

Dana Strommen

From: Haase, Donald J. [HaaseDJ@alaska-pipeline.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 25, 2009 7:27 AM
To: Rep. Jay Ramras; jayramras@hotmail.com
Subject: HB35, Restoring Parental Rights

Honorable members of the House Judiciary Committee,

You have before you the opportunity to provide great help to parents in Alaska. Currently, a pregnant 13-year-old can be coerced into an abortion without the advice, knowledge or consent of either of her parents. Your daughter could be driven to the clinic by the 21-year-old coach, neighbor or teacher who impregnated her through statutory rape – unbelievable! If your underage daughter is raped by her older boyfriend, he is now able to hide his crime by coercing her into an abortion and you will never know until medical or emotional complications come forth.

As the father of a teenage daughter, I feel it is my responsibility to help her make the best medical decisions possible. Current law says that she can make these decisions alone, or worse, with only the coercive advice of the man who impregnated her. I ask that you correct this wrong by passing HB35 promptly in order to provide plenty of time for consideration by the full House and Senate.

Thank you,

Don Haase
Box 3423
Valdez AK 99686
(907)834-7359

Jane Pierson

From: Chris & Jennie Grimwood [ckiwigrim@gci.net]
Sent: Tuesday, March 03, 2009 10:37 AM
To: Jane Pierson
Subject: letter for parental consent file

Dear Jane:

This is not a copy of another letter. I wrote it myself. I just forwarded it to another

Jennie Grimwood
Cordova

Dear Representative Ramras:

I think parental consent is an important issue. It affirms the rights of parents to raise their children. A government entity that wants to become the parent and make generic decisions for parents creates a nanny state. How can a government write policy on "How to be a parent"? Our traditions of raising children have for centuries have been handed down through the family. A recent invasion of government to dictate personal family matters can never replace a long history of parents making decisions for their families unless it was serfdom or slavery.

Values have been handed down through families. HB 35 Parental consent to abortion should be an easily understood bill. Parents consent is required for school field trips, visits to the hospital, medical treatment, tatoos, girl scout trips, athletic activities and many other events.

Parents need to know if their minor daughter is having an abortion. Sexual predators have accompanied young girls to abortion clinics to wipe out their crime. Young girls don't understand the side effects of various abortion pills. Young girls don't understand the aftereffects of abortions such as heavy bleeding that can last for weeks. I recently spoke to a legislative aide who had used a cocktail of birth control pills (how-tos found on web sites) to have an abortion. She said she wouldn't recommend it because of the extreme pain. A morning after pill given by an abortion clinic can be a deadly dose.

Sincerely,

Jennie Grimwood
Cordova

Jane Pierson

From: Christopher Clark [cgcalaska@yahoo.com]
Sent: Friday, February 27, 2009 8:38 AM
To: Tim Barry; John Bitney; Shannon Devon; Peter Fellman; Linda Hay; Crystal Koeneman; Paul Labolle; Karen Lidster; Tom Maher; John Manly; Rynnieva Moss; Jane Pierson; Chris Wyatt
Subject: Daily News: History of parental consent law in Alaska

History of parental consent law in Alaska

Published: February 27th, 2009 03:38 AM
Last Modified: February 27th, 2009 03:44 AM

1997: Passed by Legislature, became law over veto by then-Gov. Tony Knowles. Challenged immediately. Never went into effect. What it did: Required girls younger than 17 to get a parent's or judge's permission before obtaining an abortion.

1997: Appealed by ACLU, Planned Parenthood and local doctors.

1998: Superior Court Judge Sen Tan rules the law unconstitutional. The state appeals.

2001: Alaska Supreme Court orders Judge Tan to hear testimony and decide if the law furthers “**a compelling state interest**” using the “**least restrictive means**” available. This is a standard balancing test used to decide if something is important enough to the state that it should be allowed even if it might infringe on a citizen's rights.

2003: Superior Court trial held as ordered.

2003: Judge Tan rules the law does not meet the **compelling state interest-least restrictive** means test. He ruled it unconstitutional under the **equal protection and privacy clauses** of the Alaska Constitution.

2004: The state appealed Tan's ruling to the Alaska Supreme Court.

2005: Oral argument before the Supreme Court

2007: In a 3-2 vote, the Supreme Court rules the law unconstitutional on privacy grounds.

Changes in Alaska Supreme Court:

The votes to overturn the parental consent law in 2007 were cast by Justices Dana Fabe, Alex Bryner and Robert Eastaugh.

Justices Walter Carpeneti and Warren Matthews voted to uphold it.

The current make-up of the court: Fabe and Eastaugh remain on the bench.

Bryner has been replaced by Palin appointee Daniel Winfree.

Carpeneti remains on the bench. **Matthews will soon be replaced by an upcoming Palin appointment.**

Source: Anchorage Daily News. Associated Press. ACLU