about healthy and safe practices, the better prepared they are to make decisions to protect themselves and their loved ones.
I am deeply concerned that leaving our youth uneducated about safe practices puts them at great risk for sexually transmitted infections. Some are easily cured with a prescription of antibiotics, but others are not. HIV is a major concern to this day and though individuals can live long and fulfilling lives, they are committed to lifelong, expensive treatment to achieve that.
Please think about the consequences of not providing the best education we can for young Alaskans and stop this bill from becoming a very dangerous law.

Thank you for your consideration,
Melissa Leeanne Griffiths
Juneau, Alaska
907-209-6798

Taneeka Hansen

From: Jorden Nigro <jordennigro@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 07, 2016 3:22 PM
To: Rep. Paul Seaton; Rep. Liz Vazquez; Rep. Neal Foster; Rep. Louise Stutes; Rep. David Talerico; Rep. Geran Tarr; Rep. Adam Wool
Cc: Sen. Dennis Egan; Rep. Sam Kito; Rep. Cathy Munoz
Subject: Opposition to SB 89

Categories: Taneeka

Dear Representative Seaton and Members of the Committee,

I am writing today to express my opposition of SB 89, a bill that professes to be about parental rights, but which is so clearly an attack on Planned Parenthood.

I have had the good fortune to work with teens in Juneau both before and after Planned Parenthood came to town. What I can tell you is that the information they provide in the schools is invaluable.

Alaska has one of the highest rates of STD's in the country, not to mention our horrible statistics on relationship abuse. I am happy to say that our rate of teen births is going down. This is very much because of the excellent work that has been done to educate our kids on healthy sexuality, and yet there is still much to be done.

We are in the midst of a fiscal crisis that has resulted in cuts to many programs that help those in need. Not giving our kids the knowledge they need to make healthy decisions for themselves will no doubt result in more people in need a generation from now and a state that doesn't have the resources to support them. These programs are prevention and we need them. Your decisions now will have an impact for generations to come.

I feel confident that your committee will see this bill for what it is and not move it forward and I thank you in advance for that.

Sincerely,

Jorden Nigro
Juneau

Taneeka Hansen

From: Ray Lee <ray25lee@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 10, 2016 1:18 AM
To: Rep. Paul Seaton; Rep. Liz Vazquez; Rep. David Talerico; Rep. Neal Foster; Rep. Louise Stutes; Rep. Geran Tarr; Rep. Adam Wool
Subject: SB-89

Categories: Taneeka

Hello;

I am an Alaskan citizen writing with regards to the bill that prohibits sexual education in schools (this looks like the most updated version: http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_bill_text.asp?hsid=SB0089C&session=29).

The flaws in this bill are glaring. First of all, "prohibiting a school district from contracting with an abortion services provider". Any large and sensible health organization deals with abortion services. If this bill passes, hospitals and schools will no longer be permitted to mutual contracts. That is pure insanity. "prohibiting a school district from allowing an abortion services provider to furnish course materials or provide instruction concerning sexuality or sexually transmitted diseases". This seeks to abolish sexual education altogether, and that is beyond harmful. Make the classes optional perhaps, but do NOT prohibit sex education from public schools. Not only do statistics show a glaring difference in sexual wellness between children who have been educated on the subject and those who haven't (those statistics are in favor of those who have; statistically, they are less likely to engage in unprotected and otherwise unsafe sex and less likely to become pregnant in general), but prohibiting the teaching of human anatomy merely because it focuses on genitalia is a reprehensible disservice to developing children and teenagers. Females who start menstruation so often get hurt from improper tampon usage, or end up in terribly embarrassing situations because they don't know how to prepare properly for their time of the month (just as one example). Young adults who intend to avoid pregnancy often resort to anal, and what so many people don't know is that HIV/AIDS is far more easily contracted via anal penetration. Pushing abstinence is a terrible route to go as well, because EVERYBODY develops, all of our bodies change tangibly and chemically, and whether some squeamish parents like it or not, well over 90% of children and teenagers begin their very normal experience of sexual urges. It is imperative that these things be discussed in an educational environment, or, at the very least, be an option provided. There is absolutely no rational, scientific reason to ban sex education from schools and keep people in the dark about the reality of their bodies changing. No matter how much people don't talk about it, EVERYONE'S body changes right before their eyes. Females need to learn how to check their breasts for lumps, males need to learn how to properly use condoms. The list goes on.

This bill also says "relating to physical examinations for students". You do realize this means it will be prohibited for the school health professional to advise a student on their sexual needs even when they come in for examinations, right? According to the "a parent's right to direct the education of a child" bit at the top, this is basically limiting young human beings' resources for bodily information to the parents and the internet. That is unacceptable on so many levels. It's one thing to allow students to not attend a sex ed meeting, it's completely another when you prohibit them from access to information about pregnancy, menstruation, cancers, STDs, PROTECTION... prohibiting them from information that could keep them SAFE. It's imperative that students know STDs can be contracted even without penetrative sex. It's imperative for students to know how contraceptives work and what they do to the body. Whether ANYONE likes it or not, students have sex. Not all of them, but many DO. It doesn't matter if it's a oral in a car or sex in the woods, people have natural sexual urges, and there are very valid ways to handle 'em that significantly lower rates of STDs and pregnancy, which

is way better than not having any vague idea how to handle sexual urges and ending up doing something detrimental to someone else and/or theirself. Do not ban objective hospital/health information from developing human beings. It is not healthy and not wise. Considering how Alaska is one of the leading states in sexual misconduct and rape, we really need to start addressing this matter through explaining sexual wellness to students and providing them reliable information and care from their health advisors.

Thank you very much for your time.

- Raymond

Taneeka Hansen

From: Protect Healthy Youth Alaska <power4alaska@gmail.com> on behalf of Harold Spence <ppaction@ppvnh.org>
Sent: Friday, April 08, 2016 11:28 AM
To: Rep. Paul Seaton
Subject: Please oppose SB 89 and keep our students healthy

Apr 8, 2016

State Representative Paul Seaton
State Capitol, Room 102
120 Fourth Street
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear State Representative Seaton,

I am writing to urge you to oppose SB 89, a harmful and likely unconstitutional bill that would dramatically restrict sexual health education in Alaska.

Legal Services has outlined the clear constitutional problems with SB 89. Alaska is going through a budget crisis, and the last thing our state should be doing is risking an expensive lawsuit over something that is probably not legal.

SB 89 would limit students' access to important information to help them make healthy decisions about their lives. It would restrict sexual health education across the state of Alaska, taking away decisions made by parents, teachers, and communities about what is best for their students.

We lead the nation in chlamydia rates, have child sexual abuse rates six times higher than the national average, and have higher teen pregnancy rates too. But instead of expanding evidence-based education about sexual health, SB 89 puts barriers between students and these life-changing programs, and creates burdensome requirements for school districts in a time when districts are struggling with an unprecedented budget crisis. Alaska's youth need us to face the facts, and give them the resources they need to reverse our state's troubling trends.

Please oppose SB 89 to make sure our students have access to the information they need to stay healthy. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mr. Harold Spence
PO Box 1748
Homer, AK 99603-1748
hobig@yahoo.com

Taneeka Hansen

From: Rep. Paul Seaton
Sent: Monday, April 11, 2016 11:13 AM
To: Taneeka Hansen
Subject: FW: SB89

-

Sincerely,
Jenny

Jenny Martin
Legislative Aide
Office of Rep. Paul Seaton
120 4th St. #102 State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801
907-465-2689 1-800-665-2689 Fax: 907-465-3472
HouseMajority.org/Seaton

From: Sharon Stockard [mailto:sharonstockard@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, April 11, 2016 7:47 AM
To: Rep. Paul Seaton <Rep.Paul.Seaton@akleg.gov>; Rep. Liz Vazquez <Rep.Liz.Vazquez@akleg.gov>; Rep. Neal Foster <Rep.Neal.Foster@akleg.gov>; Rep. Louise Stutes <Rep.Louise.Stutes@akleg.gov>
Subject: SB89

Dear Committee members,

I strongly oppose SB89, which would prohibit sex education in our schools. As the parent of a son in Anchorage schools, I resent this state government overreach into local matters.

This legislation curtails local efforts to educate our young people so they make responsible decisions regarding sex. For state government to step in and try to restrict such information harms our young people and is unwanted state meddling. If you truly want to help local communities, increase funding for our local schools to ensure that we have a well-educated workforce and leaders tomorrow.

While the state faces a \$4.4 billion deficit, lawmakers should not be wasting time on such destructive meddling into our education decisions.

Please reject this bill.

Sharon Stockard

Taneeka Hansen

From: Tammy Pound <tammyfowlerpound@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 08, 2016 5:10 PM
To: Rep. Paul Seaton; Rep. Liz Vazquez; Rep. Neal Foster; Rep. Louise Stutes; Rep. David Talerico; Rep. Geran Tarr; Represetative.Adam.Wool@akleg.gov
Cc: Norm Wooten; John Conwell
Subject: SB 89

Dear Representatives,

I send you this message today in opposition of SB 89.

During my recent trip to Juneau in March for the AASB Legislative Fly-In for school board members from around the state, I made it very clear to Senator Dunleavy's office that I opposed SB 89.

This bill is an intrusion on local control. School boards across the state have a process for selecting curriculum used in their districts. As an example, Unalaska is in the process of updating our Health/P.E. Curriculum. The Unalaska City School District Board of Education will have a second reading for approval on April 28th. All of our curriculum committees are open for staff, student, parent, and community participation. Stakeholders from across the spectrum also have the opportunity to publicly comment during 1st and 2nd readings before approval by the board of education.

While Health is a required credit for graduation, sex education is only one portion of the class. I believe that all youth should have available age appropriate classes surrounding sexual health and well-being, I also understand that not all parents want their children to participate in such classes. As a district, all parents have the option of indicating their participation preference before their child attends that portion of the class. I strongly object to having an opt-in statute for every activity that occurs in a classroom. It is burdensome for both the school district and educator. Additional time and resources will be spent contacting parents who have not filled out the form, for whatever reason. Parental rights are abundant in Alaska. I question how this bill will increase the rights of parents to opt their child out of a class they may object to.

As a parent and a local school board member, I strongly oppose SB 89.

Respectfully,

Tammy L. Fowler Pound
Unalaska, Alaska

Taneeka Hansen

From: Rep. Paul Seaton
Sent: Friday, April 08, 2016 7:49 AM
To: Taneeka Hansen
Subject: FW: Opposition to SB 89

-

Sincerely,
Jenny

Jenny Martin
Legislative Aide
Office of Rep. Paul Seaton
120 4th St. #102 State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801
907-465-2689 1-800-665-2689 Fax: 907-465-3472
HouseMajority.org/Seaton

From: Jill Taylor [mailto:jillataylor@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, April 08, 2016 7:39 AM
To: Rep. Paul Seaton <Rep.Paul.Seaton@akleg.gov>
Subject: Opposition to SB 89

I hope I'm not too late! I strongly oppose this bill. Our teens need this information to make informed decisions about their bodies.

- Although this bill purports to be about parental rights, it strips the rights of parents and communities who want their children to receive accurate, unbiased, and evidence-based information from Planned Parenthood.
- Local communities and parents have the right to invite trusted partners like Planned Parenthood into the classroom if they choose. Until the state steps up in providing medically accurate sexual health education to all students, communities will rely on Planned Parenthood to provide that information.
- In a time when our education system is facing unprecedented budget cuts, our legislators should not be limiting districts' options for local programing, and should instead be encouraging districts to use every resource available to educate its students.

Jill Taylor

115 Gastineau Avenue

Juneau, Alaska 99801

Taneeka Hansen

From: Sarah Welton <alpha@mtaonline.net>
Sent: Friday, April 08, 2016 2:55 PM
To: Rep. Paul Seaton; Rep. Liz Vazquez; Rep. Neal Foster; Rep. Louise Stutes; Rep. David Talerico; Rep. Geran Tarr; Rep. Adam Wool
Subject: Regarding SB 89

Dear Honorable Committee Members,

Among other things, I am a parent, grandmother, educator, pastor, mental health counselor, and school board member. The following four points are my concerns regarding SB 89:

- I believe that SB 89 is ill-conceived and tries to fix something that is not broken.
- I believe this bill will hamper positive health education that is needed for our children.
- Parents are already in control and make choices regarding schooling. The maker of the bill, Senator Dunleavy, states that parents want this bill. They already have the right to opt out, to teach their children at home, and to provide their own curriculum in addition to the public school offerings.
- The expertise for teaching sex education, that is the hiring of teachers, should be left to the local school district which is controlled at the local level.

I wear many hats and I understand the issues of bias that may creep into a classroom but that can be in science, math, music, art, history, English and everything else. People who are well educated can teach explaining bias and bringing in other views to address concerns.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully yours,

Sarah R. Welton, PhD

Alpha Counseling & Education Services

Taneeka Hansen

From: Sarah Campen <sarah.campen@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 07, 2016 7:16 PM
To: Rep. Paul Seaton; Rep. Liz Vazquez; Rep. Neal Foster; Rep. Louise Stutes; Rep. David Talerico; Rep. Geran Tarr; Rep. Adam Wool; Sen. Dennis Egan; Rep. Sam Kito
Subject: Opposition to SB 89

House HSS Committee:

I would like to express my opposition to SB 89. I value the opportunity for students to receive quality information regarding physical and sexual health. Parents already have the option to remove their students from sexual/reproductive health activities, requiring parental permission for each in-class activity is not only unnecessary but will block many students from receiving critical information.

Thank you for your work,

Sarah Campen

Sarah Campen, Coordinator
Tongass Collaborative Stewardship Group
sarah.campen@gmail.com
907.209.6736

Taneeka Hansen

From: Gretchen Nelson <glnelson19@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 08, 2016 8:14 AM
To: Rep. Paul Seaton; Rep. Liz Vazquez; Rep. Neal Foster; Rep. Louise Stutes; Rep. David Talerico; Rep. Adam Wool; Rep. Geran Tarr
Cc: Rebecca Wolfe
Subject: Opposition to Senate Bill 89

Honorable Representatives,

As the parent of two, young adult daughters, I have experienced first hand the value of comprehensive, medically-accurate information regarding sexual assault and responsible reproductive health education. My daughters were enrolled in one of the most important elective classes of their high school career - Human Sexuality and Healthy Relationships. They have told me numerous times of the nonjudgmental, unbiased, medically accurate information on reproductive health and relationships they received in this class. It may save them some day from disease and the horror of assault. No parent would want their child to be unprepared for such life possibilities.

I am opposed to SB 89 that would prohibit Planned Parenthood from providing sexual health education in Alaska public schools. This organization provides accurate, life saving information to Alaska's youth and is a trusted partner throughout the country.

Studies show that comprehensive sex education is effective at reducing STIs, can delay sexual activity, and therefore lower teen pregnancy rates. Let's work to ensure our youth have comprehensive, medically-accurate information, and not limit it.

Now that my daughters are college students, I've been alarmed and scared for their safety in light of national reports on the high rate of assault on college campuses. The more information a student has about sexual violence, the more likely they are to make a report when it occurs and possibly avoid it all costs. I hope for their safety and knowledge gained from their high school class every day. Please help keep our youth safe by not supporting this bill.
More information, not less will help our students succeed in life.

Thank you for your time,
Gretchen Nelson
Anchorage, Alaska