

From: [Kay Brown](#)
To: [House State Affairs](#)
Cc: [Elise Sorum-Birk](#)
Subject: Alaska's Equality Act - HB 82
Date: Monday, April 22, 2019 2:01:04 PM

Hello Representatives. Please support HB 82. It's time that all people, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender, are protected from discrimination.

Thank you for addressing this important public policy issue.

Best,

Kay

Kay Brown

 [@alaska.net](#)
907- (cell)

From: [LIO Fairbanks](#)
To: [House State Affairs](#); [House Judiciary](#)
Subject: Fw: Please support the equal rights bill.
Date: Tuesday, April 23, 2019 5:36:17 PM

Please enter into the record the testimony below to HB 82 in HSTA.

Fairbanks LIO

From: Violet Hollowell <violetdhollowell@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 22, 2019 6:56 PM
To: LIO Fairbanks
Cc: House State Affairs
Subject: Please support the equal rights bill.

Hello, my name is Violet Hollowell. I am a bisexual transgender woman. I live at 8B Dead End Alley in Fairbanks, Alaska. I ask that you please support equal rights and house bill 82.

The least useful advice I've ever received is "Don't worry, that's normal." It seemed to be the stock answer I'd get from everyone, even doctors and counselors. From as early as I can remember, I knew that I was definitely not normal, and it did not ease my mind to be told that I was. But in the absence of anyone who understood what I was going through and could explain it to me, I was lost and miserable for about twenty-five years. That's how long it took for me to realize that my problems went to the core of my being, and overcoming them would require all the courage I could muster.

This is what pushing LGBTQ people into the closet achieves. Ignorance so pervasive that we waste decades of our lives trying to understand our own suffering. Fear so deep that we hide rather than risk losing our jobs and homes and families. We sacrifice our life, our liberty, and our happiness simply in order to survive. And for what? A superstition that gender roles are absolute and unchanging, and all deviance must be stamped out? Who wanted that? What is that accomplishing? How is this our reality, in 2019?

This is fundamentally about freedom vs. conformity, and it applies to all people, not just those of us who are LGBTQ. Everyone should be able to live how they want, dress how they want, and love who they want, without the meddling of superstitious busybodies. Freedom necessarily means the right of every individual to be just as abnormal, exceptional, and fabulous as they are or want to be.

Please support the equal rights bill. Thank you.

From: [Lin Davis](#)
To: [House State Affairs](#)
Subject: HB 82 Please Pass
Date: Tuesday, April 23, 2019 2:49:54 PM

House State Affairs Committee April 23, 2019

Testimony for HB 82

Dear House State Affairs Chairs and Representatives:

Thank you for taking public testimony. Today is a good day. In DC, the Federal LGBTQ Equality Bill is having a hearing. It will protect LGBTQ citizens from some of the devious and undemocratic actions some states, particularly Southern states, are using to delay and deny the equal rights of LGBTQ Americans.

Today is a good day in Alaska. HB82 has another hearing. Last year I sat in this room and watched HB82 pass. I am counting on that same wisdom today.

Fairness and respect rise today. Alaska can continue our tradition of seeking increased equality. Elizabeth and Roy Peratrovich inspire our efforts today. ANB and ANS inspire us to seek what is good for Alaskans. HB 82 is good for Alaska and our common good.

Seeking equality brings fairness and respect.

Studies show that there is less violence toward women in communities that respect LGBTQ.

The 22 states with LGBTQ protective legislation have more environments of fairness and respect. And they have had no increase in litigation.

Fairness and respect breed fairness and respect.

Corporate America knows that fairness and respect are good for business. Young talented workers will not move to a state without LGBTQ protections. 91% of Fortune 500 Companies

have non-discrimination policies that include sexual orientation, and 83% also include gender identity. 66% of small business owners believe that businesses should not deny goods or services to someone who is LGBTQ based on religious beliefs. (Greenberg Quinlan Rosner poll. July 2015)

Today is a good day because on Saturday the 2 LGBTQ groups in Juneau, PFLAG and SEAGLA, cleaned their stretch of highway along Auke Lake and the University. For 30 years Juneau's LGBTQ and supporters have tidied a very littered section. For the first 20 years our official blue DOT Highway sign was always vandalized, shot, smeared and knocked over.

For the last 6 or 7 years, our highway sign has not been molested.

Fairness and respect.

Our sign is protected now by a new spirit of respect.

DOT is now protected by this respect. No new \$100 signs needed each year.

Fairness and respect.

Pockets of LGBTQ protection dot our state. The majority of Alaskans want LGBTQ people protected from discrimination in their jobs and housing. And public services.

HB 82 brings these common sense protections.

All communities and villages are healthier, in every respect, when citizens regard each other with fairness and respect.

Please pass HB 82. There are no reasons not to pass it. 2 areas of concern that were mentioned at the last hearing can be reasonably resolved. No need to stir up waves of fear. The other 22 states have paved the way with their LGBTQ equality state laws.

Thank you for passing HB 82.

Lin Davis

26 year Juneau resident

From: mcmx@gci.net
To: [LIO Fairbanks](#)
Cc: [House State Affairs](#); [Rep. Grier Hopkins](#)
Subject: HB 82 Support
Date: Tuesday, April 23, 2019 5:10:03 PM

Hello~

My name is Kimberly Maxwell. I am a voting constituent from District 4. I am writing to let Representative Grier Hopkins know that I support House Bill 82 and equal rights protections in Alaska and I am encouraging their support of the bill as well.

Thank you.

Kimberly Maxwell


Fairbanks, AK 99709

From: [Ellis](#)
To: [House State Affairs](#)
Subject: HB 82 SUPPORT
Date: Tuesday, April 23, 2019 9:20:14 AM

I, Kelly Ellis, agree and commit to being a citizen co-sponsor of 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

Respectfully,

Kelly Ellis

[REDACTED]

Anchorage, Alaska 99504

[REDACTED]

From: [Patti Saunders](#)
To: [House State Affairs](#)
Subject: HB 82
Date: Monday, April 22, 2019 2:14:02 PM

To the Members of House State Affairs Committee:

I wholeheartedly support HB 82 and hope you will, too. This bill is long-overdue. I wish we didn't need a bill like this to ensure that all our citizens could be safe and enjoy the rights promised us by the Constitution, but alas, that is not the case. Hence, the need for this bill.

Please take a moment from the fiscal challenges you all are dealing with down there in Juneau to do the right thing on HB 82 -- and then celebrate!

In solidarity with my neighbors, all of them, no exception,

Patti J. Saunders

 Anchorage, AK 99507

From: [kaleilw](#)
To: [House State Affairs](#)
Subject: HB 82
Date: Monday, April 22, 2019 5:03:46 PM

I am writing to you in support of HB 82, the addition of sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression to Alaska's anti-discrimination law.

Sincerely,
Lynn Wilbur

--

Lynn Wilbur, B.S., PGDipSci, PhD candidate University of Aberdeen

[REDACTED] Sitka AK

(907) [REDACTED]



From: [Shari Lee](#)
To: [House State Affairs](#); [Elise Sorum-Birk](#)
Subject: HB 82
Date: Monday, April 22, 2019 8:00:42 PM

Please support HB 82, to add “sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression” to Alaska’s existing anti-discrimination law. This is essential to establishing equal rights for all under the law!

Any form of discrimination is not in alignment with Alaska values. We must update the law to ensure that all people in our state are judged on their job performance and qualifications. Nothing more, nothing less.

No one should have to live in fear of being legally fired for reasons that have nothing to do with job performance, nor should anyone be denied housing, or services, simply because of who they are.

Please vote on this bill and pass it through the committee.

Thank you,

Sharon Lee



Anchorage, AK 99508

From: [Bridget Smith](#)
To: [House State Affairs](#)
Subject: HB 82
Date: Tuesday, April 23, 2019 8:56:13 AM

Dear Members:

I am writing to support the passage of House Bill 82 because it rightly prohibits discrimination of people because of their sexual orientation or gender identity. Supporting the rights of all is part of our obligation as members of a civil society.

Thank you,

Bridget Smith

[REDACTED]
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Bridget Smith

[REDACTED] [@gmail.com](#)
Cell (907) [REDACTED]

From: [Alexander Shultz](#)
To: [House State Affairs](#)
Cc: [Rep. Andy Josephson](#)
Subject: HB 82
Date: Tuesday, April 23, 2019 10:08:01 AM

Hi. Please pass HB 82. As a transgender man, genderqueer and bisexual person and new Juneau resident, I ask that you support HB 82 so that I don't get kicked out of my job or housing. Thank you. -Alexander Shultz Juneau Alaska

From: [Mary McDowell](#)
To: [House State Affairs](#)
Subject: Fwd: Support for HB82 — Prohibiting Discrimination
Date: Tuesday, April 16, 2019 8:59:05 PM

Staff to House State Affairs,

I sent the email below to the Co-chairs and members of the committee on March 28, but I see it has not been included in the documents posted for HB82. Please add my letter of support to the documents.

Please let me know if you need me to resend my email directly to the committee email address without this forwarding message for posting.

Thanks very much,
Mary McDowell

Begin forwarded message:

From: Mary McDowell <maryalaska@icloud.com>
Subject: **Support for HB82 — Prohibiting Discrimination**
Date: March 28, 2019 at 9:12:21 AM AKDT
To: Representative.Zack.Fields@akleg.gov,
Representative.Jonathan.Kreiss-Tomkins@akleg.gov,
Representative.Gabrielle.LeDoux@akleg.gov,
Representative.Andi.Story@akleg.gov,
Representative.Adam.Wool@akleg.gov,
Representative.Sarah.Vance@akleg.gov,
Representative.Laddie.Shaw@akleg.gov
Cc: Representatvie.Andrew.Josephson@akleg.gov

Dear Co-chairs Fields and Kreiss-Tomkins and Members of the House State Affairs Committee,

I write to express my strong support for HB82 and urge its passage from your committee and by the full legislature.

In this state that prides itself on valuing freedom, individualism, and self-determination, it is fitting and important that our laws clearly protect every person from discrimination.

Over time, we have recognized that some groups or traits are particularly subject to discrimination and we have crafted our anti-discrimination laws to specifically disallow discrimination of our citizens based on those traits - race, religion, disability, marital status, and so on.

Today, it is absolutely clear that many citizens are suffering harmful discrimination based solely on their sexual orientation or gender identity or

expression. How can this situation be any more tolerable to us as a society than the other types of discrimination that we have already out-lawed? How can anyone think that such unwarranted discrimination that hurts, demeans, and holds back our fellow citizens and, thus, diminishes us all, should not be against the law?

HB 82 is a simple, straight-forward, no-cost/ all-gain way to acknowledge one more type of painful discrimination that exists in our state and provide the same protection we have put in place to protect other citizens who are vulnerable to discrimination. I urge your support of this legislation.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Mary McDowell

[REDACTED]

Juneau, AK 99802

From: [Arlene Ronda](#)
To: [House State Affairs](#)
Subject: HB82
Date: Tuesday, April 23, 2019 3:01:03 PM

Dear Representatives Field, Kreiss-Tomkins and fellow Committee members:

I urge you to support HB82.

Sadly, common decency seems inadequate to protect ALL our citizens from discrimination. This bill is a step in the right direction.

Thank you for your important work.

Arlene Ronda
Homer

From: [Maddie Kettner](#)
To: [House State Affairs](#)
Cc: [Rep. Andy Josephson](#)
Subject: HB82
Date: Monday, April 22, 2019 5:57:21 PM

Please support House Bill 82.

Every Alaskan and every Alaskan family holds the same value and deserves the same level of respect and protection, especially those most marginalized by society like the LGBTQ+ community. Please make sure that we all get the support and protection from discrimination and hate that we deserve.

Maddie

From: [Julie Schmidt](#)
To: [House State Affairs](#)
Cc: [Rep. Andy Josephson](#)
Subject: HB82
Date: Tuesday, April 23, 2019 2:29:20 PM

Dear Committee,

You will be hearing testimony on HB 82 very soon. I want to thank you for hearing this bill and ask for your support to pass it. I am a 76 year old lesbian and director of SAGE Alaska (Services and Advocacy for Gay Elders, a non- profit organization). SAGE Alaska promotes learning, social connection, and advocacy that ensures all members of the LGBT community can grow older in Alaska with a sense of security, confidence and well-being.

Aging itself is a challenge, but aging as an LGBT elder is even more difficult. Many gay elders have been closeted most of their lives, hiding who they really are and who their family is. Those who were not closeted were the spokespersons for the rest of us. HB 82 is your chance to support the entire LGBT community and make life easier for thousands of people.

"We the People" included everyone and this bill will assist in making that statement come true.

Thank you for your consideration of HB 82.

Yours truly,
Julie Schmidt, Eagle River, AK

From: [Scott L. Sammons](#)
To: [House State Affairs](#)
Subject: HB-82
Date: Tuesday, April 23, 2019 5:04:59 PM

I am writing today in support of HB-82. My growth in respect for other lifestyles did not come easily or without faults. I was raised as and remain a Conservative Christian, who supports traditional values. And yet, I have been impacted in significant ways, even had my life saved, by people who didn't and do not share those values. I have come to respect the need for diversity and tolerance in building the fruit salad that makes Alaska unique and precious. Alaska is special in the strong defence of youth and elderly rights, in celebrating the diverse cultures that make the state home, in supporting rural life. Adding one more anchor in law that demands that Alaskans can be, and are expected to be, unique and equal in all facets of their lives, can only preserve the rare character of this State.

Scott L. Sammons
Anchorage AK 99504

From: [Caitlin Purdome](#)
To: [House State Affairs](#)
Subject: I support HB82
Date: Tuesday, April 23, 2019 12:20:57 PM

Hello,

I'm writing to voice my support for HB82, to include LGBT people in nondiscrimination law.

As a young lesbian woman, it is important to me that Alaska accepts me for who I am. It terrifies me that I could legally lose my job or housing because of my identity. I moved to Alaska 2 years ago from a state where these protections existed. Alaska needs to catch up and protect its community members.

Best,
Caitlin Purdome

From: [Cindy Lelake](#)
To: [House State Affairs](#)
Cc: [Elise Sorum-Birk](#)
Subject: In support of HB 82
Date: Tuesday, April 23, 2019 6:40:53 AM

Dear members of the House State Affairs Committee:

As a long time Alaskan who has worked for equal rights at the municipal level, I ask for your full support of HB 82.

In order that our statewide anti-discrimination ordinance represents all Alaskans, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression, and that Alaska truly is the beacon of welcome and inclusivity we know it to be, please pass this essential piece of legislation.

Quite simply, it's the right thing to do.

Respectfully,

Cindy Lelake
Anchorage

From: [Cindy Lelake](#)
To: [House State Affairs](#)
Cc: [Elise Sorum-Birk](#)
Subject: In support of HB 82
Date: Tuesday, April 23, 2019 6:40:53 AM

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Quite simply, it's the right thing to do.

Respectfully,

Cindy Lelake
Anchorage

From: [Hannah Hill](#)
To: [LIO Fairbanks](#)
Cc: [House State Affairs](#)
Subject: Pass HB 82, for Alaska
Date: Tuesday, April 23, 2019 2:45:39 PM

Hello,

My name is Hannah C. Hill - I live & work in Fairbanks' District 1. I wish that I could testify in person in support of HB 82, but instead must am write today to give my wholehearted support of adding sexual orientation, gender identity/expression as classes protected against discrimination in Alaska.

I am a queer person who has lived in Alaska for most of my life - in my time here, in our beautiful state, I have had my car vandalized with homophobic graffiti, have been told that I look "too gay" for a particular job, have been harassed while at work & even threatened with violence because of my sexual orientation & gender expression.

I loathe that this happens here. It is past time for our State to set a standard that Alaska has no place for bigotry. Even knowing that laws do not dictate behavior, the Alaska I know & love needs to do better than we have – we need equality.

There are patchwork statutes across Alaska that have added LGBTQ+ protections to city ordinances - but not in my town. Juneau, Sitka & Anchorage have all passed legislation extending protections to include sexual orientation & gender identity/expression – that means that half of Alaska's population is already on board with equality.

Recently, Fairbanks' very own Mayor Matherly executed a very un-democratic veto overturning the 4/2 majority vote of our City Council adding LGBTQ protections to City law. This embarrassing move was so unprecedented that it received (widely negative) national coverage. During months of public testimony & private meetings, proponents of our local equality ordinance provided proven statistics that LGBTQ people are more likely to be victims of hate crimes and denial of services than almost any group in America today. During this time, City Councilor David Pruhs very publicly said survivors of anti-LGBTQ oppression were “full of shit” after they shared their very real and very painful experiences of harassment, discrimination and assault in our community. It’s unconscionable for an elected official to be so openly comfortable using his social standing to harm his constituents. Worse that he remains uncensored by the City Council or City Mayor. For those wondering about discrimination in Alaska - here it is. Right from the top.

HB 82 is about human rights & human dignity. As a fellow rights activist has noted "it protects thousands of Alaskans & hurts none." This will show your vulnerable constituents who their champions are. Here in Fairbanks, we learned the hard way that we cannot count on our City Mayor to follow due process or protect us on any level. We need your help.

Please, pass this important legislation - for us, for the future, for Alaska.
Thank you for your time,

Hannah C. Hill
(907) [REDACTED]

From: [Jennifer Jolis](#)
To: [House State Affairs](#)
Subject: PASS HB 82
Date: Tuesday, April 23, 2019 12:39:47 PM

Gentlepersons:

It's just time. Time to protect all our citizens, time to offer the same rights, responsibilities, and opportunities to all of our citizens.

There was a time, and you will remember it well, when those protections were not offered to people of color, specifically Alaska Natives and African Americans. There was a time when those protections were not offered to women. There was a time when children were not offered protection or seen as being people. We have come a long way. We have, over time, recognized our common humanity and thus our responsibility to treat all humans with dignity and with the protection of the law. Transgender people are our fellow citizens. They work with us, play with us, if we paid taxes they would pay them with us. Why, why, why, should they not be offered the same protections as the rest of us when it comes to being free from discrimination in housing, in jobs, in schools?

We are better than that. We have always (almost) been better than that. Time to extend the protections and rights under law to all of Alaska's citizens.

Support, pass HB 82.

Jennifer Jolis



Fairbanks, Alaska 99709

PS.

You notice I address you as Gentlepersons. Perhaps you are not all such. Nonetheless I afford each of you the same respect. Do the same please for all our citizens.

From: [Abigail Paul](#)
To: [House State Affairs](#)
Cc: [Rep. Andy Josephson](#)
Subject: Please Support HB 82
Date: Tuesday, April 23, 2019 11:17:55 AM

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to ask you to please support HB 82. I have family who have experienced discrimination here in Fairbanks. Those experiences have been very damaging. We need to do more to stand for equal rights. Please do the right thing and support this bill. We must begin somewhere.

Thank You!

Abigail Paul

Fairbanks, Alaska 99709

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Taylor Churches](#)
To: [House State Affairs](#)
Subject: Please vote to pass HB 82
Date: Monday, April 22, 2019 6:05:20 PM

Greetings and hello,

My name is Taylor Churches and I am 27 years old. I am born and raised right in Fairbanks, Alaska - I have worked in the area since I was 17, and have owned and operated my own small business for the past 5 years. I interact with many people from all walks of life on a daily basis.

I am writing today to urge that HB 82 be passed through and sent to the House Floor, and I will tell you why. While several cities in Alaska have these protections in place already, many more do not. This bill is offering protections to a minority group, and these protections truly are just basic human rights - the freedom to live and work without fear of eviction, unemployment, denial of prescription medication, and general discrimination based on their gender identity or sexual orientation.

I speak from a place of privilege - I have never been fired or evicted for being gay, and I consider myself quite lucky for that. It is still something I "keep quiet" about for fear of discrimination, though. In the past, coworkers who happened to be in straight relationships could openly talk about their significant other without a second thought, but I didn't feel safe to do so - I knew that if I said the wrong thing to the right person about my same sex relationship, it could not only result in me being fired, but could also open up doors for harassment or even violence.

I am friends with and do business with people who are not as lucky as me. I have friends, real people right here in Fairbanks who have been harassed because of how they identify. A friend who is a trans woman was denied her gender-affirming medication at a local pharmacy. A male friend was beat up and called a faggot outside a bar when he went out to have a smoke break. Not only did he have physical injuries, but emotional as well. Can you put yourself in their shoes for a moment, and recognize how humiliating that is?

Please, I urge you to vote this through. We need these protections all over Alaska. We have to make a change and the opportunity is now.

Thank you for your time.

Taylor Churches
[REDACTED]
Fairbanks, AK 99709
907-[REDACTED]

From: [eli michael](#)
To: [House State Affairs](#); [Rep. Andy Josephson](#)
Subject: Support HB 82
Date: Tuesday, April 23, 2019 8:10:08 PM

4/23/19

To House Senate

Thank for reading and hearing testimony in support of House Bill 82. My name is Eli Michael. I am in senate district 36-R Wrangell, AK. I am representing myself.

I work in mental health and see first hand the effects of discrimination and hate towards those loving the same sex and those who gender identity does not align with the sex assigned at birth. I see the marks on those I work with, my friends and others around by the hands of those who say they follow a book written 2500 years ago which teaches love. The physical marks left by those who preach hate towards their own family and friends. I see the pain on their bodies in the form of self-harm and mutilation. I see the damage done by substances from those trying to cope with the hatred, physical and mental abuse by their families and friends. I hold them in a physical space and metaphorically as they shed tears of pain. From the pain of those who say them love them but physically and mentally abuse them. Those same people, myself included, go to work, apply for housing, attend school and again are discriminated against. Fired from jobs. Denied housing. Bullied at school. Threatened and harassed.

I shed tears for them and myself. I see the marks of hate and discrimination. Cry when we lose another who could no longer bear with the pain. A law won't change it. But it will help. It provides a basis for equality. IT sends a message of hope and sets the stage for equal treatment. We don't need everyone understand sexual orientation or gender identity, but we need respect. We need a place to file discrimination when it happens. To be treated like equal members of society. To help ease the pain and provide hope.

I urge you to vote yes on House Bill 82. Support equality for all. Be the reason someone lives another day.

Thank you,

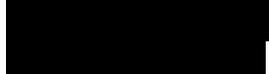
Eli Michael

From: [Debby Tennyson](#)
To: [House State Affairs](#)
Subject: Support HB 82
Date: Tuesday, April 23, 2019 7:05:37 AM

It's important to me that we live in a state that actively resists discrimination in any form . Updating the law will help ensure that all Alaskans are evaluated on job performance and qualifications and nothing else. Please vote on and pass HB 82!

Thank you.

Deborah Tennyson



Anchorage 99502 and
Dillingham 99576

907-

Sent from my iPad

From: [barbara1](#)
To: [House State Affairs](#)
Subject: Yes on HB82
Date: Tuesday, April 23, 2019 4:47:53 PM

I support passage of HB82.

Our state should stand strong against discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity in all areas, including employment, housing, public accommodations, health services, child custody and military policies.

It would be better to encourage educational efforts that combat the adverse effects of homophobia and ultimately ensure civil rights, privacy rights, and protection for all. LGBTQIA individuals are born entitled to equal rights to live their lives with dignity and security, and marriage equality. Identity is a private decision.

Barbara McDaniel
907-[REDACTED]

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone