

## Jody Simpson

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**From:** Piera Larosa [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 26, 2020 1:00 PM  
**To:** Senate Health and Social Services; Senate Health and Social Services  
**Subject:** Testify Against SJR 13 - Abortion Ban Bill

Good afternoon,

My name is Piera Larosa and I am a resident of Soldotna, Alaska.

As a graduate student working towards my master's degree in Clinical Mental Health Counseling, I truly believe in my heart that SJR 13, the Abortion Ban Bill, would be detrimental to the well-being of Alaskans.

If a woman does not receive an abortion and is forced to go through her pregnancy that could have been accidental or from her rapist, the future child will most likely be put up for adoption. Either to a loving family or put into foster care. Normally that is where people lose track, no one thinks about what happens once that child grows older. The child will eventually discover that they are adopted and find out that their birth mother now has a family with her own children because she was financially and mentally stable to become a mother or that their father was a rapist. The impact of that discovery can be detrimental to the mental health and wellbeing of that child.

For a period of time, I worked with the Office of Children's Services in Kenai as a Visit Supervisor. Day after day, for hours at a time, I watched children meet with their birth parents who sometimes did not show up or showed up and barely interacted with the child, therefore creating attachment problems, health issues due to substance misuse, and other heartbreaking problems for that child to deal with.

Now, I ask you, would you go up to a woman and ask her if she is pregnant? Most likely not because that is considered rude and none of your business. So why do you believe that whatever else a woman does with her body is up for discussion? It in no way pertains to politics, it is purely a topic based on religion and personal opinion.

In the past we have seen what impact abortion bans have on society- from coat-hanger abortions to black-market abortions which are both horrible and very dangerous for a woman to undergo. We also pride ourselves on progress, so why would you want to draw Alaska back into time where women did not have the right to vote, voice their opinions, or hold a position in office?

The United States of America prides itself on the freedom of each citizen, so who are we, as citizens of this country, to take that freedom away from women to do what they feel is best for their body and future? The only people who should have a voice in what women do with their bodies, are their primary caregivers and themselves. Not the government.

Thank you for your time,  
Piera Larosa

**Jody Simpson**

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**From:** barbara1 [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 26, 2020 12:37 PM  
**To:** Senate Health and Social Services

To the Senate HHS committee:

Please vote no on SJR13. The bill does nothing to help prevent tragic unintended pregnancies for Alaskan men and women.

Thank you for making decisions in the best interest of all Alaskans and applying your personal religious beliefs regarding unviable pregnancy decisions to your own life, health and future well-being.

Barbara McDaniel  
Wasilla, AK. 99623

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

**Testimony by Lieutenant Governor Loren Leman  
Senate HSS Hearing on SJR 13  
February 26, 2020 at 2:30 pm**

Chairman Wilson, and members of the committee, thank you for inviting me to testify. By way of background, I served in the Legislature for 14 years, and as Lieutenant Governor for 4 years. I support SJR 13 as a necessary step to restore to elected officials and the people of Alaska the ability to set policy on abortion. Sadly, that authority has been usurped for more than two decades by a series of unfortunate court decisions.

This is my story of a 20+-year journey with the Legislature, voters of Alaska, and Courts, defending the rights of parents to be involved in the lives of their children. Although delayed, I'm not defeated and I'm not giving up.

In 1997, I sponsored SB 24 to allow the State to enforce a law already on the books that required doctors to obtain parental consent before performing an abortion on unemancipated minor girls (under 18). Let me provide context. When the Alaska Legislature legalized abortion in 1970, the law included a provision requiring parental consent before a minor girl's abortion. However, an opinion issued by Attorney General Avrum Gross said that the law was unenforceable, so the State of Alaska stopped enforcing that part of the law. This was because of a subsequent U.S. Supreme Court ruling requiring that state parental involvement laws allow minors to seek a waiver in court—this is commonly known as a judicial bypass.

The bill I introduced added a judicial bypass provision to the 1970 statute – in full compliance with the rulings of the U.S. Supreme Court. At the time, this Court had recently issued a 9-0 decision in a case from Montana, saying in effect, "Don't send us any more of these cases—we have already told you, we approve parental involvement statutes with these provisions." SB 24 passed the Legislature with supermajority support – enough to override a veto from then-Governor Tony Knowles.

But before the law could take effect, Planned Parenthood filed a court challenge. This Parental Consent Act was tied up in the court system for 10 long years. I was extremely disappointed when the Supreme Court, in a divided 3 to 2 decision, struck it down. One of the dissenting voices, Justice Bud Carpeneti, expressed my thoughts when he wrote:

**"...this court's rejection of the legislature's thoughtful balance is inconsistent with our own case law and unnecessarily dismissive of the legislature's role in expressing the will of the people..."**

In the majority opinion, Justice Dana Fabe wrote very clearly that a law that is less restrictive, such as requiring only parental notification, would be acceptable.

Taking the Court at its word, a bill to do this was introduced in the Legislature, but it was not advanced through committee because of how the Legislature was organized. So I joined with two other Alaskans to sponsor a voter initiative to pass a law requiring parental notice.

As you probably know, compared to the Legislature, that is a more tedious and expensive process. However, hundreds of Alaskans volunteered their time, gathering more than 45,000 signatures to place this measure on the 2010 ballot. More than 56 percent of Alaska's voters approved Ballot Measure 2. In most Alaskan elections, that would be considered a landslide.

Planned Parenthood once again challenged the law. The Superior Court judge upheld the law, relying on the Supreme Court's assurance that a parental notification law would be considered constitutional. But shockingly, when the voter-approved law reached the Supreme Court, four justices ignored their previous commitment and struck it down. They produced what was, in my opinion, 70 pages of legal nonsense to try to justify their position. The one dissenting opinion was from then-Chief Justice Craig Stowers who wrote:

**"I cannot see how the court can reach these results under our standard of review for constitutional questions: 'adopting the most persuasive rule of law in light of precedent, reason, and policy.'"**

Justice Stowers is correct. Based on "precedent, reason, and policy" the court's rulings defy comprehension. I conclude that on this topic, the decisions of a majority of Supreme Court justices are driven not by the law, but by personal ideology.

That is a big problem. You as legislators are free to make decisions based on your values and life experiences. You earned that right by winning an election. But unelected judges never earned that right. And when they exceed their authority, they deserve an aggressive response from the people protected by our constitution. That's us. Passage of SJR 13 will allow Alaskans to weigh in again.

Especially for those of you who may consider yourself "pro-choice," this resolution doesn't ban abortion, in fact it doesn't even change abortion law. Rather, it restores to elected leaders, and the people of Alaska, the proper role of setting abortion policy. That power has been taken away from us, and we are living with the bad results every day. SJR 13 is a step in the right direction to correct that, and when passed by the Legislature and the voters of Alaska, will invite considerably more discussion on what type of society we want. I hope to participate in that discussion.

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**Jody Simpson**

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**From:** Eva Allaby <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 26, 2020 1:01 PM  
**To:** Senate Health and Social Services  
**Subject:** Testimony oposing SJR 13

Dear Senator David Wilson and other Committee members.

I'm a young mom living in Fairbanks and I agree with a following statement by Planned Parenthood:

The Alaska Constitution has a long history of protecting our right to privacy and should continue to protect our right to obtain medical treatment without government interference.

SJR 13 is an extreme bill that will put the people of Alaska's health and lives in jeopardy. Forcing someone to carry a pregnancy can have devastating and lasting consequences on them and their family. When people are able to get abortion care, compared to those who are denied, they are more likely to have positive life plans and to achieve them.

Legislators should be focused on improving health outcomes for everyone in our state, not blocking access to health care.

Nearly 8 in 10 Americans do not want to see Roe v. Wade overturned and I'm one of them. I urge you to oppose SJR 13.

Sincerely, Eva Allaby

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

## Jody Simpson

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**From:** Marci Hawkins <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 26, 2020 1:12 PM  
**To:** Senate Health and Social Services  
**Subject:** Re: SJR 13

Dear Committee Members:

I beg you to not move SJR 13. This proposal appears to be an effort to override the Court's decisions regarding abortion. The Legislature makes laws and the Courts interpret laws. To remove this from the judicial branch opens up for potential lawsuits that Alaska can't afford. The Legislature needs to remember that a separation of State and Church needs to be remembered when making laws. Forcing women to bear the full burden by removing choices deprives them of their basic rights. We need to desperately take care of the children that are here and in need of our help. Not create a financial nightmare of what may or may not come. Please don't forward this proposal. Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Marci Hawkins  
[REDACTED]  
Sutton, AK 99674  
[REDACTED]

## Jody Simpson

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**From:** Celia Anderson <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 26, 2020 1:35 PM  
**To:** Senate Health and Social Services  
**Subject:** SJR 13

### Opposition to SJR 13

I have lived in Kenai, Alaska since 1991. I vehemently disagree with the bill SJR13. This is a bill that paves the way for banning abortion in the State. This bill is disrespectful to women and serves to prolong patriarchy in society. It is dismissive of women's' rights. Let me be clear: Alaskan women do not want this bill. American women do not want to ban abortion. We are sick of men telling us what we can do with our bodies. This is not only an oppressive bill for women but also discriminatory in general. Wealthy women will be able to get reproductive healthcare and will be able to fly out of state to get an abortion if required but the poor will not be able to access such care. Women will not stand for this and will hold those who vote for such a bill accountable at the ballot box.

Celia Anderson

## Jody Simpson

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**From:** Hannah Hill <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 26, 2020 1:49 PM  
**To:** Senate Health and Social Services  
**Cc:** LIO Fairbanks  
**Subject:** Testimony: Opposing SJR 13  
**Attachments:** SJR 13.pdf

My name is Hannah Hill, I live in Senate District A & am representing myself. **I strongly oppose SJR 13.** I ask the Senate Health & Social Services committee to reject this alarmingly extremist bill & protect Alaskans' continued access to comprehensive reproductive health care.

Alaska's state constitution is a beautiful work of nonpartisan principles fundamental to our modern way of life. Our state was founded on beliefs of personal freedom & personal agency. Passing SJR 13 into law would mean that Alaskans no longer have the right to control their own bodies or their own lives.

Every year, worldwide, 42 million women with unplanned pregnancies choose to have an abortion - almost half of these procedures are unsafe *because they are not legal*. Unsafe abortions are one of the leading causes of mortality for women in the world. Why? Because abortion being illegal does not stop abortions - it only stops safe abortions.

Bills like SJR 13 will not & cannot prevent abortion. However, it does imply that some of our elected officials believe Alaskans who seek an abortion deserve to die the same painful & wholly preventable deaths that happen in developing countries.

The Guttmacher Institute, a think tank studying reproductive health care, says that "Empowering women with control over their own fertility yields benefits for them, their children & their families... & pays far-reaching dividends at the family, society & country levels."

For the health & the future of Alaska, please listen to the people this proposed bill would negatively impact: nearly 1 in 4 women will seek an abortion in their lives. People you know - people you love - have had & will have abortions. They need your protection because the alternative is worse.

Alaska is already a national leader in sexual violence, STI rates, domestic violence, unintended pregnancy & sexual assault. It is unconscionable for our Senate to propose a bill that not only cannot prevent abortion but actively restricts medical care for some of its most vulnerable constituency. There are many ways to reduce the needs for abortions but legislating away our freedoms isn't one of them.

Please, reject SJR 13.

Thank you for your time in considering my perspective.

Thank you,  
Hannah C. Hill  
[REDACTED]



## Jody Simpson

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**From:** erica watson <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 26, 2020 2:13 PM  
**To:** Senate Health and Social Services  
**Subject:** SJR 13

Dear Senators,

My name is Erica Watson, and I'm writing from Denali National Park. I'm listening in to the hearing now, but am unable to stay on the line much longer.

I'm calling to testify against SJR 13, and asking legislators to vote against this resolution. Removing constitutional protections for the right to legal abortion is a direct attack on Alaskans' bodily autonomy, and if passed, poses serious health and safety risks, as we have seen in the states with restrictive abortion laws that Senator Hughes mentioned. Abortion is a common, safe, and necessary medical procedure, and our constitution recognizes that right. Senator Hughes' use of medically meaningless terms such as "partial birth abortion" demonstrates her lack of familiarity with abortion procedures, and the overreach her proposal is attempting on the lives and bodies of Alaskans.

I would also like to remind legislators that each of you, perhaps yourself, knows and loves someone who has or will choose abortion at some point in their life. If you don't recognize this, it isn't because it isn't happening, but because those people haven't chosen to tell you. Extend the compassion you claim for a fetus to the people living, breathing, and working around you, who have the right to make the best decisions possible for their own lives.

Thank you,

Erica Watson  
[REDACTED]

Denali Park, AK 99755

**Jody Simpson**

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**From:** Paul Morin [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 26, 2020 2:17 PM  
**To:** Senate Health and Social Services  
**Subject:** SJR 13

To The Honorable Members Of The Senate Heath & Social Services Committee,

I am contacting the Committee in order to express my support for SJR 13.

The state constitutional amendment proposed by SJR 13 takes important steps toward protecting the most vulnerable and disenfranchised class of persons in Alaska; namely, unborn children. With its primary focus “[t]o protect human life,” SJR 13 recognizes the inherent dignity possessed by unborn Alaskans in their capacity as persons who are entitled to fundamental protections under state law.

Additionally, the amendment proposed by SJR 13 affords physicians and medical providers in Alaska greater constitutional freedom to decide for themselves whether to perform abortions, and to do so in accordance with the dictates of their own personal and professional standards of practice. This also ensures that the privilege to practice medicine (and other medical services requiring state licensure), can be pursued and maintained without forcing medical professionals to perform or otherwise facilitate abortions in contravention of their firmly held beliefs.

Finally, the amendment proposed by SJR 13 empowers Alaskans to benefit from state-sponsored healthcare funding without compromising the lives and safety of unborn children. SJR 13 accomplishes this by abrogating judicially imposed coverage arrangements that currently require the state to use Alaska Medicaid funding for select abortions. Alaskans should be free to benefit from state-sponsored healthcare funding without being forced to support or otherwise supplement abortion. SJR 13 gives Alaskans that freedom of choice as a matter of state constitutional law.

I ask that you please vote in favor of allowing SJR 13 to pass out of committee so that it may eventually be considered by both legislative houses, and ultimately, placed before the voters of Alaska.

Sincerely,

Paul S. Morin  
[REDACTED]  
Kenai, AK 99611  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

## Jody Simpson

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**From:** Andrea Jones [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 26, 2020 2:17 PM  
**To:** Senate Health and Social Services  
**Subject:** Against SJR 13

Dear Senators,

Instead of prohibiting abortion, why not support women's reproductive rights with increased access to contraceptives; and support both men and women with more support for public health facilities and professionals; sex education in schools and increased opportunities for planning when to become a parent. I ask you not to move SJR 13 from committee.

Andrea Jones  
[REDACTED]

Juneau, AK 99801



AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION  
FOUNDATION

Alaska

February 26, 2020

The Honorable David Wilson, Chair  
Senate Health & Social Services Committee  
Alaska State Senate  
State Capitol  
Juneau, AK 99801

**by email:** [Senate.Health.And.Social.Services@akleg.gov](mailto:Senate.Health.And.Social.Services@akleg.gov)

**Re: ACLU of Alaska Opposition to SJR 13**

Dear Chair Wilson, Vice-Chair von Imhof, and Members of the Senate Health & Social Services Committee:

The ACLU of Alaska opposes Senate Joint Resolution (SJR) 13. This resolution's goal is to erode the Alaska Constitution's privacy protections and equal protection guarantees, and to chip away at a woman's right to control her body.

Living a safe and healthy life is a basic right – as is the freedom to define our own path. We aren't truly free if we can't make our own decisions about our bodies, our lives, and our futures—whether that is saying no to unwanted sexual advances, no to an unintended pregnancy, or yes to becoming a parent. When someone decides to have an abortion, it should be safe, affordable, and free from punishment or judgment. The decision about whether and when to become a parent is one of the most important life decisions we make. When people can make decisions that are best for their lives, families thrive and we build communities where each of us can participate with dignity and equality.

Alaskans are rightly proud of our constitution, which contains robust privacy protections and guarantees of equal protection. These protections include safeguarding a woman's right to choose whether and when to become a mother. The ACLU of Alaska is proud of our decades-long track record successfully litigating unconstitutional laws targeting women's reproductive rights. Through these and other cases, the Alaska Supreme Court has made clear that reproductive rights, including the right to abortion, are fundamental rights.<sup>1</sup> The State may not infringe

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<sup>1</sup> *Planned Parenthood of the Great Northwest v. State* (“PPGNW”), 375 P.3d 1122, 1137-38 (Alaska 2016), *Valley Hosp. Ass'n, Inc. v. Mat-Su Coal. for Choice*, 948 P.2d 963, 969 (Alaska 1997).

Senate Health and Human Services Committee  
*ACLU of AK Opposition to SJR 13*  
February 26, 2020  
Page 2 of 2

on the fundamental privacy right to make reproductive decisions except “when necessary to further a compelling state interest and only if no less restrictive means exist to advance the interest.”<sup>2</sup>

We appreciate the opportunity to share our concerns about SJR 13 with the Senate Health and Social Services Committee. We recognize this resolution as an attempt to lower the constitutional guardrails that protect Alaskans’ fundamental right to make reproductive decisions, and to dismantle people’s ability to get safe, legal abortion care. For these reasons, we oppose this resolution and urge the Committee to reject it.

Sincerely,



Triada Stampas  
Policy Director

cc: Senator Shelley Hughes  
Senator John Coghill  
Senator Peter Micciche  
Senator Donny Olson  
Senator Mia Costello

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<sup>2</sup> *State v. Planned Parenthood of Alaska*, 35 P.3d 30, 41 (Alaska 2001).

## Jody Simpson

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**From:** Cherissa Dukelow [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 26, 2020 4:26 PM  
**To:** Senate Health and Social Services; shss@alaska.gov; LIO Fairbanks  
**Subject:** SJR13 Public Testimony

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to provide public testimony for Senate Joint Resolution No. 13. I was present this afternoon at the Fairbanks Legislative Information Office, but we were unable to provide testimony in person today due to time and technical difficulties.

Abortion is a medical procedure that women seek out for a variety of personal and complex reasons -- whether physical, emotional, financial, or others reasons. The decision to undergo an abortion, often a deeply difficult one to make, is between a woman (or family) and her doctor.

Neither the federal nor the state of Alaska government have a place in this decision. Policies on how abortion occurs should be the policies of medical providers -- those with the expertise and authority on this issue for whom it is their profession -- not politicians who feel it necessary to evangelize their beliefs and personal opinions.

The decision to end a pregnancy does not affect any other parties aside from the woman making this choice and her doctor assisting her.

Conversely, going through with an unwanted pregnancy can have dire detrimental impact to the mother, her family, and her community. Having a child is a hugely life-altering event, responsibility, and financial burden that not everyone is capable of taking on. It is irresponsible to have a child (or additional children) if unprepared to adequately care for the child, as it is irresponsible to adopt a dog or cat without having adequate time or resources to care for it. The result can be neglect, dysfunction, psychological distress, abuse, or having to rely heavily on others for assistance, such as public resources (taxpayers).

Is Alaska prepared to provide social services for unwanted children and their families should Alaska prevent access to abortion services? What would we do with these children?

Senator Shelly Hughes and others presented us with an emotional argument against abortion and in favor of limiting women's rights to access to abortion (health care). It is not the role of government to deal in emotional preferences over what personal medical decisions other people choose to make ("elective" or otherwise), it is not their business.

In order to protect human life -- women's lives and their wellbeing -- the state constitution should not interfere with access to abortion.

This subject simply has no place in the state constitution.

Please oppose SJR 13.

Thank you,

Gaea Cherissa Dukelow

## Jody Simpson

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**From:** Margaret Cox Rich <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 26, 2020 3:59 PM  
**To:** Senate Health and Social Services  
**Cc:** 'Margaret Rich home addr margaret@ecsalaska.com'  
**Subject:** SJR 13

2/26/2020

My name is Margaret Cox Rich, House District # 01-480 Fairbanks No 5, I am opposed to SJR 13 Abortion Ban.

I am against all abortion restrictions on women because limits placed on women to choose their own health options came close to drastically and negatively changing my life.

I was born in 1950 and the story I am going to tell happened two or three years later, so I was too young to remember. But in the 1970's my Dad, Ted Cox, told this story while we were visiting Ed and Judy Martin. In the early 1950's our next-door neighbor on Well Street in Slaterville Fairbanks, Virginia Parrish, came over one morning to visit my Mom. Virginia took one look at Mom and told her she wasn't going to make it through her pregnancy. Then Virginia called Dad at work and told him to come home right away and take Mom to the hospital. He did. At St. Joseph's Hospital Mom's doctor examined her and wanted to take her to the operating room. The nuns told the doctor he was not allowed to take Mom to the operating room. The nuns were good and kind, but they were obedient and followed the Catholic rules of the day which did not allow operating on a pregnant woman for any reason. The nuns admitted Mom to the hospital and tried to make her as comfortable as they could. Dad said Mom's doctor, with forceps in hand, soon returned to her room, told the nuns to get out of her room, turned to Mom and told her to hold on tight to the sheets as he was going to pull the dead baby out of her. He pulled out a dead baby boy and saved my Mom's life. **Because her doctor had the courage to stand up for women's rights, I had the privilege of growing up with my mother and Ted Cox had the privilege of sharing more years with his wife, Jean Cox, until she passed in 1991 at age 69.**

After Dad finished telling his story, Judy Martin said something similar happened while she was in St Joseph's. A young woman was in the bed next to her; the priest was giving the young woman last rites while the parents stood on the other side of the bed with tears running down their faces. Dr. Haggland walked in, saw what was happening, and left. He soon returned with a court order, took the girl to the operating room and saved her life.

You are probably shaking your head and telling yourself these stories happened in an earlier century; they would not happen now. I'm not so sure. The point is that someone else was making health decisions who had no idea what the patient was experiencing.

My Aunt, Phyllis Cox, did her nurses training in a Philadelphia hospital in the 1960's. Phyllis said student nurses were not allowed in one wing, and instructors did not talk about that wing to the trainees. But she said, "We knew what was going on.... we could overhear conversations". It was the wing where women who had botched abortions came to get patched up. It was before Roe v Wade, and abortions were done illegally outside of hospitals. There are many reasons for an abortion; some for the health of the mother and some are controversial. **But valid or not, abortions will happen whether they are legal or not** (either in hospitals or back alleys).

All of us have only so much time, energy and resources. Rather than using those limited resources of time, energy and money on **reacting to the problem** of unwanted pregnancies, why don't we use those resources to address the **root cause of the problem**. If you truly cared about ending abortions, you would instead try to prevent the unwanted pregnancy. Provide more sex education, provide more birth control options, reduce rapes. Rather than concentrating on limiting abortion in Alaska, let's concentrate on lowering the number of unwanted pregnancies.

In case you forgot, a pregnancy requires **two people**; I repeat ....it takes **TWO** to make a baby. If you support SJR 13 Abortion Ban, I have one more thought to add to the constitution. *"For every woman who is denied an abortion, there is a man who should be given a required complimentary vasectomy."* If young men thought they might receive a

vasectomy, some of them might be more apt to use condoms. **It is time for men to stand up and also take responsibility for unwanted reproduction; it is time to end the discrimination against women.**

Thank you.

Margaret Rich [REDACTED] Fairbanks, AK 99709



## Jody Simpson

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**From:** Cathy Carrow [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 26, 2020 3:00 PM  
**To:** Senate Health and Social Services  
**Subject:** Testimony submitted on 2/25/2020 by Catherine Carrow, Soldotna, Alaska

Testimony submitted on 2/25/2020 by Catherine Carrow, Soldotna, Alaska

Dear Senator Wilson and other members of the HSS committee, Senator Shower, sponsor, I am here today to express my opposition to SJR 13. We must allow women the right to make their own decisions in reference to their own bodies. Abortion is healthcare. Access to safe medical procedures in Alaska is essential. Alaskans value their privacy—as evidenced by our state constitution. The state should have NO STANDING in these most personal and private of decisions. I am surprised and disappointed to learn about SJR 13. I strongly urge you to oppose this resolution.

Thank you for your time.  
Cathy Carrow  
Soldotna, AK

Sent from my iPhone

Sent from my iPhone

## Jody Simpson

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**From:** Carl Brodersen <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 26, 2020 3:37 PM  
**To:** Senate Health and Social Services; Sen. Shelley Hughes  
**Subject:** No on SJR13

I'd like to register my extreme displeasure that limited testimony time was taken up by so many non-Alaskans. Actual Alaskans in that room and in the LIOs took time out of busy afternoons, even took leave from work, to be able to testify, and they had to sit and listen to invited guests from down south who had no real qualifications other than agreement with the resolution - every single one of whom stated that their end goal was to take abortion rights away from people, even the resolution's author, just moments after she declared it was supposed to be about separation of powers. You cannot argue in good faith that "this is not an abortion ban" if you are treating it as the first step in your abortion ban.

SJR 13's sponsors' feelings are valid, but their reasoning is not. A court is not out of control just because it disagrees with you. And the resolution itself would lead to an increase in deaths from abortion. Save the babies *and* the mothers by keeping abortion safe and legal.

-Carl Brodersen

## Jody Simpson

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**From:** Tim "Goldie" Bauer <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 26, 2020 3:32 PM  
**To:** Senate Health and Social Services  
**Subject:** Abortion bills

I'm opposed to this or any law limiting abortion. As a male I'll never have to face this decision, but doubt that I could make the decision to abort a child if I were the parent. But, I strongly feel that that decision should be up to me and not dictated by the government.

Tim Bauer  
Fairbanks

## Jody Simpson

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**From:** Julie Nielsen <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 26, 2020 3:17 PM  
**To:** Senate Health and Social Services  
**Cc:** Sen. Jesse Kiehl; Rep. Sara Hannan  
**Subject:** Opposed to SJR 13

Dear SHSS committee members,

I have been watching the testimony for this bill on line and I am appalled. I, like many other Alaskans, treasure the privacy that the constitution gives me to make decisions about my body and my life. I am opposed to SJR 13.

I agree with Sen. Begich's concerns about the interjection of politics in this issue. Why in the world would you need to frame the issue in this way except to the appeal to partisan behavior? I am so fed up with that. I am non-partisan and it seems to me what other states are doing has no bearing on what Alaskans decide. And why is all of the invited testimony from out of state? I encourage you to think rationally about the basis of support for this bill from the perspective of Alaskans, not outsiders.

I also agree with Sen. Begich's concern about women losing their right to privacy. I had thought about this before the hearing: how on the one hand, my right to privacy is explicitly protected \*right now\*. Yet the proposed legislation would ultimately remove my right to have an abortion, which the Supreme Court has found to be private and protected by my right to privacy in the constitution \*right now\*. It seems to me that these two things are in direct conflict, and this is not just an archaic philosophical question, as Sen. Hughes claims, but something that needs to be addressed head on. In order to truly remove the ambiguity, as this resolution attempts to do, shouldn't it be stated explicitly in the amendment text that the right to privacy for all Alaskans is also being revoked? I don't think that would be very popular.

I think you will find that most Alaskans do want their privacy and that this is a huge waste of time for everyone. I urge you to not let this out of committee.

And thank you all very much for your service to this state.

Sincerely,

Julie Nielsen  
Juneau

KENAI LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION OFFICE

Email: Kenai.LIO@akleg.gov

Phone: 907-283-2030 / Fax: 907-283-3075

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

NAME: Matthew Peters  
 REPRESENTING: Myself  
 BILL # or SUBJECT: S.J.R. No. 13  
 COMMITTEE: Senate Health and Social Services DATE: 2/26/20

NOTE: This testimony is considered part of the official record and will be posted online with the hearing documents

An irrevocable divide exists here. Bringing the issue to the public in an election year would be explosive. I pray it wouldn't come with violence. We all know that potential exists.

In 2009, Dr. George Tiller was murdered at Sunday Service at his church where he was an usher. In 2015, three people were killed in Colorado Springs at a Planned Parenthood; nine others were injured, including five police officers.

Alaska is not immune to such violence when women are demonized. S.J.R. #13 will embolden hate-mongers to speak on our radios, televisions, computers, and cell phones. Therefore, I ask that you do not change our constitution.

KENAI LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION OFFICE

Email: Kenai.LIO@akleg.gov

Phone: 907-283-2030 / Fax: 907-283-3075

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

NAME: Carol Strickland  
REPRESENTING: Self  
BILL # or SUBJECT: SJR 13  
COMMITTEE: SHSS DATE: 2-26-2020

NOTE: This testimony is considered part of the official record and will be posted online with the hearing documents

Abortion has been around for over 4,000 years. It was part of life in the US. into 1800's as a woman's thing between a woman and her midwife. When the religious groups got involved it became illegal, yet need didn't go away. A woman wants it she will find a way - "butchers" caused many deaths from complications from abortion. With passing of Roe v. Wade we took this to doctors and made it safe again - I say again because in our country it was legal for the 2 centuries before it was made illegal. We have freedom of religion yet if it falls outside the judeo/christian "norm" then yes protected but still mistreated. I say this because much of this "right to life" rhetoric is religion based and infringes on our rights of religion and privacy. Abortion is between patient and doctor - no one else. Courts have said so & now you want to regulate even further. We cannot go back to pre 1970s and the butchers - because if made illegal the women will find a way and vital women will die. We cannot go back. Please vote No on SJR 13. Thank you.

## Jody Simpson

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**From:** Shari George [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 26, 2020 3:17 PM  
**To:** Senate Health and Social Services  
**Subject:** NO on SJR 13

Dear Senators Wilson, von Imhof, Giessel, Shower and Begich,

I am completely opposed to SJR 13. Most Americans believe that privacy in health decisions is a right; I agree. The Alaska Constitution currently affirms that right and nothing should be done to change that.

You cannot legislate in or away personal conscience. Making it more difficult and dangerous will not stop women from seeking this alternative, it will just return it to the alleys, backrooms and underground. I lived through those days, I remember women dying needlessly, I lost a relative because she sought help the only way she could. It was tragic and pointless.

I stick by the statement, "If you don't believe in abortion, don't have one." No one makes someone else take that step. Women are entitled to the freedom to make their own healthcare decisions which ever way they choose.

Sincerely,

Sharon George  
[REDACTED]

Fairbanks, AK

**Jody Simpson**

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**From:** carol cooper <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 26, 2020 3:14 PM  
**To:** Senate Health and Social Services  
**Subject:** Regarding Bill sJR13 Carol J Cooper

To the Health and Social Services Committee, February 26, 2020

I was calling on the phone to testify in support of the introduction of Shelly Hughes bill sJR13 . At the encouragement of the committee am submitting my testimony in writing. I want to state that I support this bill because it prevents the judges and courts from disallowing legislation regarding abortion using the excuse of right to privacy. I believe in the right to life of every individual, and I want to see the lives of our most vulnerable Alaskans, the babies in the womb protected. I hope and pray that Alaska's end goal is that the killing of babies in the womb will no longer be accepted, tolerated, or legal in the State of Alaska.

Thank You,  
Carol J Cooper  
[REDACTED]  
Soldotna, Alaska



## Jody Simpson

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**From:** Nicole Thomas [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 26, 2020 3:00 PM  
**To:** Senate Health and Social Services  
**Subject:** Re: Support amendment

I support amendment SJR13.  
Thank you  
Nicole Thomas

On Wed, Feb 26, 2020 at 2:58 PM Nicole Thomas <[nicole.thomas526@gmail.com](mailto:nicole.thomas526@gmail.com)> wrote:

Hello,

My name is Nicole Thomas and I represent myself. I just want to say I support this amendment and that I just had my son last week and I can remember back to when I was around 14-15 weeks pregnant with him and could feel him move for the first time. And if he was big enough then to allow me to feel his movement at that age, then he was more than a bundle of tissues well before that week. And now he is a precious baby who is smiling and already has a personality and I can't imagine life without him. This is human life that should be protected not harmed.

Thank you for listening.

## Jody Simpson

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**From:** Sarah H <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 26, 2020 2:52 PM  
**To:** Senate Health and Social Services  
**Subject:** support of SJR 13

Senate Joint Resolution 13

Sarah J. Hennemann, MD

26 Feb 2020

Dear Senator Wilson and members of the Senate Health and Social Services Committee:

My name is Sarah Hennemann. I am a family medicine physician, US Air Force veteran, and concerned parent.

I have been practicing full scope Family Medicine, including delivering babies, in Alaska since being stationed at Eielson AFB 13 years ago. Prior to that, I graduated medical school from the Medical College of WI and completed residency training at Eglin AFB. I currently work at Capstone Family Medicine in Wasilla and have no intention of ever leaving our amazing state. Thank you for allowing me to speak on Senate Joint Resolution 13.

As a physician, I am allowed a unique and personal window into the hearts and lives of my patients. My patients are burdened by the weight of many difficult situations, and I come home every day carrying a little bit of their pain, sadness and anxiety. I can tell you many heart wrenching stories from my own experience and those of my colleagues of patients and families that will most assuredly stay with you, as they have with us.

Today, in the interest of time, I'd like to tell you about one particular patient that came to my mind immediately when Alaskans began discussing Parental Notification legislation a few years ago.

As a resident physician at Eglin AFB, I would work in the Emergency Department on Saturdays. One busy Saturday a fairly gruff but concerned father brought his teenage daughter in for fever and abdominal pain. This girl was about 15, very pale, with long blond hair. She was certainly frightened. I took a detailed history and she admitted to some abnormal menstrual cycles but denied sexual activity. When her father stepped out of the room for her to undress for her exam, I questioned her a little further. After gentle encouragement, she admitted to having an abortion out of town a few days prior. She had called the abortion clinic the day before her presentation to the emergency department about her fever and told me they could not help her and advised she go to the emergency room. She chose to stay home another day, hoping her symptoms would improve on their own. By the next day, she was septic. Thankfully, she had gotten to the emergency department on time and we immediately began treatment.

I remember talking to her about needing to talk with her father – she was so afraid of disappointing him. She asked me to speak, and I remember using very careful, measured and scientific terms to gently explain the situation. I remember the way his shoulders sank as he dropped his head in his hands. I can still see his glassy eyes when he reached out and took her hand. I did not have to tell him that delaying her treatment any longer would have probably killed her.

She was admitted to the ICU for post surgical sepsis. Her care was taken over by the attending gynecologists and I did not see her again.

But when the Parental Notification discussion started a few years ago, I could see her face. As my own children were becoming teenagers, I was grateful Alaska was taking a stand to protect our minors from ever being in a situation where they were to choose, consent to and undergo a medical procedure without parents even being aware.

As a physician, I understand that our teens have adult bodies but that the frontal lobe of their brains does not completely form until their mid-20s. As this part of the brain assists with rational decision making and suppresses impulsivity, parents have a vital role in directing the paths these teenagers take. Because of this, the American Academy of Pediatrics has issued a policy statement, noting “Parents generally are better situated than others to understand the unique needs of their children and to make appropriate, caring decisions regarding their children’s health care” and “Parents should generally be recognized as the appropriate ethical and legal surrogate medical decision-makers for their children and adolescents.”

Certainly one can make the argument that not all of these minors come from supportive and loving families and that some of them are actually in terrible abusive situations where the parent may not be a child’s advocate. As a physician, it is my primary interest to protect my patients. Obviously, when there is suspicion of abuse, I have a duty to report and to assist the Office of Children’s Services to obtain protection for them.

I was proud of my fellow voters for understanding the importance for families to at the very least be aware an abortion was performed. In the specific case discussed here, a child could have died due to delayed medical care. In more frequent cases, these young women are left to process through the grief and loss that nearly every woman will experience after an abortion. We take our most emotionally vulnerable and impulsive population – our adolescents and teens – and expect them to manage this grief completely alone and without the awareness of their primary support system.

There is now concern that the vote by the constituents in Alaska is somehow against our state’s constitution. As much as I respect our judges, their job is to interpret law and represent the people of Alaska and I believe they have failed to do so in regard to Parental Notification.

We must decide on quality and reasonable measures on an Alaskan level that represents the desires of the Alaskan people.

I care for real Alaskans in real Alaskan families. I ask you to support Senate Joint Resolution 13 to bring this decision making back to those of us in the trenches here in Alaska every day.

Thank you

## Jody Simpson

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 26, 2020 2:24 PM  
**To:** Senate Health and Social Services  
**Subject:** Re: Bill SJR13

Hello,  
I wanted to email my support of SJR13. Thanks for your time,  
Marcy Tompkins

**Jody Simpson**

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**From:** Mary Corcoran [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 26, 2020 10:42 AM  
**To:** Senate Health and Social Services  
**Subject:** Public Testimony SJR13

Dear Senate Health & Social Services Committee Members,

I am strongly opposed to SJR13. A woman's reproductive health is a matter between her and her doctor. It is not the business of legislators or voters in a specified election.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,  
Mary Corcoran  
Delta Junction  
Ellamar PWS

TOK LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION OFFICE

Email: [info.tok@akleg.gov](mailto:info.tok@akleg.gov)  
907-883-5020

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

NAME: LEE SHEPHERD  
REPRESENTING: STATE  
BILL/ SUBJECT: STR13 SECTION 26 SECTION 1 AND 2 ABORTION  
COMMITTEE & HEARING DATE: SENATE HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES / 26 FEB 20

I testify in agreement to make an amendment to the ALASKAN CONSTITUTION:

1. THAT NOTHING IN THE ALASKA CONSTITUTION MAY BE CONSTRUED TO SECURE OR PROTECT A RIGHT TO AN ABORTION OR REQUIRE THE STATE TO FUND AN ABORTION

2. THAT THIS ALASKAN CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT (STR13 SECTION 26 (1) AND 2.) BE PLACED BEFORE VOTERS OF ALASKA, AT NEXT GENERAL ELECTION.

3. I support STR 13.

4. TO SAY THAT LAWS REGARDING ABORTIONS BE REGULATED BY THE PEOPLE & VOTERS IN ALASKA, NOT THE COURTS, TO OVERTS OR LEGISLATORS.  
THANK YOU.

## Jody Simpson

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**From:** David Briar <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 26, 2020 4:43 PM  
**To:** Senate Health and Social Services  
**Cc:** Sen. David Wilson; Sen. Shelley Hughes; Sen. Click Bishop  
**Subject:** Support for SJR-13

Dear Members of the Senate Health and Social Services Committee,

My name is David Briar of Tok, Alaska, and I represent myself and my family. I offer these comments for the record.

I listened intently to the Committee meeting today and the arguments both for and against SJR-13. Thank you for making public access to this important discussion relatively easy.

I would like to voice my full support for passage of SJR-13. The passage of SJR-13 is important for 3 reasons. First, it creates the potential to protect human life with an amendment ensuring our State's constitution can no longer be misconstrued by the courts with respect to abortion "rights" and funding. Second, it potentially gives our legislators the opportunity to put common sense limits on the abortion industry like parental notification. I think the Senator from Louisiana who dialed in made this case most eloquently. Third, it puts passage of the amendment squarely in the hands of the voters at the next general election. The people most impacted by the blight of abortion should be the ones to decide it's future in Alaska.

If the voters of Alaska choose against such an amendment, then so be it. That only means that pro-life supporters like myself have more work to do in convincing my fellow voters of the gross immorality and uncivilized nature of abortion. But at least the people of the State will have made this decision -- not a handful of judges arguably wielding too much power over this life and death issue.

Finally, I want to go on record that I find it objectionable that public dollars are used on abortions. With all the social problems facing Alaska such as suicide, sexual abuse, and alcoholism, I don't think that our scarce fiscal resources should be used to fund elective procedures like abortion that take life rather than save it. Abortion should be defunded at the state-level and those dollars devoted to ridding Alaska of the underlying issues that plague our communities.

Sincerely and respectfully,

David P. Briar  
Tok, Alaska

## Jody Simpson

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**From:** David Poppe [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 26, 2020 4:51 PM  
**To:** Senate Health and Social Services  
**Subject:** Senate SJR 13

David Poppe  
PO Box 95  
411 E 7th St  
Nenana, AK 99760  
907-378-7470

Dear Senators,

I listened to the testimony today about the resolution to change the right to privacy protections of the State of Alaska Constitution in regards to a women's right to an abortion. I will state my views on this topic.

1. I am a man. I will never know the blessing or trauma of being pregnant. As such, I should have a minimum of input to any woman's decision about abortion.
2. The highest protection of the Alaska Constitution is its protections for the individual citizen's right to be secure in its privacy. The State is limited in its intrusions into the private lives of its citizens. This resolution seeks to weaken these protections for citizens in the very private area of reproductive health choices.
3. Having testimony from an out of state person represented by a Louisiana legislator, in whose state, because of measures and laws passed by said legislators, has now resulted in abortion in any form being virtually impossible to obtain in Louisiana. It is clear that the purpose and reason for this SJR 13 is to weaken Alaska's Constitutional protections, to pave the way for much greater governmental interference into a woman's reproductive decisions, violating her right to privacy from the State regulating her body.
4. I have read John Irvine's book dealing with abortion, "the Cider House Rules". It doesn't paint a pretty picture of abortion, but does portrait the complexities around abortion, and how grey the moral ground is for this doctor in 1930's Maine.
5. I have accompanied a woman to have an abortion, (as a supportive person) who did not have the abortion. The clinic staff counseled her that abortion, at that last moment, was not for her. This is where her privacy rights needed to be. I have not met any woman who has had an abortion who was flippant about the decision to have an abortion.
6. I have watched and read Margaret Atwood 's "The Handmaid's Tale". It is a fiction, but I watch as every year the abortion debate brings evermore restrictive interference by the State into the the realm of a woman's right to reproductive health. As the Handmaid's Tale progresses, pregnancy and children become worshipped, but all women become reduced to function. Handmaid's make babies, against their will, for the State. Reading Sen. Shelly Hughes supporting statement for this resolution, she says all unborn children will have loving homes. Is this the State setting the poor up to be forced to provide babies to the adoption mill? For shame when fiction comes to life.
7. Leave the Constitution alone!!!!!!

Sincerely,  
David Poppe  
Sent from my iPhone



## Jody Simpson

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**From:** Maida Buckley [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 26, 2020 5:01 PM  
**To:** LIO Fairbanks; Senate Health and Social Services  
**Subject:** Testimony regarding SJR 13  
**Attachments:** SJR 13 testimony.docx

Dear Committee Members,

With time expiring for the allotted public testimony on SJR 13 earlier today, I appreciate the opportunity to submit my statement. However, the time allotted for public comment, in addition to being too brief, was then even cut short by 30 minutes when starting late, and consequently did not allow most present to participate. I appreciate the work that you do for our state, but with this in mind, I wish that you would be as respectful of my time.

My statement is attached,  
Maida Buckley

[REDACTED]  
Fairbanks, AK 99708

Maida Buckley

[REDACTED]

Fairbanks, AK 99708

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony regarding SJR 13.

“A foolish consistency is the hobgoblin of little minds.” While Ralph Waldo Emerson’s words might speak to the need for flexibility in establishing one’s position, these words were not intended to provide cover for the hypocrisy engaged in by the sponsors of SJR 13. These sponsors decry government overreach, however, with this proposed resolution the sponsors award government the power to abrogate the fundamental right to privacy that is specifically stated in the Alaska Constitution.

Next, the purpose of this legislation is corrupt. This legislation does not promote the general welfare. If the true intent was to lower the abortion rate, these legislators need only look to Colorado to see state action that is credited with reducing the need for abortion. Simply, Colorado’s abortion rate dropped 41% after the state health department expanded family planning services. In fact in states where abortion restrictions were increased, ironically abortions increased.

Additionally, it seems the purpose of this action is to join other states in bringing a case before the US Supreme Court. Again not only are we compromising our Alaskan independence, more importantly this action is antithetical to Article 1 Sec. 22 of the Alaska Constitution, as it

guarantees individual privacy. Strikingly, as basic services in our state are being cut, and grocery shelves in SE Alaska are becoming bare, what a frivolous use of Alaska's tax dollars.

In conclusion, if I have not been clear enough, do not move SJR 13 forward.

## Jody Simpson

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**From:** Erin Gelston [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 27, 2020 2:50 PM  
**To:** Senate Health and Social Services  
**Subject:** Senate Joint Resolution 13

Hello, I am writing today to comment on SJR 13, and voice my disapproval and rejection of said Resolution. Personally, I've never needed an abortion, and thank goodness for that—I am only 17 years old, after all. But, I would still like to have access to an abortion, if the need ever arises. Passing this Resolution would limit ones ability to have an abortion. Though the Resolution would not necessarily overturn Roe v. Wade, I believe that is the intention of the lawmakers in support of SJR 13. Frankly, it is no ones business but the person having the abortion. Most abortions (98.7%) are performed before a person reaches 21 weeks gestation. By the time abortions are performed, there is no heartbeat, no fingerprints, no discernible features that would make one human. The argument that abortion is murder is just plain wrong. How can you murder something that isn't even human? On top of that, the pro-life argument is just plain wrong. It argues that each human life is precious and valued. It encourages that babies should be brought up in unstable, poverty-ridden, unloving homes. The children that are forcibly brought into this world often find themselves unwanted, and most end up in the foster system. The foster system is already widely overpopulated and stretched to its limits. People that are pro-life are in fact voting against daycare services, welfare, and additional food and childcare programs. Where are those children to go? Who is going to take care of them when food stamps disappear? Limiting access to abortion is criminal, and would most likely increase death rates across our state. So, if you care about women and their right to choose, you will not vote for Senate Joint Resolution 13.

## Jody Simpson

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**From:** Cheryl & Mark Lovegreen [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 27, 2020 12:50 PM  
**To:** Senate Health and Social Services  
**Subject:** SJR 13 testimony

My call was not reached during yesterday's hearing, so here is my written testimony. My name is Cheryl Lovegreen, and I am writing from Anchorage as an individual. Thank you for your public service and for hosting this testimony. I am testifying against bill SJR 13. This bill would create a harmful situation for women and teenage girls all over Alaska. It would take bodily autonomy and safe legal abortions away from women, regardless of their individual situations. Imagine a woman who became pregnant from a sexual assault, or a teen girl who became pregnant by incest. With this bill, they would have to either live with a nightmarish pregnancy and motherhood, or risk an illegal abortion which could easily lead to injury or death of the mother and baby. This is likely to happen often when the domestic violence and sexual assault rates are so high here. Abortion is part of our healthcare of a reason, and it should be a matter discussed between the woman and her doctor.

Please don't put people's lives at risk to cultivate political points with a small group of voters. Our constitutional right to privacy should not be subject to someone's political whims. Please vote against SJR 13.

Cheryl Lovegreen

## Jody Simpson

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**From:** Beverly Berdahl <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 27, 2020 12:51 PM  
**To:** SHSF@AKLEG.GOV  
**Cc:** Beverly Berdahl  
**Subject:** Favor of SJR13

This is Beverly Berdahl from Nikiski. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of myself, my family, and my praying friends in favor of SJR13.

I believe this is a great opportunity to reign in our Alaska Supreme Court which has repeatedly taken away the will and voice of the people of this great state. It is past time for the people to speak out loudly on this issue. We are a family that prays ,to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, daily for our state and nation to turn away from our brutal, barbaric, murderous bent of killing unborn (and even born) children.

We do not appreciate being drawn into this violence by use of our taxes and state funding. Please support SJR13 and bring hope to many Alaskans- adults, children and unborn children! Thank you.

Sent from my iPhone

## Jody Simpson

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**From:** Douglas Harmon <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 26, 2020 9:00 PM  
**To:** Senate Health and Social Services  
**Subject:** ref: Senate Joint Resolution No. 13

Name: Douglas Harmon  
Residence: Tok, Alaska

I am in support of Senate Joint Resolution No. 13.

If approved it will make a strong statement for the protection of human life. SJR No. 13 will correct the legal problems that have allowed the Alaska Supreme Court to void the parental notification requirements in the original laws. It will provide an opportunity to have meaningful discussions relating to the killing of unborn babies. We have been lying to ourselves when we say that abortion is not killing a baby. Abortion stops a beating heart. If you run a DNA test on what is taken out of the woman's womb it very definitely is identifiable as human. The DNA is human and has significant differences from that of the mother. We may delude ourselves but our children can readily identify the act as killing the baby. This recognition may play an important role in the violent behavior that occurs in the youth of today. There are ethnic groups in this country where the most dangerous place for a baby is in it's mother's womb. SJR No. 13 also gives Alaska a strong position when discussing the question of the use of public funds for abortion.

As Mother Teresa said about abortion, "It is poverty to decide that a child must die so that you may live as you wish."

Children are a gift and we can ill afford to waste that gift!

Thank you so much for providing this opportunity to provide testimony about so important an issue.

"His eye is on the sparrow and I know he watches me" Civilla Martin & Charles Gabriel

**Jody Simpson**

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**From:** kathie overpeck <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 26, 2020 8:42 PM  
**To:** Senate Health and Social Services  
**Subject:** SJR13

Hello,

I would like to make my voice heard in support of life. Please do what is right: choose life.

Best! Kathie Overpeck  
Sent from my iPhone



## Jody Simpson

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**From:** Callie Conerton <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 26, 2020 5:58 PM  
**To:** Senate Health and Social Services  
**Subject:** No to SJR 13

Hello,

My name is Callie Conerton. I urge you to vote against SJR 13. A women's health, reproduction rights, BODY, or medical anything should not be decided by anyone who doesn't have a medical degree AND who was chosen by the person to make suggestions for their body.

Unless you plan on doing a joint resolution on men's health, bodies, rights, etc. - stay out of women's choices about their bodies and reproductive rights!

Sincerely,

Callie

## Jody Simpson

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**From:** Luann McVey <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 26, 2020 5:30 PM  
**To:** Senate Health and Social Services  
**Subject:** Fwd: SJR 13

(To the clerk of the committee: I testified before the committee this afternoon, but I cut out part of my remarks due to time constraints. I'd appreciate it if the committee could see my message in its entirety - and I'd like it included in the record. Thank you, Luann McVey)

Dear Chairman Wilson, Vice Chair Von Imhof, and members of the Senate Health and Social Services Committee,

Thank you for taking my testimony. I am opposed to SJR 13.

I am a retired teacher. I value human life. It is important to bring a child into an environment where s/he is wanted, cherished, and cared for. It is also important for a child's mother to be cherished and cared for and to have the choice of conception. When a woman conceives, planned or unplanned, it is her body, her choice, to bring that life into the world. If she is unable to properly care for a child, it is her body, her choice, her right to remove the cells within her uterus. Controlling one's body and health is a basic human right that should be protected legislatively. I wonder if this kind of legislation would even be considered if men were the ones who conceived and bore the children.

Our society is in a difficult time, in which adults are willing to force women to carry pregnancies to term, placing the burden of caring for the child on the woman who gives birth. There is no mention of the man who contributed the sperm that joined with the ovum to conceive the child. Yet a woman and her child, if conceived in poverty and born without resources, are both punished. Our current federal and state leadership intend to remove food stamps, free and reduced school lunch programs, and appropriate medical care from children born to mothers in poverty. This is wrong.

It is wrong for the state, by denying abortions to women who need them, to force women to bring a child into this world for any reason. I hope this bill does not pass out of this committee.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Luann McVey



Douglas, Alaska 99824

## Jody Simpson

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**From:** Margo Waring <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 27, 2020 8:09 AM  
**To:** Senate Health and Social Services  
**Subject:** SJR 13

Senate Health & Social Services Committee member,

I am writing in opposition to SJR 13. I am old enough to remember well the days before Roe v. Wade. In theory, there was not access to abortion services. But in reality, there were many. The difference from today is who has access to safe procedures. In those days, women with money and connections found doctors who would say that the mother's health was in jeopardy and perform the procedure; women of means would fly to another country for the procedure. But poor women, women with no "connections" went to whoever they could find for the procedure, often risking their lives, their health and future fertility.

If we want to limit abortion, the very best way is to have adequate sex education and access to birth control.

Please vote against SJR 13 and keep my comments part of the record.

Margo Waring  
[REDACTED]

Juneau, AK 99801

## Jody Simpson

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**From:** The Harmons <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 26, 2020 10:15 PM  
**To:** Senate Health and Social Services  
**Subject:** Senate Joint Resolution #13

[REDACTED]  
Tok, AK 99780

February 26, 2020

RE: Senate Joint Resolution #13

Dear Senators:

In this day and age, we are no longer ignorant about when life begins in the womb. It has been known that babies have been able to survive with life support weighing about 8.6 oz. at 23 weeks old outside the womb. Therefore, in reality, what determines life for a baby is frequently whether a mother wants that baby to live or to be aborted. The ramification of this decision can have long lasting effects.

One result of Roe vs. Wade was that my husband and I wanted to adopt a baby in the 1980's and due to the lack of availability in the U.S.A., we turned to foreign adoption. In Psalm 139, it states this in verses 13 & 14a: "For you, formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. 14 I praise you for I am fearfully and wonderfully made...." "We must remember that life begins at home and we must also remember that the future of humanity passes through families." Mother Theresa.

That being said, I am in full support of Senate Joint Resolution #13 which will amend Section 1 Article 1 of the Constitution of the State of Alaska by adding Section 26: "To protect life, nothing in this constitution may be construed to secure or protect a right to an abortion or require the State to fund an abortion" At the next general election, it should be voted upon by the State of Alaska voters for approval.

Thank you,

Judith Harmon

## Jody Simpson

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**From:** Vijay Patil <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 26, 2020 9:40 PM  
**To:** Senate Health and Social Services; Sen. Shelley Hughes  
**Subject:** I oppose SJR13

To Senator Hughes and the Senate Health and Social Services Committee,

This comment may be too late to be considered part of the public testimony regarding SJR 13: Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the State of Alaska relating to abortion. However, I am one of Senator Hughes' constituents from Chugiak, and I would like you to know that I am adamantly opposed to this resolution, and to any attempt by the Alaska legislature to limit women's autonomy over their bodies and their healthcare choices. I am deeply disappointed by Senator Hughes' decision to sponsor this bill, which does not represent my interests, nor those of my family and my community. I am all for legislation that will improve education on sexual health and consent, increase access to contraception, family planning services, and affordable general healthcare, and reduce the incidence of rape. All of these are positive actions to reduce unwanted pregnancies, but it is wrong to punish women for making the difficult choice to end a pregnancy, especially under difficult or traumatic circumstances.

I hope you will do the right thing and withdraw SJR13.

Sincerely,  
Vijay Patil

## Jody Simpson

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**From:** Xochitl Lopez-Ayala <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 26, 2020 8:11 PM  
**To:** Senate Finance; Senate Judiciary; Senate.Health.&.Social.Services@akleg.gov  
**Cc:** Sen. Gary Stevens; Sen. Shelley Hughes; Sen. John Coghill; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. David Wilson; Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Mia Costello; Sen. Mike Shower  
**Subject:** SJR13 Testimony.

My name is Xochitl Lopez-Ayala and I reside in Homer and I was unable to attend the hearing today due to work obligations, so I am requesting my opposition of SJR13 to be submitted via email.

Once again I am having to submit testimony to you all and I am really trying to figure out why you are continually trying to restrict our constitutional right to access to Abortion and now with SJR13.

First off- Quit referring to yourself as "pro-life" with the reason why you are introducing, and co-sponsoring, SJR13 as you are anti-choice and anti-abortion.

You are anti-women's rights. You are anti black and brown women's rights. You're anti-reproductive rights. You're anti-bodily autonomy. You cannot be "pro life" when your legislation introduction and sponsorship are potentially ruining the lives of so many people.

You cannot be "pro life" when: a black pregnant mom is shot by cops and you aren't bothered or when brown babies are pulled from their mothers and lost, completely unaccounted for, or die in ICE custody, and you don't care.

You are pro-control.

You are trying to legislate who can and cannot have abortions. All your anti-choice rhetoric does is keep people trapped in poverty for generations. If that isn't your goal, instead of us having this conversation again, you would be investing in comprehensive sex education, free birth control and recognizing the value of reproductive care work.

*"In other countries, the value of reproductive care work is recognized and compensated with universal programs such as healthcare for all, paid parental leave, and free childcare. The programs that exist in the United States are inadequate and keep us dependent on employers and the men in our lives. Rather than creating social programs we need, and make it easier to choose whether to parent, they restrict our access to abortion and birth control."*

Many of us are having families later due to lack of affordable housing, childcare and medical cost and being overworked, especially in Alaska where our cost of living is higher.

This has been true for my husband Don and I. We have been married for 11 years and we have talked several times about starting our family. Unable to dedicate a full income loss to take care of a child and pay our rising rent, or having to take on a second job due to rising childcare costs, it has definitely been a heavy burden in our planning process. It isn't ideal to keep pushing off having children, yet you feel the reason we are not having children is due to abortion or access to birth control rather than focusing on the social and economic impacts.

With SJR13, you are serving true propaganda to ban all abortion access for Alaskans and are becoming a perpetrators of forced births, forced sterilization, unsafe contraceptives and other crimes that have used racism to dehumanize us and justify the government's actions. What you need to be focused on is promoting reproductive necessities; birth control, abortion access, STD prevention, sex education in schools, and acknowledging women's unpaid labor in childbearing among many others. SJR13 exposes the race and class base manipulations of your anti- abortion laws and availability to scope Alaska's political landscape.

When the government controls our bodily autonomy, and infringes on our access, it opens the doors for such procedures as forced sterilization and decreases reproductive access to contraceptives as well as our choices in family planning.

Legitimizing this control of the government will continue to lead us down a dangerous path we have been fighting you on for decades now! You need to remember that Roe vs. Wade, was not about the moral implications of abortion. It was about safety, equal access and especially the right to privacy in a person with a uterus choosing to have an abortion. These decisions are allowing people to evaluate their own situations and then choose what is best in their unique circumstances with out government oversight.

Keep abortion safe, legal and accessible.

-Xochitl Lopez-Ayala

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Ps: Since you all have all this time to continually waste *our* time, *our* tax dollars, *our* time away from work, to have us testify and defend your attacks our constitutional right to abortion access; here are some reading materials that you can benefit from:

*Without Apology: The Abortion Struggle Now* By: Jenny Brown

*Birth Strike: The Hidden Fight Over Women's Work* By: Jenny Brown



## Jody Simpson

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**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of Aspen Frick  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 26, 2020 11:12 AM  
**To:** Sen. David Wilson  
**Subject:** I oppose this attempt to ban abortion  
**Categories:** In 2D

Dear Senator David Wilson,

The Alaska Constitution has a long history of protecting our right to privacy and should continue to protect our right to obtain medical treatment without government interference.

SJR 13 is a bill that violates women's basic human rights, and is an affront on the female sex. The government has no business dictating what a woman can and cannot do with her body, and even when it does try and dictate it, it causes women to turn to illegal and dangerous methods to take control of their own life, bodies, and choices. This is an attempt to reinforce the patriarchal ideal that women should be dictated by men's morality, and as an Alaskan who believes in freedom of choice, I cannot in good conscious let this happen without saying something.

Nearly 8 in 10 Americans do not want to see Roe v. Wade overturned and I'm one of them. I urge you to oppose SJR 13.

Sincerely,  
Aspen Frick

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]