



ALASKANS TOGETHER
FOR EQUALITY

February 15, 2017

Honorable Representative Matt Claman
State Capitol Room 118
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Representative Claman,

Alaskans Together For Equality (ATE) supports House Bill 20 as written: "An act relating to marriage solemnization; and authorizing elected public officials in the state to solemnize marriages."

ATE represents thousands of members across the state of Alaska. We are a statewide, nonpartisan, civil rights organization whose mission is to advance civil equality for all Alaskans through education, grassroots organizing and advocacy, with a primary focus on lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender Alaskans. ATE believes a solid foundation of equal civil rights across institutions and practices enables all Alaskans to maximize economic opportunities, create healthy lives and build resilient communities – making for a stronger Alaska.

HB20 empowers elected public officials in both urban and rural areas to perform marriages for all eligible couples. Many areas in Alaska are remote. The inclusion of elected public officials in marriage solemnization eases the burden on communities in identifying the proper officials and scheduling marriage ceremonies.

Thank you for addressing this important issue.

Sincerely,

Elias Rojas
Board President

Billy Farrell
Executive Director

CC: ATE Board Members