

From: [Rebecca Noblin](#)
To: [Sen. Berta Gardner](#)
Subject: I support SB72
Date: Monday, April 10, 2017 8:45:17 AM

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Senator Gardner,

I live and work in Anchorage and am raising my children here. I support SB72 because I want to live in a place where everyone feels safe and welcomed. I teach my children that we treat all people with fairness, kindness and empathy, and our laws should reflect those values.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Noblin
Anchorage, AK 99517

From: [Farrah Greene](#)
To: [Sen. Berta Gardner](#)
Subject: LGBTQ Anti-Discrimination Law
Date: Sunday, April 09, 2017 5:02:37 PM

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Dear Senator:

As a Christian, black woman, and psychologist, I'd like to write a statement of support for Senate Bill (SB) 72. As a Christian, I firmly believe that hate is not a true Christian value, and that discrimination itself is a sin. As a black woman, I am saddened that laws allow for the discrimination of others, which negatively impact their life, safety, and well-being. Similarly, as a psychologist specializing in suicide prevention I am aware of the negative impact that discrimination and social condemnation can have on others, especially our youth. An anti-discrimination law can provide hope to those hopeless, and have a positive impact on youth mental health and well being, and lower suicide attempts and deaths.

Moreover, discrimination can have a negative impact on others besides those persecuted. Those engaging in bullying, hate crimes, or simple discrimination can also be negatively impacted by these actions. Encouraging discrimination and hate can lead to the encouragement of hate crimes and other violence. Thus, causing our whole society to suffer.

I have family, friends, church members, former students, patients, classmates who identified as LGBTQ and are upstanding citizens who contribute good to the world. Not only is it morally reprehensible to deny them a fair chance to achieve their true potential, but discrimination forces them to live underground where many can be taken advantage of and forced into lives deleterious to all of us.

Thank you for your consideration.

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Farrah N. Greene-Palmer, Ph.D.

From: [Sarah Isto](#)
To: [Sen. Berta Gardner](#)
Subject: Senate Bill 72 statement of support
Date: Sunday, April 09, 2017 6:01:18 PM

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I am a long-term Alaskan, born in the territory and licensed to practice medicine in the state since 1981. I support Senate Bill 72.

In caring for patients, I was aware of the stress that discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity has caused for some Alaskans and their families. As most of us are aware, stress often leads to negative effects on health. On a broader scale, permitting discrimination with the conflict it causes is not conducive to healthy communities.

I urge this committee and the legislature as a whole to support Senate Bill 72.

Sarah A. Isto, M.D.

Juneau, AK 99801

From: [Julie Kaufman](#)
To: [Sen. Berta Gardner](#)
Subject: Senate Bill 72
Date: Monday, April 10, 2017 8:26:29 AM

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I am writing in strong support of Senate Bill 72. It is critical that the rights of Alaskans of all sexual orientations and gender identities are protected under the law.

Thank you for addressing this important issue.

Julie Kaufman

Fairbanks, AK 99709

From: [Molly Zaleski](#)
To: [Sen. Berta Gardiner](#)
Subject: Senate Bill 72
Date: Monday, April 10, 2017 9:53:50 AM

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Hello,

I am writing in support of Senate Bill 72. I know public testimony is being taken today and wanted to add my voice in support of adding "sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression" to our state's anti-discrimination policies.

Alaska voted for marriage equality before it was federally mandated (same-sex marriage was legally recognized in Alaska on October 12, 2014, and nationwide on June 26, 2015). Alaskans are obviously not opposed to equality for our LGBTQ neighbors. The addition of protections from discrimination for LGBTQ citizens therefore reflects Alaskan values.

Thank you,
Marilyn Zaleski
Juneau voter

From: [Shelly Wozniak](#)
To: [Sen. Berta Gardner](#)
Cc: [Sen. Kevin Meyer](#)
Subject: Statewide non-discrimination
Date: Monday, April 10, 2017 8:48:30 AM

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Dear Sen. Gardner,

I am emailing to write my support for the statewide non-discrimination bill SB72. I am also cc'ing my senator, Sen. Kevin Meyer, so he knows that one of his constituents supports this bill. I cannot overstate how important this language is to LGBTQ Alaskans. It is imperative to support all Alaskans in their right to pursue happiness.

We do not live in a perfect world and we are not immune to history. Until 1974, being gay was considered a mental illness. We just recently won marriage equality, giving us the ability to protect our families and secure generational capital for our children. Despite these advances, there are groups and organizations in this state that actively pursue agendas to suppress the rights of LGBTQ Alaskans/Americans. They've filed an initiative called "Protect Our Privacy," in Anchorage that seeks to strip discrimination protections from LGBTQ Alaskans. They state that it is because they want to protect religious freedom. However, religious freedom is already protected in the First Amendment in the United States Constitution. What they desire is the right to refuse to provide services to other Alaskans based on sexual orientation. That is terrifying to me.

I have personally experienced the negative impacts of bias and discrimination based on the fact that I am a lesbian. I've been denied housing and I was also told by a supervisor not to discuss my private life at work. The fear, anger, humiliation and despair of these experiences still brings tears to my eyes today. I don't know if either of you have ever been intentionally humiliated, but it is a gut-wrenching experience to be made to feel less than. Discrimination allows those who wish to feel superior to attempt to shame others by denying them the basic rights enjoyed by the majority. No one should be made to feel that way, especially in Alaska - a place where hard work, individual contribution to community, and the personal freedom to make something of yourself are valued. The language of SB72 supports those values.

My wife and I have been together for 17 years. We've raised two children in this state. Like many other Alaska parents, we hope they come back home after having their adventures around the world. They are watching to see how our state deals with fiscal and social issues. They want to live, work and contribute to a state that values the same things as their generation. They are well educated and have many choices. If policies are regressive, they won't bring their time and talents home, and our state will continue to experience the brain drain of a generation that can help us secure our fiscal future.

I know that my wife and I want to stay here. She is from here and I've lived here for 22 years. We've been able to make a good life in Alaska despite those who work to ensure we're not included. We've been able to make a good life because good people have stood up next to us and fought with us for our rights. Rights are basically another word for inclusion in the American dream. There may come a day when the rights of minority groups don't have to be articulated so clearly to be ensured. There may come a day when the better angels of our collective nature allow us to see the humanity in each other more clearly. We aren't there yet, but I believe we can get there together.

Please support this bill. It is important to me and it is important to Alaska.

Thank you both for your time. I very much appreciate it.

Michelle Wozniak

P.S. Sen. Meyer, if you don't know any members of the LGBTQ community and you ever want to grab coffee and discuss these issues, let me know. I'd be happy to meet with you as a neighbor.

From: [Patricia Minatani](#)
To: [Sen. Berta Gardner](#)
Subject: Support for Senate Bill 72
Date: Friday, April 07, 2017 10:07:10 AM

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Dear Ms. Gardner,

I am writing to send you my strong support of SB72 that would expand the current anti-discrimination statutes to include protections against discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. It seems incredible to me that we are still debating constitutionally protected freedoms for all citizens in the U.S. It is clear that the 14th amendment to the Constitution provides for equal treatment of everyone under the law. What is it so difficult to conclude that this amendment includes protection for everyone? I am so glad that you are there to bring this to the table once again, and if we need to mandate equality for everyone, then we need to!

Thank you very much for your enduring steadfastness on this issue!

Sincerely,
Patricia Steen