

**Jody Simpson**

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**From:** Karen Karlen <  
**Sent:** Monday, April 10, 2017 9:51 AM  
**Subject:** Oppose SB72

Dear Senator & Senate Health & Social Services Committee,

I am asking that you oppose SB72. Every Alaskan and every American has fundamental freedoms already.

Thank you.

Karen Karlen  
Fairbanks, Alaska

**Jody Simpson**

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**From:** nordic <  
**Sent:** Monday, April 10, 2017 9:40 AM  
**To:** Senate Health and Social Services; Sen. Berta Gardner  
**Subject:** I support anti-discrimination bill, S.B. 72.

I support S.B. 72. It's time to put into law the sentiments of the majority of Alaskans: equality for all.

Thank you.

Constance Quinley, Constituent

Anchorage, AK 99508

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**From:** Jamie Hutson <  
**Sent:** Friday, April 07, 2017 9:41 AM  
**To:** Senate Health and Social Services  
**Subject:** I support SB 72

Hello Alaska senate. I am writing to tell you that I fully support SB 72 the bill that will add gender identity and sexual orientation to the list of things that are not okay to discriminate against. I have many LGBT friends but the gender identity parts hits hard for me. The love of my life is a transgender male. He started using the men's room in 2013 a little while after he started hormones because he scared a woman when he was just washing his hands. She asked if she was in the wrong bathroom. He had to explain to her that he is transgender and she told him that it might be wise to use the men's room from then on. He hates the fact that there are people that want to change the anti discrimination ordinance and force him to use the women's room just because of what is on his birth certificate. He feels utterly disgusted and feels like a pervert when he thinks about having to use the women's room. He doesn't belong in the women's room just as how my transgender female friends do not belong in the men's room. So please support SB 72. Protect my LGBT friends and love from hate.

**Jody Simpson**

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**From:** Sarah Seifert <seifert@alaska.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 07, 2017 12:50 PM  
**To:** Senate Health and Social Services  
**Subject:** Alaska Senate Bill 72

Good Afternoon,

I have written to you today to express my support of Senate Bill 72, which seeks to add sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression to Alaska's non-discrimination laws. Though I will be returning to Alaska when my contract is finished, I am currently living overseas, and thus unable to attend the public hearing for this bill. However, I assure you, protecting my friends, family, and myself from discrimination is of the utmost importance to me. Please pass bill 72 so that the people I care about and myself as well do not risk being fired simply for having the audacity to exist. Allowing for people and businesses to discriminate against other Alaskans because they don't like who they are and/or how they dress is a ludicrous prospect which should be wholly rejected, and is fundamentally inhumane and counter to everything Alaska stands for.

Thank you for your time,  
Sarah Margaret Seifert  
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Fairbanks, AK

**Jody Simpson**

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**From:** Caitlin Taylor <cait  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 08, 2017 7:42 PM  
**To:** Senate Health and Social Services  
**Cc:** Sen. Berta Gardner  
**Subject:** Support for SB 72

Hello to the Health and Social Services Committee,

I am a born-and-raised lesbian Alaskan, product of our education system, and proud to serve my home by working in the nonprofit sector. My similarly lesbian born-and-raised Alaskan girlfriend is wrapping up a double major at the University of Alaska, Anchorage. Together, we frequently question whether to make this state our home for the future. I wish to echo previous SB 72 testimony about the reluctance to stay in Alaska without a paradigm shift. We want to live in places that protect and respect our community. That said, I strongly believe in the adoption of policy that distinguishes Alaska as a welcoming place for all.

As a past president of UAA's LGBTQ+ club, The Family, I encouraged us to celebrate and be proud of our progress—but the fight for acceptance is far from over. This is still the place where Identity Inc.'s flag is burned on a regular basis. Please remember, regardless of whether the policy exists, we the community exist. I have watched the LGBTQ+ people of UAA struggling to come out to the RA's in the dorms, tentatively holding hands at Campus Kickoff, thrilled to use preferred pronouns in safe spaces, and passionately defending their identity in Gender classes. Whether these small victories extend to the workplace is another story. While I have been excited to work for an inclusive organization, my girlfriend and I are both used to the exhaustion of lying about our sexual orientation until safety is certain. From a handful of students to strangers, I have been harassed for being a woman-loving-woman. This anecdote is shared by many. The fundamental issue remains—they are starved for representation and an understanding culture in our state.

The future I want to create, with help from the passing of SB 72, is an atmosphere of resiliency for our Alaska's LGBTQ+ youth. Bringing this ideology to state-level is incredibly important, especially with current sentiment in our federal administration. I strongly support SB 72 as an investment in the willingness of young, bright, talented people to stay in Alaska, and as necessary recourse for discriminatory injustice. Thank you to all who have worked to make this policy our reality.

Sincerely,

Caitlin Taylor

**Jody Simpson**

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**From:** Eric Muehling <ericr  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 09, 2017 5:06 PM  
**To:** Senate Health and Social Services  
**Subject:** Senate Bill 72 -- Strong support

Dear HSS committee members,

I strongly support Senate Bill 72.

Discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity and expression must end.

Legislation alone will not change prejudice, but legislation can change behavior.

Everyone deserves to be treated with basic human dignity, and equality in housing, education, banking and public accommodation. To this end legislation is required.

Please be on the side of respecting the basic human dignity of all people, and ensuring it with legislation.

Eric Muehling  
Fairbanks, Alaska

**Jody Simpson**

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**From:** Janet Curran <jan  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 09, 2017 8:43 PM  
**To:** Senate Health and Social Services; Sen. Berta Gardner  
**Subject:** written testimony in support of SB72

Senate Health and Social Services Committee,

This email provides written testimony in support of SB 72, prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity or expression.

As the parent of a 12 year old who recently found a name to describe the gender identity he'd always felt – genderfluid, meaning sometimes a boy and sometimes a girl, and sometimes not really any gender at all – I strongly support adding gender identity to the list of restrictions from discrimination. When my child came forward with this news, his classmates and friends were fairly nonplussed. Much like someone celebrating a birthday, he's still the same person he was yesterday, just with a new label, and this amazingly supportive community of his school-age peers took it in stride. I deeply regret that we as an adult community cannot yet offer this smart, compassionate child the promise of protection from discrimination as he grows up to become a productive member of society, maybe the architect he dreams of being. Viewing the world through such binary filters – boy/girl, gay/straight – often generates fear of those for whom this just doesn't fit and misses the point that we are all people. Acceptance among young people allows children such as my son to live without hiding his identity, without pretending to be something he's not, but change needs to happen at the legislative level to set the tone and serve as a guide for an adult community still grappling with these issues. It is imperative that we not allow a person's gender identity to stand in the way of such a necessary function as employment, such a basic need as public accommodation, such a simple pursuit as rental housing, or the other conditions covered by SB 72. Please take this opportunity to afford these protections so that children such as my son have a bright future to look forward to.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I urge you to pass this important and timely bill out of committee.

Sincerely,

Janet Curran

Anchorage, AK 99508

**Jody Simpson**

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**From:** Chelsea Lindquist <...>  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 09, 2017 10:49 PM  
**To:** Sen. David Wilson  
**Subject:** SB72

Hello,

I am writing to voice my support for SB72, proposed by Senator Gardner, which would add sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression" to our existing state's anti-discrimination law.

The LGBT+ community is one of our most vulnerable and discriminated against and these protections are much needed. All people are deserving of the same rights under the law, regardless of sexual orientation.

I urge you to support this bill and show that Alaska is a state that values every citizen and protects the rights of every citizen. By passing this bill you can have a great impact for good for those whose only wish is to live their lives without harassment or discrimination.

Thank you for your time,

Chelsea Vukovich  
99516



**Jody Simpson**

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**From:** Sherri W <hc ,  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 08, 2017 11:58 PM  
**To:** Sen. David Wilson; Sen. Natasha Von Imhof; Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Tom Begich  
**Subject:** SB 72

Dear Members of the Health and Social Services Committee.

One of my proudest moments being a citizen of Juneau was when they added the appropriate LGBTQ+ language to their non-discrimination law. Having said that it is obvious that I am in full support of SB72. Unfortunately I was unable to attend the previous hearing and will not be able to attend the one on Monday. However, I felt it important that you understood my reasons for supporting SB72 and so I have attached what I said last June when I testified in support of the Juneau ordinance. If you change "Juneau" to "Alaska" the sentiments are still the same. Please support SB72.

Thank you,

Sherri Wes

Juneau, AK 99801  
907-419-0842.

**From:** Meghan Maroney  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 09, 2017 3:17 PM  
**To:** Sen. David Wilson; Sen. Natasha Von Imhof  
**Subject:** Fwd: SB 72

> Dear Senators Wilson and Von Imhof,

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> I am writing to request that you vote to pass Senate Bill 72 through committee. SB72 is something that all Alaskans can get behind. Sexual orientation and gender identity have no relationship to workplace performance. Hardworking Alaskans shouldn't be fired because of who they love, or how they express their gender identity. Because of discrimination, many LGBTQ employees hide their identities, are paid less and have fewer employment opportunities than their non-LGBTQ counterparts. This prejudice puts LGBTQ people at an increased risk for poor physical and mental health. Like everyone else, LGBTQ Alaskans just want to be self-sufficient productive members of society. Please give the Senate a chance to vote on this bill by passing it through committee.

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> Thank you,

> Meghan Maroney

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> Fairbanks, AK

**Jody Simpson**

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**From:** Angela Larson <...>  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 09, 2017 3:18 PM  
**To:** Sen. Natasha Von Imhof; Sen. David Wilson  
**Cc:** Sen. John Coghill; Sen. Pete Kelly; Sen. Click Bishop  
**Subject:** In favor of Senate Bill 72

Dear Senators,

I am writing to request that you vote to pass Senate Bill 72 through committee. Sexual orientation and gender identity have no relationship to workplace performance. Hardworking Alaskans shouldn't be fired because of who they love, or how they express their gender identity. Because of discrimination, many LGBTQ employees hide their identities, are paid less and have fewer employment opportunities than their non-LGBTQ counterparts. This prejudice puts LGBTQ people at an increased risk for poor physical and mental health. Like everyone else, LGBTQ Alaskans just want to be self-sufficient productive members of society. Please give the Senate a chance to vote on this bill by passing it through committee. Thank you.

Angela

**Jody Simpson**

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**From:** Emily <  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 09, 2017 3:29 PM  
**To:** Sen. Natasha Von Imhof; Sen. David Wilson  
**Cc:** Rep. David Guttenberg; Sen. John Coghill  
**Subject:** Senate bill 72

Dear Senator Von Imhof and Senator Wilson,

Please pass Senate Bill 72 through committee. Sexual orientation and gender identity have no relationship to workplace performance and people should be free to be themselves in the workplace. Thank you for allowing this bill to come to a vote.

Emily Vockeroth

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Fairbanks 99712

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**From:** Terra Burns <se  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 09, 2017 5:50 PM  
**To:** Maxine  
**Subject:** Support for SB 72  
**Attachments:** SupportforSB72.pdf

Dear Senate Health and Social Services Committee,

We are writing in support of Senate Bill 72, which we expect to reduce sex trafficking of youth and reduce the number of adults who find themselves with few viable options for survival outside of prostitution in Alaska. The Community United for Safety and Protection is a group of current and former sex workers, sex trafficking victims, and allies working towards safety and protection for everyone in Alaska's sex trade.

Senate Bill 72 is long overdue and will prevent and provide an avenue to address discrimination against Alaskans who are lesbian, gay, bi, and transgender.

Lesbian, gay, bi, and transgender youth are disproportionately likely to experience homelessness and disproportionately likely to experience discrimination in accessing shelter and then turn to trading sex for survival. Youth like this (known as "domestic minor sex trafficking victims") make up the majority of sex trafficking victims in the United States. A 2015 study\* of 283 LGBTQ youth engaged in survival sex work in New York City found that youth engaged in survival sex work "after being kicked out by their families or being denied services at homeless shelters." Eliminating discrimination against LGBTQ youth by shelters and other crisis services will prevent a large percentage of sex trafficking of youth in Alaska.

LGBT adults, particularly transgender adults, face discrimination in employment that can leave them with few or no viable options outside of sex work. One 2015 study\*\* found that 69% of transgender sex workers had recently experienced a negative job outcome. Alaskan research\*\*\* has found that employment discrimination is a causal factor for transgender Alaskans entering the sex industry. Transgender sex workers face discrimination within the sex industry in the form of lower pay, less access to safety tools, and are targeted for violence and arrest at a higher rate. In 2014, the only sex worker to be arrested for prostitution more than once in Alaska was a homeless transgender woman in Anchorage who may have had no other opportunities for economic survival.

In addition to reducing sex trafficking, this bill will reduce money spent on police investigations, incarcerating sex workers and sex trafficking victims, and prevent people from becoming a financial burden on the state after incarceration.

Please vote yes on Senate Bill 72.

Thank you,

Terra Burns

Maxine Doogan

Kat McElroy

Crystal Godby

\*Banuelos, Connor, Dank, Madden, Mora, Ritchie, Yahner, & Yu. Surviving the Streets of New York: Experiences of LGBTQ Youth, YMSM, and YWSW Engaged in Survival Sex.

\*\* Elspeth, Hickey, & Patterson. Meaningful Work: Transgender Experiences in the Sex Trade.

\*\*\* Burns. People in Alaska's Sex Trade: Their Lived Experiences and Policy Recommendations.