

**From:** [Susan A](#)  
**To:** [Senate State Affairs](#)  
**Subject:** Public Testimony Opposing Alaska Senate Bill 177  
**Date:** Thursday, May 8, 2025 4:30:33 PM

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## Public Testimony Opposing Alaska Senate Bill 177

To: Members of the Alaska State Legislature  
From: Susan Allmeroth, Concerned Citizen  
Subject: OPPOSITION to SB 177 – The “Public Transparency Suppression Act”  
Date: May 8, 2025

### I. INTRODUCTION

Senate Bill 177 is a coordinated and dangerous attempt to erase public accountability from the statutes of the State of Alaska. The bill repeals dozens of public reporting requirements across multiple departments—child welfare, public safety, oil and gas leasing, environmental management, health services, public utilities, and education.

This bill is not about efficiency. It is a calculated effort to obstruct legislative oversight, suppress public awareness, and centralize power in the executive branch with little to no public input. SB 177 violates multiple provisions of the Alaska Constitution, infringes upon the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, and opens the door for rampant abuse, corruption, and collusion. It is modeled in part on the authoritarian designs of Project 2025—a radical effort to dismantle the administrative state and censor public institutions.

### II. FULL LIST OF REPEALED STATUTES & THEIR IMPACTS

Below are key examples of what SB 177 eliminates and why they matter:

#### Environmental & Resource Accountability

- AS 38.05.180(bb) – Annual report on oil and gas leases.  
Impact: Silences public insight into the state’s energy deals and lease awards to private industry.
- AS 46.08.060(b) – Report on spill prevention and response fund usage.  
Impact: Covers up how funds are used (or misused) after oil spills—crucial for environmental protection.

#### Public Health and Safety

- AS 18.05.042 – Health and Social Services annual report.  
Impact: Obstructs understanding of healthcare delivery, disease trends, and spending.
- AS 47.14.112 – Report on children in custody and services provided.  
Impact: Hides how the state treats its most vulnerable—foster children and youth in protective services.
- AS 33.30.017 – Report on utility charges for prisoners.  
Impact: Prevents scrutiny of fees charged to incarcerated individuals and their families.

- AS 47.05.095(d) – Report on Coordinated Care Demonstration Projects.  
Impact: Conceals the effectiveness—or failure—of health service reforms.

#### Education & Institutions

- AS 14.43.840(c) – Postsecondary education performance reports.  
Impact: Eliminates the public’s ability to evaluate whether higher education investment is effective.

#### Veterans’ Affairs and Military Family Neglect

- AS 44.35.020(b) – Annual report on the activities and performance of the Office of Veterans Affairs.

Impact: This repeal is an insult to Alaska’s veterans and military families. Eliminating this report means the public—and the Legislature—will no longer be able to assess how well Alaska is serving those who’ve served. This includes oversight of:

- Employment and housing assistance programs
- Veteran healthcare coordination
- Suicide prevention and PTSD resources
- Outreach to rural veterans and Native veterans

#### Financial Oversight

- AS 37.13.170(b) – Report on the performance of the Permanent Fund.  
Impact: Blocks insight into how Alaska’s most vital public trust is managed.

- AS 44.33.231 – Report on international trade offices.  
Impact: Prevents economic stakeholders from evaluating the impact of state trade policies.

#### Regulatory Oversight

- AS 44.99.210(c) – Report on the effect of federal regulations on Alaska.  
Impact: Makes it easier for agencies to adopt unpopular federal policies without transparency.
- AS 44.19.035(b) – State agency operations and efficiency audits.  
Impact: Eliminates a critical check on administrative bloat and waste.

Alaska Statutes § 44.35.020(b). (Repealed by SB 177, 2025). Annual report on the Office of Veterans Affairs.

These repeals collectively represent a broad erasure of accountability across nearly every core function of Alaska’s government.

### III. LEGAL VIOLATIONS

#### 1. Alaska Constitution – Legislative Oversight

By removing direct statutory reporting, SB 177 blocks the legislature’s ability to independently monitor agencies—a core power protected under Article II, Section 20.

- Citation: Alaska Const. art. II, § 20
- Precedent: *State v. Alex*, 646 P.2d 203 (Alaska 1982)

## 2. Alaska Constitution – Right to Know & Privacy

Article I, Section 22 protects the people’s right to privacy, which includes the right to public information on government operations.

- Citation: Alaska Const. art. I, § 22
- Precedent: *Doe v. State*, 487 P.3d 822 (Alaska 2021)

## 3. U.S. Constitution – First Amendment

The removal of statutory reports infringes on the public’s First Amendment right to receive information about government functions.

- Citation: U.S. Const. amend. I
- Precedents:
- *Richmond Newspapers, Inc. v. Virginia*, 448 U.S. 555 (1980)
- *Stanley v. Georgia*, 394 U.S. 557 (1969)

## 4. Violation of the Alaska Administrative Procedure Act

The so-called “efficiency review” every 10 years allows for rule changes without consistent public notice or hearing, violating AS 44.62 procedural requirements.

## IV. ALIGNMENT WITH PROJECT 2025

This bill is ideologically aligned with Project 2025, which calls for:

- Dismantling agency transparency
- Defunding oversight positions
- Erasing federal-state accountability structures
- Silencing dissent and public access to information

SB 177 is a test run for these principles in Alaska. It is a chilling preview of how democracy dies—not with violence, but with silence, secrecy, and slow legislative erosion.

## V. DISPROPORTIONATE IMPACT ON MARGINALIZED COMMUNITIES

SB 177 will especially hurt:

- Alaska Native children in custody
- Families navigating public health systems
- Low-income and incarcerated people
- Rural communities affected by natural resource extraction

These are not mere “efficiencies”—they are acts of systemic exclusion and suppression.

SB 177 also erases key reporting requirements related to veterans, and that is a critical omission.

Legal and Ethical Implications for Veterans

The repeal of AS 44.35.020(b) violates:

- Alaska Constitution Article I, Section 7 (Due Process), by eliminating transparency in benefits and services owed to veterans.
- Federal equal protection principles by disproportionately impacting disabled, rural, and Alaska Native veterans who rely most on visibility and state coordination.
- Undermines the State’s moral obligation codified in the Alaska Statutes and veteran service compacts.

## VI. DEMAND FOR ACTION

I call on the Alaska Legislature to:

- Vote NO on SB 177 in its entirety
- Conduct a full legal and constitutional review of all repealed statutes
- Reject the influence of Project 2025 on Alaska’s policy and lawmaking
- Hold public hearings on transparency and agency accountability with community input

Veterans have earned more than just symbolic support—they deserve evidence-backed accountability.

This bill must not be amended, softened, or revised—it must be defeated outright.

## REFERENCE PAGE

Alaska Constitution. (1956). Constitution of the State of Alaska.

<https://ltgov.alaska.gov/information/alaskas-constitution/>

Alaska Legislature. (2025). Senate Bill 177. <https://www.akleg.gov/basis/Bill/Detail/34?Root=SB+177>

Alaska Statutes § 44.62.010 et seq. (Administrative Procedures Act)

Doe v. State, 487 P.3d 822 (Alaska 2021).

Heritage Foundation. (2023). Mandate for Leadership: The Conservative Promise. <https://www.project2025.org>

Richmond Newspapers, Inc. v. Virginia, 448 U.S. 555 (1980).

Stanley v. Georgia, 394 U.S. 557 (1969).

State v. Alex, 646 P.2d 203 (Alaska 1982)

Alaska Statutes § 44.35.020(b). (Repealed by SB 177, 2025). Annual report on the Office of Veterans Affairs.

## CLOSING STATEMENT

SB 177 is the legislative embodiment of authoritarianism cloaked in technocratic language. It silences the public, disarms the legislature, and hands a blank check to unelected bureaucrats. It is a constitutional betrayal and a moral failure.

Vote no. And be ready to explain to the public why you would ever support it.

Governor is also violating his constitutional duty and treating like your branch like it's his own subordinate and not his co-equal check and balance. I urge you to use your authority.

Susan Allmeroth  
Two Rivers

Sorry if sloppy in a rush today