

From: [Anne & Bill](#)
To: [House State Affairs](#)
Subject: Expand protections
Date: Wednesday, March 27, 2019 9:14:38 PM

Alaskans need equal protections under the law. I urge you to support extending anti-discrimination law to include sexual orientation and gender identity. As a forensic nurse, I can tell you that people who are identified as other than mainstream heterosexual are targeted as victims of physical and sexual violence at numbers higher than the general population. Homelessness and poverty make them even more vulnerable. Please support the anti discrimination legislation.

Thank you.

Anne Doerpinghaus

From: [Katrina Walters](#)
To: [House State Affairs](#)
Subject: HB 82, SB 82
Date: Thursday, March 28, 2019 8:28:57 AM

Good Morning,

I support HB & SB 82. I feel these protections are vital for our state and local communities. Socially, economically & ethically those of us who are in a position to protect the lives and futures of our current and next generations should be moved to do so through measures such as these. I can't imagine living in a time where as a woman, my daughter's husband would have to co-sign for her to get a credit card, but this was a reality and would still be if ECOA wasn't passed. There are many such examples that were controversial at the time but were the right thing to do to ensure the liberty and freedom for all of our citizens. Big business is stepping up across the country to make a stand against legalized discrimination - our state can't afford to be on the other side of this issue. Money does talk. More importantly for me, I am a parent of 3 adult children, one who is LGBTQ. I would not have understood personally the challenges one could face as a result of this but I know now and feel blessed with this knowledge. This child who is educated, gifted and compassionate should have the same protections here that are available in other states.

Please pass HB & SB 82.

Thank you.

Katrina W.

From: [Kim Foust](#)
To: [House State Affairs](#)
Cc: [Elise Sorum-Birk](#)
Subject: HB 82, The Alaska Equality Act
Date: Friday, March 29, 2019 6:19:33 AM

Dear House State Affairs Committee,

I am writing in support of HB82. I have two adult children who identify as Gay and Queer. They work, go to school, pay taxes, volunteer... all the things non LGBTQ people do. It breaks my heart that they have to protest for their rights. You have the power to help end the discrimination that fractures our community, state, and nation. Please support LGBTQ rights by supporting legislation that supports them. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Kim Foust

From: [Jeff Walters](#)
To: [House State Affairs](#)
Cc: [Elise Sorum-Birk](#)
Subject: HB 82
Date: Thursday, March 28, 2019 8:57:56 AM

To Members of the House State Affairs Committee,

I urge you to support HB 82, which would extend equality measures on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity and expression to Alaskan citizens. All Alaskans, including those who are LGBTQ, deserve to be treated with respect and equality, and should not have to face discrimination that is effectively sanctioned by our state government (which is allowed unless these protections are added to Alaska's anti-discrimination statutes).

Thank you for considering my input,

Jeff Walters
Fairbanks

From: [Karolina Pavic](#)
To: [House State Affairs](#); rep.andy.josephson@akleg.gov
Subject: HB 82
Date: Thursday, March 28, 2019 8:29:04 AM

I am writing to express my support for HB 82. The year is 2019. It is well overdue that equal rights and protections be granted to ALL humans. I urge you to support HB82.

From: [Chelsea Lindquist](#)
To: [House State Affairs](#)
Subject: HB 82
Date: Wednesday, March 27, 2019 9:18:13 PM

To Whom it Concerns,

I am hopeful that the Anti-Discrimination bill is once again before the Alaska Legislature. I urge the members of the House State Affairs committee to whole heartedly support HB 82 in expanding Alaska's current anti-discrimination statutes to protect against discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity or expression.

The need for statewide protections has never been more apparent. We must continue to ensure that no group of people are disadvantaged simply for who they are. We must continue to push for LGBTQ+ protections statewide and make sure all Alaskan's truly feel safe.

Thank you,
Chelsea Vukovich
Anchorage, AK 99516

From: [Kathryn Friend](#)
To: [House State Affairs](#)
Cc: [Elise Sorum-Birk](#)
Subject: HB 82
Date: Wednesday, March 27, 2019 9:12:24 PM

Please take action to support the Alaskan Equality Act so that all Alaskans are protected from discrimination based on their sexual orientation or gender identity.

Thank You,
Kathryn Friend
Eagle River, Ak.

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Kyra S.](#)
To: [House State Affairs](#)
Cc: [Rep. Andy Josephson](#)
Subject: HB 82
Date: Thursday, March 28, 2019 2:26:59 PM

I'm writing to express my whole-hearted support for HB 82. Our diversity is one of Alaska's greatest strengths, and one of the best ways to keep all our communities thriving is to make sure everyone's rights are protected. I'm queer myself and so are most of the people I care about, and knowing we're protected from discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity would go a long way toward making me feel more welcome in the state I've called home since I was a toddler.

Thank you,
Kyra Sherwood
99502

From: [Gayle & Julie](#)
To: [House State Affairs](#)
Cc: ["elise.sorum-birk@akleg.gov."@mx0a-002f0201.pphosted.com](mailto:elise.sorum-birk@akleg.gov)
Subject: HB 82
Date: Thursday, March 28, 2019 9:05:02 AM

Please support this effort to protect against discrimination based on gender expression or gender identity and sexual orientation. Moving this bill forward will assist many Alaskans and their allies as they navigate the very real world of judgement based on perception.

Gayle Schuh
Eagle River, AK

From: [Paige Hodson](#)
To: [House State Affairs](#)
Subject: HB 82/Equality
Date: Friday, March 29, 2019 6:59:14 AM

Dear Committee Members:

Please support this bill. Everyone deserves equal rights and protections in our state. Passage of this bill would further send the message that Alaska is open for business and ready to be inclusive to our citizens and a safe place for companies to send their employees. Further, it might lessen the “brain drain” by helping to encourage our youth to stay here for college or return to work. I can tell you first-hand that I have family members who are LGBTQ that do not feel safe or valued by our state when they see rejections like those by previous legislatures and the Fairbanks mayor. We lose out on some great contributions.

Paige Hodson
[REDACTED]
Anchorage, AK 99515
[REDACTED]
Sent from my iPhone

From: [John P](#)
To: [House State Affairs](#)
Subject: HB 82/SB 82
Date: Thursday, March 28, 2019 10:17:41 AM

Dear Legislator,

I am a twenty-year Alaskan resident and voter in Juneau. Alaskans who, like me, are LGBTQ deserve the same protection from discrimination that TW law currently offers to other minorities.

I support HB 82, the Alaska Equality Act. Please move it along so that I and others like me can enjoy equal protection under the law, as envisioned (but never fully implemented) by our country's founders.

Thank you for your kind consideration.

johnpr
(John Roxburgh)

From: pegt@gci.net
To: [House State Affairs](#)
Subject: HB82
Date: Thursday, March 28, 2019 6:55:30 AM

I support the passage of HB82. Sadly, discrimination still exists in Alaska and affects the lives of too many of our citizens. Enacting this legislation will be a major step in addressing this problem.

Thank you.

Peg Tileston


[REDACTED]

Anchorage AK 99503

[REDACTED]

From: [Bill & Debby](#)
To: [House State Affairs](#)
Subject: HB82
Date: Wednesday, March 27, 2019 8:59:40 PM

I support HB 82 and urge you to vote yes. Time for Alaska to do the right thing and take a stand against discrimination.

Deborah Tennyson
Anchorage, AK


From: [ODIN BRUDIE](#)
To: [House State Affairs](#)
Cc: [Elise Sorum-Birk](#)
Subject: HB82
Date: Thursday, March 28, 2019 9:18:15 AM

Dear State Affairs Committee,

I support HB82, the Alaska Equality Act. In too many cases where individuals are discriminated against, there is nothing they can do without losing their job or spending their savings taking it to court. This bill should help that. Thank you.

Odin Brudie



Juneau 99801

Sent from my iPhone

From: [DEBBY](#)
To: [House State Affairs](#)
Subject: HB82
Date: Thursday, March 28, 2019 9:16:14 AM

Please support HB82. I do. I am from Fairbanks and heard the hateful testimony at the Fairbanks City Counsel meetings. I am a straight, white, 70 year old female and that testimony against equity frightened me. I am protected—at least by my Borough. I want this for everyone.

Sincerely,

Debby Drong-Bjork



Ester AK 99725

HOWL AT THE MOON!

From: [Anne Marie Moylan](#)
To: [House State Affairs](#)
Subject: House Bill 82
Date: Wednesday, March 27, 2019 9:24:23 PM

Dear Legislators,

I almost did not write you because there is oh, so much wrong with the news of late! It can become exhausting!

But we must continue to muster the fight for the things that are going right!

House Bill 82 is one such opportunity.

You ponder this Equality Law expanding throughout our state tomorrow and I offer you more reasons why it is so important it passes. I am fighting now for those outside of Anchorage, Juneau and Sitka because I am an Alaskan that believes fairness is imperative throughout the state.

I am 59 years old having served on the board of Identity for 4 years, sharing my identity as Bisexual so that others felt that they could identify with me and watch me fight for equality and learn that their voices and lives mattered. It is mentorship that I provided for the sake of others who felt lost, unheard, broken and laid to waste by situations of unfair hiring practices, or unfair housing practices. It is truly no one's business what I call myself, but while we (the LGBTQA) of Alaska are not all on equal footing, the risk of more of us taking our lives is at a critical juncture.

You all have an opportunity to step out of the darkness into a unified light throughout this state. Where much is broken and feels disparate, this Bill has the makings of a giant leap forward.

I've been a Rotarian for many years and have sat at many tables surrounded by my peers. One of you had sat at a table in a meeting with me. In Rotary there are four codes we believe in.

Is it the Truth and is it Fair to All Concerned are the first two such codes.

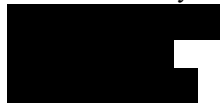
Living by this second is a matter that is squarely in your hands.

Take this opportunity and pass the Equality Bill!

In appreciation for your time and your open hearts and listening ears.

Kind regards,

Anne Marie Moylan



Anchorage, AK 99508



Sent from my iPhone

From: [Cathy Gillis](#)
To: [House State Affairs](#); [Rep. Andy Josephson](#)
Subject: My Story; and HB 82
Date: Thursday, March 28, 2019 9:54:16 AM

Regardless of your political party, I ask you to imagine yourself as a member of my family; and to support Alaska's Equality Act, HB 82.

About me: I am a mom, a business-person, and an Alaskan. I grew up here with my dad, a family practice physician, and my mom who stayed at home to raise her kids and volunteered with our local religious organization. Dad taught me and my siblings how to fish, hike, cross-country ski, hunt. He is also private pilot, and my childhood was filled with opportunities to meet people in communities very different from my home town of Anchorage.

Mom raised us to be honest, and hard working. She taught us to love one another and our neighbors, and to have an open heart to those who are different in religion, ethnicity, culture...and to strive for excellence in all pursuits.

I've been happily married for over 21 years. Over those years, I've held various jobs, but none more important than my full-time occupation and vocation: I am a mom. My husband and I raised two children into young adulthood and made Alaska our permanent home. We raised our kids with the same expectations and love which benefitted us growing up,

All things were on track for my kids to be able to do great things - they were healthy, capable kids. But five years ago, my understanding of our family's life and especially the life of my youngest child were changed dramatically, and in a scary way. *And it is still this way every day for families like my own.*

My child is transgender. This is something we've been learning about and dealing with since he found the courage to tell us those years ago. And yes, I was scared, and sad, and confused. But here's the takeaway: I have educated myself extensively about transgender health, experiences, and outcomes. I have, and will continue to do, everything in my power to protect my son's rights to pursue his dreams, and live his life without fear of persecution. He is intelligent, thoughtful, kind, incredibly hard-working, and dedicated. His gender identity affects exactly NONE of those qualities. Yet his ability to live and thrive in our home state is constantly in question. It is time to pass a statewide equality bill to protect all Alaskans. In fact, in refusing to vote on the equality bill the state is actually elevating some people above others. This isn't just, and it isn't right.

The statistics are very clear; trans people experience joblessness, homelessness, violence, and suicide at a staggering higher rate than the rest of the population. And here is what I am asking each of you to really take in; these high rates are NOT because they are trans. It is because society and community has lacked the language, tools, and understanding to accept them and protect them. The equality act doesn't give special privileges to people like my son. It offers a legal protection for him, necessary because the statistics are grim. This

must change!

My transgender child is an educated, capable, and self-confident young person. He is supported, loved, and accepted. Many others in our state are not. Would I choose something different for him? Perhaps - but that is a selfish desire, not one that respects his autonomy and intelligence; and is a wish based in large part by the fear that he will be treated differently. I can put that fear aside and love my kid, and continue to expect him to strive for excellence; and expect that as he does, his opportunities will not be limited simply because of who he is. I expect that the state I love and call home will do the same.

It's time to support the Equality Act, HB 82 and I call on each of you to do so.

Sincerely,

Cathy Gillis
Anchorage

From: [Laura Stats](#)
To: [House State Affairs](#)
Subject: Pass HB 82
Date: Wednesday, March 27, 2019 8:33:58 PM

Dear Chair Fields and Kreiss-Tomkins and members of the Committee,

I urge you to pass HB 82. As Representative Josephson wrote in his sponsor's statement, Alaska has a long history of civil rights and HB 82 is a continuation of this proud history.

Please pass HB 82.

Best regards,

Laura Stats

[REDACTED]

Juneau, AK 99801

[REDACTED]

From: [Judy](#)
To: [House State Affairs](#)
Subject: Please support HB 82
Date: Wednesday, March 27, 2019 8:53:57 PM

Please support protection for our friends in the LGBTQ+ community!

Thank you!

Judy Engh

Anchorage

From: [caseyinalaska](#)
To: [House State Affairs](#)
Cc: [Elise Sorum-Birk](#)
Subject: re: HB 82
Date: Thursday, March 28, 2019 9:03:35 AM

Honorable House State Affairs Committee Members,

As you continue your important work protecting the rights of all Alaskans I would offer the following testimony.

We must protect each and every member of our state from persecution for who they are. The protection of the rights of LGBTQ+ Alaskans is a crucial part of the state's duty to act as that protector. If we are not able to work in certain offices, live in specific places, expect equal pay for equal work, or to simply live our lives as human beings, then there is most certainly a problem that must be addressed. I would posit that this committee is exactly where this disparity needs to be addressed and urge the committee to act in the interest of the basic human right of Alaskans and empower the State Commission on Human Rights with the ability to protect all Alaskans including with specificity sexual orientation, gender identity or expression.

I support the important changes that HB82 makes to ensure that all Alaskans are ensured the rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness and hope that your committee will do the same and move this bill forward.

With deep respect,

Casey Steinau
Big Lake, Alaska

From: [Jeannie Sato](#)
To: [House State Affairs](#); [Elise Sorum-Birk](#)
Subject: Support
Date: Thursday, March 28, 2019 8:38:08 AM

Dear House State Affairs Committee & Rep. Josephson,

I am writing in support of HB 82 and all similar legislation protecting LGBTQ rights. I am the daughter and mother of LGBTQ individuals and it is important that Alaska recognizes that discrimination is not Alaska and cannot be accepted. There is nothing worse than seeing your loved ones hurt by bullying or discrimination, and nothing fiercer than a mother's passion for their children to be treated fairly. I hope you agree and will support this and other similar legislation.

I appreciate your support of this legislation.

Jeannie Sato

From: [Sarah Elder](#)
To: [House State Affairs](#)
Cc: [Rep. Andy Josephson](#)
Subject: Support for HB 82
Date: Thursday, March 28, 2019 2:36:39 PM

I am writing in support for HB 82. I am a resident of North Pole but all of the working adults of my household have their income from within the city of Fairbanks. Coincidentally, all of the adult members of my household are LGBTQ+.

As a result the many hours of personal testimony regarding the experiences of local LGBTQ+ individuals in the Fairbanks area in support of local anti-discrimination Ordinance 6093, our city council members passed the Ordinance with a vote of 4-2.

As a result of the mayor's personal and religious feelings on LGBTQ+ individuals, he decided to veto those anti-discrimination protections 4 days after they were granted.

Mayor Matherly held meetings with those who supported his decision the same week he cancelled a meeting with me, due to my angry "tone" in emails regarding the veto.

I was angry that his religion interfered with his duties as mayor.

I am angry that the small number of bigots were emboldened by the mayor's decision.

I am still angry that local grown adults are taunting LGBTQ+ teenagers online.

I am angry that local businesses are now refusing service and feel justified in doing so.

I am angry that we asked for help, and 4 members of the Fairbanks City Council granted protections, and that one man decided his religious beliefs were more important than Equality, and then two more men decided to uphold that veto decision and deny the overwhelming evidence that the city of Fairbanks and surrounding affected residents wanted LGBTQ+ anti-discrimination practices passed.

Please listen to the people you have been elected to represent and get HB 82 passed.

Please respect the separation of church and state and remember that the beliefs of a minority of individuals do not get to dictate that other citizens in violation of those beliefs are denied the same protections and quality of life.

With hope,
Sarah Elder

From: [Stacey Marz](#)
To: [House State Affairs](#)
Cc: [Elise Sorum-Birk](#)
Subject: Support HB 82
Date: Wednesday, March 27, 2019 9:22:56 PM

I urge the committee to support HB 82, the Alaska Equality Act. It is long overdue for state law to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity and expression. All Alaskans and visitors to our state should be free from discrimination in all aspects of their life, including housing and employment. Please move this bill out of committee.

Stacey Marz



Anchorage, AK 99507

Sent from my iPhone

From: [James Hoagland](#)
To: [House State Affairs](#)
Cc: [Rep. Andy Josephson](#)
Subject: Support HB82
Date: Thursday, March 28, 2019 2:22:52 PM

Hello House State Affairs Committee,

I'm writing today to express my strong support for House Bill 82 as proposed by Rep. Josephson, also known as the Alaska's Equality Act. Alaska is one of 30 states without such a law that would protect all LGBT residents from discrimination in housing, employment and public accommodations.

Within the state, LGBT Alaskans have limited protections in these realms in Juneau, Anchorage, Sitka and Bethel. Just recently, we saw Fairbanks debate this issue and it will now go before it's residents as a referendum. We should be focusing efforts on statewide protections for all of our residents, instead of creating a patchwork of legal protections. That only leads to confusion and legal chaos.

Many people don't realize that LGBT people can still lose their jobs, their homes and be denied service in restaurants, hotels, or other public accommodations. It is perfectly legal in much of our state. In the places where some of these types of discrimination are illegal, they are nearly impossible to enforce. For example, in Juneau, it is illegal to fire someone in the private sector because they are gay, but the only option for recourse is a costly lawsuit by the victim. This is not sufficient. A statewide law would provide the prosecutorial support needed to truly enforce these local ordinances that lack teeth.

I'm openly gay, living in Juneau, and I'm watching our community grow larger and larger. This means that there are more people who are vulnerable to discrimination and need protection. We are a community deserving of support as a class of people, similar to those targeted by race, religion, and physical ability.

I urge you to vote to pass this bill out of committee and on to it's next step to passage statewide.

Thank you,
James Hoagland




Douglas, AK 99824

From: [Shari Lee](#)
To: [House State Affairs](#)
Subject: THE ALASKA EQUALITY ACT - HB/SB 82
Date: Thursday, March 28, 2019 2:05:26 PM

**ALASKA NEEDS EQUALITY FOR ALL!
PLEASE PASS THE ALASKA EQUALITY ACT - HB/SB 82, ALASKA'S INCLUSIVE ANTI-DISCRIMINATION
BILL. I URGE THE STATE HOUSE AND STATE SENATE TO VOTE ON AND PASS THESE BILLS.**

Thank you,

Sharon Lee

 Anchorage, AK 99508