

[REDACTED]

From: lynch [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 15, 2021 4:05 PM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: Brian Lynch Testimony in Opposition to SB 39

Dear Senate State Affairs Committee Members,

I am opposed to SB 39. While assuring elections are fair and equitable should be a priority for any functional democratically elected representative government, I am opposed to any legislative action(s) that seeks to increase the difficulties for any qualified citizen to vote. Unfortunately, it appears that that is the goal of SB 39.

I am particularly concerned with the proposed change to Section 1. AS 15.070.050(a)(5) which overturns the 2016 voter's initiative to automatically register qualified PFD applicants to vote. Why is the Senate even considering such an action? Have there been identifiable problems associated with the two general elections that have taken place since this provision went into effect? The Sponsor Statement provides no evidence of voter registration irregularities created by the 2016 initiative. The Sponsor Statement is entirely directed at voter and voting integrity and provided no actual or even perceived irregularities in or identifiable problems with the PFD registration process that could have prompted the proposed changes to this section. It is still up to the individual if they want to vote, or not. Overturning a voter initiative is a serious matter that should be considered and justified only if identifiable problems with implementation or constitutionality are identified. Neither of which have been identified in the Sponsor Statement.

Changes to Section 18 AS 15.56.035(8) are also troubling. The proposed changes would preclude anyone except family members, caregivers, or election officials from handling another person's ballot. During the 2020 pandemic influenced election, people who were not family members or caregivers could sign-in at a polling place to deliver and collect ballots from shut-ins and people under quarantine. Although, they were not election officials they were authorized by election officials to perform that function on a case-by-case basis. Without this allowance, several people in our community would not have been unable to vote. Why would this be a desirable goal of the Senate? Again, the Sponsor Statement does not delineate any voter fraud that occurred in the 2020 election.

I also want to point out that the documents submitted by the Heritage Foundation and others in support for SB 39 have little or no specific bearing on nor expressly support the bill. The *Crowford v. Marion County Election Board* case was about in-person voter ID and was decided by SCOTUS for the plaintiffs based on the ability to obtain photo ID, NOT on if in-person voter fraud is a problem needing a solution. Justice Souter's dissent even stated: "*The type of voting fraud that may be remedied by a photo ID requirement is virtually nonexistent: the 'problem' of voter impersonation is not a real problem at all*". And why is the opinion of the Heritage Foundation, an out-of-state organization, of any value to Alaskans in determining what is right and fair for Alaska voters? The submitted documents *SB 39 Over-Registration.pdf* and *SB 39 Voting Facts in Alaska.pdf* do nothing more than demonstrate that one number is larger than another while providing no reasonable analysis on why that is. Why might the number of Alaska registered voters be greater than the population of Alaskans eligible to vote? Well, people die, they move out of state or they may become incarcerated or legally incompetent but remain on voter registration records. So, the reason why registered voters may outnumber the population of eligible voters may simply be due to election officials not keeping voter registration up to date and not the result of voter registration fraud.

It is truly distressing to see some members of the Alaska State Senate apparently joining other state's legislatures around the country in efforts to implement legislation designed to make voting more difficult for qualified citizens. The Alaska Legislature should be doing the exact opposite and enacting laws making safe and secure voting as simple and easy as possible for qualified Alaska voters.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my testimony.

Sincerely,

Brian Lynch

[REDACTED]

Petersburg, AK 99833



P.O. Box 101345, Anchorage, AK 99510-1345

March 8, 2021

The Honorable Mike Shower
Chair, Senate State Affairs
Vice Chair, Senate Judiciary
State Capitol, Room 429
Juneau, AK 997801

RE: SB 39 An Act relating to elections, Section 22
Referred to the Senate State Affairs and Senate Judiciary Committees

Senator Shower:

The League of Women Voters of Anchorage is writing to express our opposition to Section 22 of Senate Bill 39.

Sec 22. AS 29.26.010 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

(c) A municipality may not mail a general or special election ballot to a voter unless the voter affirmatively requests to vote by mail in that election.

The Municipality of Anchorage (Muni) has conducted vote-by-mail elections since 2018. Vote-by-mail has proved to be safe, secure, convenient and accessible to the voters of Anchorage. The Muni and other governmental bodies have had increasing difficulty in achieving the number of election workers needed to staff polling places on election day. Vote-by-mail removes this component of the election process. Most importantly, vote-by-mail has increased voter turnout which is a basic principle of our electoral process. Statistics for the 2016 through 2020 Muni elections confirm an increase in voter turnout.

April 2016	24.77% - 51,999 out of 209,909 traditional voting method
April 2017	23.20% - 49,370 out of 212,782 traditional voting method
April 2018	36.31% - 79,295 out of 218,388 vote-by-mail
April 2019	28.65% - 65,100 out of 227,210 vote-by-mail
April 2020	30.77% - 71,382 out of 232,009 vote-by-mail

The Muni's move to vote-by-mail was a well thought out process over several years. The League was very involved with the Muni during this process. League members served on the Anchorage Elections Stakeholder Group and on several specific task forces; additionally, one

member served on the RFP committee to evaluate voting equipment as well. We also partnered with the Muni on a concentrated education and outreach program by giving presentations throughout the community on vote-by-mail. The concept of vote-by-mail was well received by the community.

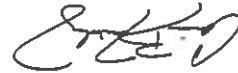
The Muni has continually improved procedures and processes after each election. The pandemic added multiple considerations related to public safety. Flexibility to conduct elections (April 2020 and April 2021) best suited to the residents of the Muni under these circumstances would be lost if local control were taken away by Section 22.

We strongly recommend Section 22 be removed from Senate Bill 39. Vote-by-mail has proved to be an accurate and convenient method of voting for the voters of Anchorage. Requiring voters to apply for their ballot would amount to voter suppression.

The Muni has safeguards in place to verify voter information and track ballots received to determine any duplicate ballots. Please view take the *Virtuall* tour of the Muni vote-by mail process and operation at [Introduction to Vote by Mail \(vwebit.com\)](http://Introduction to Vote by Mail (vwebit.com)). Additionally, the Muni has a non-partisan commission review all pending rejected ballot envelopes. The municipal code sets out the membership and responsibilities of the five-member Anchorage Municipal Election Commission. The commission makes the final determination of accepting or rejecting a ballot envelope based on state and Muni approved reject codes. We applaud the Muni for having such a commission which is not directly involved in conducting the election. The commission also regularly reviews the Anchorage code and recommends changes when appropriate.

Local governments should have the flexibility to conduct elections that best meet the needs of their residents. Thank you for listening to our concerns. As chair of the State Affairs Committee and vice chair of the Judiciary Committee we urge your reconsideration of Section 22. We are available to testify at committee meetings.

Sincerely,



Cari Zawodny

Vice President,

League of Women Voters of Anchorage
P.O. Box 101345, Anchorage, AK 99510

[Redacted]

cc: Senate State Affairs Committee Members

Senate Judiciary Committee Members

Senate President Peter Micciche

Lieutenant Governor Kevin Meyer

[REDACTED]

From: Laurie Sica [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 5:13 PM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: Fwd: Oracle

----- Forwarded message -----
From: Laurie Sica <infosica@gmail.com>
Date: Tue, Mar 16, 2021 at 4:50 PM
Subject: Oracle
To: <sssta@alaska.gov>

Who ever said Alaska is ready to go to online voting? Alaska requires a paper ballot. What is the point of this presentation?

Laurie Sica
Juneau, Ak

[REDACTED]

From:

Sent:

To:

Subject:

[REDACTED]
Monday, April 5, 2021 2:15 PM

Senate State Affairs

SB 39

We learn in civics class that American citizens 18 and older have the right and responsibility to vote, but some in our country seemingly want to install barriers. Why? Because their political party is in the minority, and they will lose power if they don't suppress the vote of those who might look elsewhere for political representation. Like many bills that have recently been proposed by Republicans across the country, Senate Bill 39 aims to make accessing the vote more difficult. American citizens should be encouraged to participate in all aspects of the electoral process. Please vote NO on SB 39.

Jo Ann C. Miller

[REDACTED]
Anchorage AK 99517

[REDACTED]

From:

Maria Berger [REDACTED]

Sent:

Tuesday, March 30, 2021 2:39 PM

To:

Senate State Affairs

Subject:

SB 39 - Public Testimony

Mr. Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my opposition to SB 39.

I am especially concerned about the proposed change from an opt-out system to an opt-in system for voter registration upon filing for a PFD. PFD automatic voter registration has added more than 50,000 Alaskans to the registered voter rolls, increasing voter turnout. In this way, the popular automatic voter registration system has allowed more Alaskans' voices to be heard, and changing to a system that asks PFD applicants if they would like to be registered to vote undermines the ideal of maximizing public participation in a fair and inclusive elections process.

By criminalizing collection and transport of ballots unless the collector is a family member, household member, or care giver or is engaged in official duties as an election official, postal worker, or commercial delivery service, the bill makes it more difficult for people to exercise their right to vote. This would disproportionately affect the elderly, physically and mentally ill, people with physical disabilities, people without family living nearby, people who work long hours, those who do not have cars or cannot afford to pay for transportation, those who live in remote locations, and other vulnerable populations who might face challenges delivering their own ballots. In such cases, the ability to have a trusted neighbor or friend collect and transport one's ballot could mean the difference between being able to participate in the democratic process and having one's voice silenced. The language limiting the number of ballots that even a family member, household member, or care giver as defined in the Bill is similarly impractical. The desire and willingness to help our friends and neighbors in need is part of the fabric of life in Alaska.

For the reasons outlined above, I urge you not to support SB39.

Thank you for your service to our state and our people.

Maria L. Berger

Physical Address: [REDACTED]

Fairbanks, AK 99709

[REDACTED]

From:

Cathy McCorquodale [REDACTED]

Sent:

Tuesday, March 30, 2021 1:51 PM

To:

Senate State Affairs

Subject:

SB 39

SB 39 is unnecessary and a solution to a non-existent problem. We need more voters, not fewer.

[REDACTED]

From:

Kimberly Brock [REDACTED]

Sent:

Tuesday, March 30, 2021 10:01 AM

To:

Senate State Affairs

Subject:

SB39

Senate Bill 39 is a voter suppression bill. Do not pass this bill.

Sent from my iPhone

[REDACTED]

From:

Sent:

To:

Subject:

Mary Burtness

Monday, March 29, 2021 8:16 AM

Senate State Affairs

SB 39

Greetings: I would like to encourage to kill this bill in this committee.

I was an election chair in rural Alaska for 10 years and a poll worker for one year in Fairbanks. I was nothing but impressed with the process and the respect the division of elections, both state and local. This type of bill is a slap in my face as well as all those people who truly believe in the right for as many people as possible to vote.

I have never heard of any election fraud in our state, and am confused why Alaska who claims to be so independent, follow legislation attempts to fix a system that is not broken.

I had the opportunity to listen in on a hearing last year with some house members who were exploring mail-in balloting. I was impressed with the process Anchorage goes through to complete a safe and valid election. But what was more exciting was the increase in number of people voting locally. Isn't this what we want, everyone being part of our election process?

And finally, Alaskans cherish their independence. Isn't this a infringement on the rights of the our local governments running their own elections?

Please, stop this bill now.

Mary Burtness

From: John Jensen
Sent: Wednesday, March 3, 2021 6:20 PM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: Yet another try at SB39

This is another attempt to try to get this message to your committee. It was rejected once today (again) for some reason.

Mail Delivery System

Mail Delivery Failure

To: norwejohn@gci.net

This message was created automatically by the mail system (ecelerity).

A message that you sent could not be delivered to one or more of its recipients. This is a permanent error. The following address(es) failed:

||| senate.state.affairs@akleg.gov (reading confirmation): 550 5.1.1 User Unknown
Arrival-Date: Wed, 03 Mar 2021 21:02:43 -0500
Reporting-MTA: dns; smtp02.beryl.bos.sync.lan

Final-Recipient: rfc822; senate.state.affairs@akleg.gov
Last-Attempt-Date: Wed, 03 Mar 2021 21:02:43 -0500
Action: failed
Status: 5.1.1
Remote-MTA: dns; mxlb-002f0201.gslb.pphosted.com
Diagnostic-Code: smtp; 550 5.1.1 User Unknown
----- This is a copy of the headers of the original message. -----

To: Senator Mike Showers@akleg.gov Senator Lora Reinbold@akleg.gov Senator Mia Costello@akleg.gov Senator Roger Holand@akleg.gov
Senator Scott Kawasaki@akleg.gov

Cc:

Subject: SB39

I suppose the shorter this is the better but I am an unpaid voter and I have put a lot of time into this so I would appreciate your patience and attention. Thank you for doing that.
First, let me summarize my feelings about SB 39:
(1) The voters approved automatic PFD voter registration with a 65% vote and I have not heard any big public hue and cry to overturn that vote. Supporters of SB39 (one of your aides, for example, in testimony) say that some voters do not want to be automatically registered. My logic says that, therefore, if this is a problem, you should be seeking an opt-OUT provision rather than forcing voters to opt-in.
(2) Lister acquiesces to Mr. Kawasaki because he understands the Bill far better than I do.
(3) Any changes to existing law are best when backed up by verifiable examples of fraud or continuing clerical or other similar errors less than fraud.
(4) I am all in favor of elections security but please do not overshoot the mark by putting in too many layers of bureaucracy with dollar costs.
(5) Consider that the solution to some apparent voter problems lies not with changing existing law. Instead, focus on addressing the clerical problems. It is not the fault of automatic registration that people move out of state or that a voter may vote once and then not vote again for five years which keeps turn-over on the rolls. I do not think that we are soon to change federal law about this so it is basically a clerical problem. Also, if voters put down their office or another address as the place to receive their PDF, rather than their home address, this is not the fault of automatic voter registration. The LI Gov. should iron this out between the two state departments for a solution to that. Maybe you could.

Now I turn to commenting on specific part of SB39 with some intent at brevity (though hard to do):
Sec. 6 AS 15.15. Is there sufficient evidence to show that this is necessary? This section appears to claim that mail-in voting breaks the "chain-of command protocol." This from a comment in testimony from one of your aides. The implication is that the USPS is either dishonest or incompetent enough to have voting by mail be brought into serious question. I personally do not think that postal workers know enough about how voters might vote so they could simply throw out the ones that do not align with their voting preferences. Neither do I think that someone could organize them into a group to turn mail-in ballots to that organizer who would then be able to open said ballots and alter them to suit a purpose and return them to postal workers who could be charged with a felony. Maybe I am missing something here. If so, what?

I am not specifically opposed to a hotline but see #4 above. How much time and money should we spend on complaints if they are frivolous?
Sec. 15.15374. The intent may be good but I wonder about more costs and the potential for messy court cases.
Sec. 13 Oppose because taxes may be old tech but they are more secure than e-mail. E-mail is an open invitation to fraud hacking.
Sec. 15. AS 15.20.081 (e). This is REALLY bad because a postmark indicates the completion of a ballot and we want to "count all votes" do we not? Votes should not be thrown out because of a fault not attributable to the voter. Note that the IRS accepts postmarks as valid timelines.
Sec. 16. AS 1.5.200.201 (b). I am confused here. The intent seems to be to count votes quickly while, at the same time, ignoring possible double votes which should be rectified somehow later. See Sec. 17 AS 15.20.220
Sec. 18. AS 15.56.035(a) restricts a family member from possessing more than one other voters' ballot at the time. This means that, potentially, a son or daughter, delivering his/her parents' ballots would have to make to separate trips. I am in favor of logical restrictions on ballot collections by political parties and/or any paid ballot collecting. You need to look at this change seriously. It is RIGHT that you seek to address a problem that occurred in East Anchorage a couple of years ago but please do not overshoot!
Sec. 21. AS 15.80.090 more or less implies that the LI Gov. cannot be trusted so he/she has to immediately report security breaches to the legislature. I am wondering why because I do not think that the legislature is going to take charge and then deliver some non-partisan solution if that is the need for this addition.
Sec. 22. AS 29.26.010 I oppose this because it does not provide for future emergencies such as we have had during the last election cycle and because it interferes with a muni option.
Sec. 23. AS 43.23.015 (b). Language to delete automatic voter registration
Sec. 25. AS 15.07.130 (e)(3) and AS 15.20.800 are repealed. I am UNABLE to comment on this because I do not have the time or simple expertise to look these up. Maybe they are significant, maybe not.
Sec. 26 and Sec. 30. I very much oppose this because it would automatic voter registration which has ALREADY occurred. Any changes from SB39 signed into effective law should not have a RETROACTIVE effective day.

Thank you for your attention and consideration. John Jensen (Alaskan since 1949 and former precinct chairman)

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, February 26, 2021 10:07 PM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: Vote against SB 39

I write in opposition to SB 39. I believe that voting is the critical feature of our democracy. I believe that SB 39 seeks to restrict voting unnecessarily.

We teach high school students that their vote after age 18 is important. We offer them and all eligible voters a convenient way to register – at the same time as they apply for their pfd. We don't require them to register, but invite them to do so.

Several places in Alaska have long offered vote by mail. Some states exclusively use vote by mail. Vote by mail is effective and reliable. There is no legitimate reason to make voting more difficult by eliminating vote by mail.

I believe that we must be careful to see that one person gets one vote. Even ballots that come through the mail are checked for authenticity. We must not put obstacles in the way of eligible voters. In Alaska it is sometimes difficult to get to the polls or to get to a location to register to vote. Alaskans should be encouraged to do their civic duty, not restricted or limited in so doing.

Please vote against SB 39.

Thank you.
Carol

This is personal to me

I've worked over 15 years as an election chairperson in my local precinct. All election officials spend hours in trainings prior to election day handling new equipment, reviewing processes, meeting with volunteers, etc., On Election Day, the efforts are heightened; the set up, the voting processes, the results reporting, the handling of ballots, the break down of the polling place, the list goes on. It takes hours and teams of people. And I am proud of the work our State and our Federal election workers do to keep our elections safe and fair. This past year especially; via COVID.

Sen. Mike Shower insists that Senate Bill 39 "is not intended to make it more difficult to vote, but meant to bring trust back to Alaska's elections." I'm not sure what Mike is talking about. Our Federal election officials said in November that the election was "the most secure in American history."

SB 39 seems to make it harder for citizens to cast a ballot. In addition, SB 39 would overturn the will of the majority of Alaskans who voted for the 2016 ballot initiative to link voter registration to our permanent fund dividend application. It would effectively ban municipalities from having by-mail elections. In addition, this bill would also prohibit the collection of mail-in ballots by third parties.

Mike Shower was quoted in the "Local jurisdictions flood the mail with ballots with no chain of custody protocols," he said in an email statement. "There are many opportunities for error, or fraud, to be introduced into the system." The U.S.P.S is still the entity that delivers your Social Security checks, your medicines, your PFD checks. Why is it secure enough for those items and not a ballot?

Under SB39, only a family member or caretaker can deliver the ballot of another voter. What about my disabled neighbor who doesn't have those options? What are we trying to fix? What was found to be wanting? I hear mention of "Ballot security and chain of custody" attached to this bill. Alaska has an election system that is the envy of other states. Even our own (Republican) Lt. Governor, Kevin Meyer said, "Our election process has a lot of checks and balances in place people aren't aware of."

It's frustrating to see laws put into place to restrict access in the name of solving a problem that doesn't exist. Some might be inclined by politeness to call this a voter registration bill or an election reform bill, but it reads more like a voter suppression bill.

From: Kevin F. McCoy

[REDACTED]
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-4269

To: Chairman Shower, Senators Costella, Holland, Kawasaki, and Reinbold

Re: February 25, 2021 Invited testimony before the Senate Affairs Committee

Date: February 26, 2021

Uncorroborated allegations of election impropriety should be investigated by law enforcement before election laws are rewritten.

As Circuit Judge Stephanos Bibas, appointed by President Trump, wrote in *Trump for President, Inc., et al. v. Secretary Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, et al*, Slip Op 20-3371 (November 17, 2020) at Docket No. 91. Pg. 2:

Free, fair elections are the lifeblood of our democracy. Charges of unfairness are serious. But calling an election unfair does not make it so. Charges require specific allegations and then proof.

For this reason, I write to ask the Committee to immediately request the Department of Law and the Alaska State Troopers to promptly investigate claims of election and ballot irregularities alleged by the witnesses invited to testify at the February 25, 2021 Senate Public Affairs Committee hearing.

At that hearing, multiple witnesses spoke about election irregularities without producing any physical evidence corroborating their claims of misconduct. Allegations that people received multiple unsolicited ballots, that an individual was carrying a "suitcase" of ballots used to encourage people to vote illegally, and other election irregularities, are extremely serious. These allegations should be investigated by law enforcement and presented to the grand jury for prosecution if substantiated.

But allegations of election misconduct without corroborating proof does not provide a useful basis for re-writing Alaska Election Law at this time. SB 39, if adopted, will expand state government at a time when the Governor wants to sell the fast ferries and is proposing to close DMV offices around the State because we are running out of money.

The claims of election misconduct that I heard yesterday remind me of the allegations surrounding the 2020 election for President. More than 60 lawsuits were filed in state and federal courts alleging a variety of election improprieties. All of the courts, including the United States Supreme Court, rejected these claims

because they were factually unsupported. Judge Bibas' comments at the beginning of this letter illustrate the fallacy of relying on uncorroborated claims of election misconduct to rewrite election laws.

That said, yesterday's witness claims should be immediately investigated by law enforcement.

Thank you for including my comments in the record.

From: Alexander Bergman
Sent: Saturday, February 20, 2021 7:36 PM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: Opposition to SB 39

RAAR

Ahem. I mean, Hey folks, thanks for the work you do.

I just wanted to add my voice to the chorus of opposition to SB 39.

Inflammatory language is definitely a problem, but even though the intent of the bill isn't voter suppression explicitly, that is how it feels. Voter fraud would have already been shown to be a problem if it was a problem, if you know what I mean. I'm white, and I have ALS, and maybe I really do have people queueing up to steal my identities and defraud me of my vote whenever I don't do so in person (remember that one pandemic?). It sure has been validating to be able to have help and participate in democracy though, without facing increased scrutiny at polling places for being black or brown. I would love it if instead voting became easier for all of us.

Thanks again, and all the best,

Alexander Bergman

--
[they/them](#)

Of Danish, English, Gwich'in, Irish, and Swedish ancestry, I live and work in the traditional and unceded territories of the Chena Dene Peoples, whose ancestors have lived here for millennia, and who continue to respectfully steward and defend these [sacred](#) lands with place-based knowledge and traditions.

[REDACTED]

From: Penny Goodstein [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, February 20, 2021 7:41 AM
To: Senate State Affairs; Sen. Roger Holland; Rep. James Kaufman
Subject: SB 39

It appears that Alaska has joined the bandwagon of trying to decrease the number of residents voting in this state. It appears to be an epidemic in our country. It is fueled by FALSE claims of voter fraud; this was, according to any study performed, one of the safest voting situations in our history.

Please kill SB 39. It is not necessary.

Having the PFD application automatically register voters goes a long way to increasing the number of voters in our state. That is a good thing, if you like a democratic form of government. People applying for a PFD are vetted as being residents of our state. It is an automatic way to ensure registered voters are legitimate. Why make it more difficult? Why make someone remember to check one more box?

Penny Goodstein

[REDACTED]

From:

Sent:

To:

Subject:

[REDACTED]
Friday, February 19, 2021 8:17 PM

Senate State Affairs

I oppose SB 39

Dear Senate State Affairs Committee,

I oppose Senate Bill 39 because, my children are about to become 3rd generation fishermen and island dwellers in Alaska. Our family has enjoyed the capacity to vote from Halibut Cove via mail for decades. We are a diverse family of Alaskan voices, some Republican, some Democrat, some Independent. We have all safely, legally and legitimately enjoyed the ability to participate in our great Alaskan democratic experience without forgoing fishing, flying, hunting and entrepreneurial opportunities in Alaska due to the flexibility of our current voting system. The current system is perfect for the Alaskan way of life. It is not broken. This and other measures coming to the committee are a waste of time. Get to work on the real issues at hand. SB 39 is no good. End it.

It's 2021. why would the legislature not encourage participation in the legislative process to those electronically receiving the PFD. They registered for PFD because they value that aspect of residency. They may want to protect it. Or use it. But they can get it because they are proven residence. They should participate. The automatic voter registration encourages participation in the process that sends them those checks. It makes sense. Keep it. SB 39 is no good. End it.

For representatives constantly beating the my rights drum, stripping localities of their independence is contrary to the principals you promised your constituents. SB 39 is no good. End it.

We can't support our neighbors? Our elders? The homesteader down the trail? That is the least Alaskan aspect of SB 39. We honor handshakes. We respond when our neighbors need us. That is the core of the Alaskan nature. SB 39 is not good. End it.

Sincerely,

Melisa Miller

[REDACTED] Homer, AK 99603-9572
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: j clark [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, February 19, 2021 12:23 PM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: Senate Bill 39

To Whom it May Concern:

My testimony is to oppose Senate Bill 39 because it is more likely to suppress voting rather than enable it. Mail in ballots have been found to be legitimate and the Alaska LT Governor has already determined that it has worked well for Alaska. I recommend that we not tamper with a voting system that is working well, especially if it is likely to decrease voting participation.

Thank you,

Jo Clark

[REDACTED]
Wasilla, Ak. 99654

Sent from my iPad

[REDACTED]

From:

Sent:

To:

Subject:

[REDACTED]
Friday, February 19, 2021 11:59 AM

Senate State Affairs

I oppose SB 39

Dear Senate State Affairs Committee,

I oppose Senate Bill 39 because, after reading the bill it appears that this is just going to suppress voters. I would also like hard evidence from Mike Showers proving the fraud that he claims.

We need to provide as much access as possible for voters across Alaska and all of the United States.

Sincerely,

Sheri Thomson

450 N Bailey St Palmer, AK 99645-6212
[REDACTED]

From:

Sent:

To:

Subject:

Cindy Gregg

Friday, February 19, 2021 9:18 AM

Senate State Affairs

SB 39 not needed now

Dear respected legislators,

It is my firm belief that SB 39 is not needed now. We just had the safest and securest election ever. I feel like this bill is written to reassure those who doubt the security of mail-in voting (absentee and any other type). The truth is, in the world as it is now, especially with the pandemic, we need easier ways to vote, not laws that make it less accessible. I especially feel like automatic voter registration on PFD applications should stay. If Alaskans want their PFD, they should be registered voters, so their voices can weigh in on Alaskan issues thorough voting. If they choose not to vote, once they are registered, well--that is their choice. There is no need to have a box to "request" the registration. I like the system the way it is.

I am so tired of the false information that is circulating around the state, and around the country about voting fraud. It is not supported by fact. Please do not pass this bill.

Sincerely,

Cindy Koplin

Homer, Alaska

From: Francine Chiklak [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, February 19, 2021 8:33 AM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: SB-39

My name is Francine Chiklak. I work with Alaska Center as Voter Registration. My job is to reach out to the voters in the YK Delta Region.

I introduce the SB 39 bill that is being proposed by Senator Showers, from Wasilla. This bill go against freedom of speech which is the first amendment which is "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances." This bill would not serve any purpose other than causing more have to the voting system here in Alaska.

Second of all, as I spoke to the people who live in the rural area. The rural area who relies heavily through mail. They receive all their resources that would help them live with their day to day life in the village. This is no different than living in the urban, however the big difference is that the urban area has easy access to resources that would benefit to help them live comfortably. Rural areas are limited.

Alaskan voters who live in rural areas are diverse in ethnic background, education, age and religion. Majority of the people whom I have spoken to feel that this is wrong. As there are people who may not have access to the internet, there are people who may be disabled, people who may be elderly and would need assistance in translation to help them understand who to vote for in the senate seat. There are people who rely heavily through mail, and at times the weather conditions that make it difficult to deliver the mail on time. Whereas in urban areas, they can receive their mail easily within three business days. SB-39 would disenfranchise rural voters which would make it difficult to voice their opinion.

I ask to stop this SB-39, as this does not serve its purpose to benefit the voters who reside in the rural areas.

Thank you for your time.

Francine Chiklak



Virus-free. www.avg.com

[REDACTED]

From:

kathy franz [REDACTED]
Friday, February 19, 2021 6:08 AM

Sent:

Senate State Affairs

To:

NO on Senate Bill 39

Subject:

Speaking as a resident of Fairbanks, Senate bill 39 is a shameful and undemocratic.
Senate Bill 39 is Voter suppression.
VOTE NO!

Kathy Franz

[REDACTED]
Fairbanks, AK 99709

[REDACTED]

From:

Sent:

To:

Cc:

Subject:

Norm Stout [REDACTED]

Thursday, February 18, 2021 5:09 PM

Senate State Affairs

Wendy Stout

Senate Bill 39

To whom it may concern,

As a 42 year resident of Alaska, the last 30 living in the Mat Su Valley, I wish to express my displeasure with the bill that Senator Shower has introduced.

Just like the false accusations by our former president, Mr Showers pushes unproven accusations and an agenda that will restrict voting options for those whom are most likely not to vote for him.

The PFD registration system is a fair and equal system. Mail in voting is important to people who cannot otherwise make it to a polling place.

Attempting to restrict voting to the wealthy class is a slap in the face a great many Alaskans.

Turn away SB 39

Norm Stout,

[REDACTED]
Palmer, AK 99645
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

Terrence Shanigan

From: Laurel Carlsen
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2021 4:39 PM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: No on SB39

Senate Affairs Committee,

Please do not advance SB39. Alaska's elections are safe and secure, as are the national elections. There is no data to suggest otherwise.

One of our country's biggest problems, however, is low civic engagement. SB39 will only create more barriers to voting. Is that Senator Shower's intent?

After the former president lied for months by saying the presidential election was stolen, one can only wonder if Senator Shower's bill is based on that great lie, too.

Do not place yourselves on the side of history of voter suppression. Focus your efforts on legitimate problems facing our state, such as recovery from the devastating Covid-19 pandemic.

Sincerely,
Laurel Carlsen

Hello,

My name is Kyle Joseph and I am from Chaikytitsik, Alaska. I am calling today to urge Senator Click Bishop to strike down Senate Bill 39.

As a registered voter in District 9 I believe that this bill will harm my right to vote. SB39 would force Alaskans to jump through additional hoops to vote by converting the successful opt-out system to an opt-in system, prohibiting vote-by-mail in certain local elections, and making it more difficult for our vulnerable populations to submit their ballots. In 2021, especially during a pandemic, we should be working to make voting more accessible and fair for Alaskans, not less.

Having a State controlled election would mean that the state would have to spend more to send representatives out to 240 rural villages and towns where state division of election offices just don't exist, so that 83% of Alaskans can have a chance to vote. Would it cost more to hire the appropriate amount of staff to cover all 240 rural towns in Alaska by November in a manner of weeks? Or would it cost more to print out 600,000 or so absentee ballots and keep everyone on a system that they're already accustomed to? I believe you will lose many voters with SB39 in upcoming elections. Not to mention the pandemic that is still going on throughout the world, let's not focus on what we see in front of us but what's to come. Although America is getting vaccinated and Alaska is doing well with our vaccination rate per capita, the rest of the world is still battling the virus with the World Health Organization stating that the pandemic will most likely carry on through 2022. During the last 2020 State election Alaskans voted on ballot measure 2 to change our system to "ranked choice voting", which hasn't even been done yet, and now you want to stack another change on top of that? I beseech you to look at SB39 and ask yourself is it even feasible? Are the timelines to get things done by every November election realistic? Are there any mock trials that were successful with this type of system?

Alaskans deserve to be able to decide how we want to cast our votes, and we should not be made criminals for wanting to help members of our communities. By going against the will of Alaskans, Senate Bill 39 is a bill for voter suppression. I ask that you oppose SB-39, and protect our state.

Thank you,

Talking points and facts about SB-39:

- Alaskans voted in 2016 for a voter registration system that automatically registers Alaskans to vote when we fill out our PFD forms. While Alaskans can choose to opt-out, this system has added over 50,000 Alaskans to the rolls, and led to record voter turnout in recent elections. The bill would remove this popular PFD Voter Registration law that voters overwhelmingly support.
- SB39 would strip municipalities and rural communities of the option to control their own election process. This will limit our ability to easily access voting methods like vote by mail, affecting communities where weather can impact reaching polling location. AND work, hunting, fishing, and gathering can make reaching the polling location difficult. We need all the options on the table to increase access to voting and our local communities need flexibility.
- Current law protects the right for any Alaskan to transport a ballot for a fellow friend or neighbor. SB39 would make this illegal! Preventing our communities for looking out for each other, and silencing our voices.
- SB39 would force Alaskans to jump through additional hoops to vote by converting the successful opt-out system to an opt-in system, prohibiting vote-by-mail in certain local elections, and making it more difficult for our vulnerable populations to vote.
- SB39 will have the greatest impact on our rural communities. Voting is already difficult in our Alaska Native villages - it can be challenging to get proper information and materials from the Division of Elections, and barriers such as weather, plus hunting & fishing openings around elections, can make people physically unable to reach their polling locations.
- SB39 also limits our right to act as a community and care for our elders, neighbors and friends by making it illegal to deliver a ballot for a friend or neighbor. Think about how many people in your community were able to vote because your Tribal leader or friend stepped up to help people request/fill out ballots! We need more Alaska Native representation in government, not less.

[REDACTED]

From: Mindee Morning [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2021 4:26 PM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: Senate Bill 39

I am opposed to Senate Bill 39. I see no reason to stop registering people to vote who qualify for the PFD. This type of registration is a helpful thing to working people so they don't have to make extra trips to extra places to secure their RIGHT to vote. Limiting participation in the voting process is not what we should be doing. Our state needs to engage the ENTIRE population of this state in decision making. The low voter turn outs are encouraged when we put so much restriction on the simple act of voting.

I am highly suspect of the limiting of mail-in voting. This has worked for several years in several states and is a good way for working people to vote. We have a lot of military people in this state and if we limit mail-in voting they are automatically disenfranchised from their right to vote. Workers who commute to the remote parts of our State also need to vote by mail. This makes it possible for them to participate in their rights as a citizen of the United States. It is a bogus and inflammatory assertion that mail-in voting leads to fraud. Fraud is what is committed when someone introduces a bill that makes mail-in voting illegal. This is a direct and devious method to limit people's right to vote.

Please don't support Senate Bill 39

Thanks:
Linda A Morning*

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Kenai, Alaska 99611

[REDACTED]

From:

Sent:

To:

Subject:

[REDACTED]
kwmccarthy@everactioncustom.com on behalf of Kathrin McCarthy <kwmccarthy@everactioncustom.com>
Thursday, February 18, 2021 4:14 PM

Senate State Affairs

I oppose SB 39

Dear Senate State Affairs Committee,

I am writing to state my opposition to SB 39. This Republican sponsored bill is voter suppression loud and clear. It is unnecessary. We do not have problems with voting irregularities or voter fraud in Alaska. In fact the greatest perpetration of voter fraud was that our recent general election was stolen from the former President, perpetrated by the man himself. Senate Bill 39 will make voting more difficult for elders by dis-allowing a relative to bring their ballot to the polling place. It will eliminate our current automatic registration to vote when a person fills out their PFD application.

I am a 50yrs. + resident of Alaska and there has never been problems with mail in voting during my life in Alaska. Mike Shower should withdraw this horrible bill. This is a waste of money on top of how boneheaded and backward this bill is.

Sincerely,

Kathrin McCarthy

Sincerely,

Kathrin McCarthy

[REDACTED] Juneau, AK 99801-1207
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2021 3:39 PM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: Fwd: SB 39 Testimony

From: "Timothy Johnson" [REDACTED]
To: "Senator Mike Shower" <Senator.Mike.Shower@akleg.gov>
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2021 2:46:36 PM
Subject: SB 39 Comments

I have real concerns about some of the text of SB39:

1. A person is able to register to vote by mail which is fair to the process of registration - I have objections to registering by facsimile. There should be no individual electronic submission of any voter registration, ballot or verification of ballot(s). All documents shall be received and examined in the original form.
2. There should be no electronic process of voting. It is not secure, not verifiable and is subject to tampering as evidenced by our recent national Presidential election. All voting ballots should be in paper form, in the original, demonstrating kinematic artifacts of the process of printing, alignment, coding, folding, sending to and receiving from any eligible voter. Paper verifies the electronic tallies, and vice versa.
3. There should be no "private commercial delivery service" of any ballots to/from the election precincts for any reason. The printer of ballots needs to seal and account for chain of custody to any voting precinct and be verified by election officials. "Private commercial delivery service" is a nebulous descriptor and cannot be uniformly enforced as to the legitimacy of the pick up, delivery or transfer. Only state election representatives should handle: new, unused, used, or spoiled ballots, with chain of custody being a completed by a duly assigned state/borough/municipal election official. Too many shenanigans occurred of mystery vehicles appearing AFTER HOURS with cases and cases of ballots accepted without proof of chain of custody or verified agency at the TCF in Detroit, Michigan.
4. Emergency Declaration: that is fraught with peril. If a person is unable to obtain a witness signature, as verification for an absentee ballot, that ballot shall be receipt confirmed, questioned and set aside uncounted. A court is prohibited from determining voting laws, that is the purview of the legislature and the elected representatives. No court shall hold sway on non-enforcement of voter signatures,

or witness signatures. Voter and witness signatures shall be uniformly required no matter the "emergency". As required by recall of an elected official, signatures are to be verified on the recall petition. The condition of signature verification has to exist for both cases of voting and recall under the Equal Protection Clause.

"If, during an emergency declared under AS 26.23, a court order invalidates the requirement to obtain a witness signature under this subsection, the division shall resume enforcement of the witness requirement after the emergency declaration expires." **This should be stricken, as with AS 26.23, there can be no conditions or sufficient emergent condition such that witness verification is waived.**

Penny Johnson


Anchorage, AK 99515



From:
Sent:
To:
Subject:

Tom Wagner
Thursday, February 18, 2021 3:30 PM
Senate State Affairs
Hb 39

please do not pass this bill. It is voter suppression, pure and simple. If anything, voting should be made mandatory. Tom Wagner

[REDACTED]

From:

Larry Taylor, Jr.
Thursday, February 18, 2021 3:18 PM

Sent:

Senate State Affairs

To:

Nay - Senate Bill 39

Subject:

My wife and I are against Senate Bill 39 because it would limit voting rights for some.

Larry Taylor, Jr.

Gail W. Taylor

[REDACTED]
Ketchikan, AK 99901

Author of

On Flat Lake Time

A Survivor's Guide to Living off the Road System in Alaska

Sample or Purchase at flatlakealaska.com.

From:

Tim Silvers
Thursday, February 18, 2021 3:07 PM

Sent:

Senate State Affairs

To:

Public Testimony for SB39

Subject:

Alaska Senators,

SB39 attempts to improve the integrity of our elections and contains some helpful law changes, along with two areas that should be removed before the bill moves forward:

1. The current system of automatic voter registration when applying for the PFD was approved by an overwhelming majority of Alaskans and is an extremely efficient, secure and accurate way to qualify and register eligible voters. No one's rights are infringed by "forcing them" to register to vote. They may choose to vote or not when the election time arrives. Removing the automatic registration will result in some level of disenfranchisement as some will choose not to register when applying for PFD, then later decide they should vote but end up not voting because they don't want to go through the hassle (real or perceived) to register. The contentious 2020 Presidential election was a great example of high new voter turnout that could have been impaired by barriers to voter registration. There is nothing wrong with our current system of voter registration. Additionally, SB39 will cost \$16,700 to update the PFD application system to accommodate the changes. This is a waste of money and moves Alaska in the wrong direction. All eligible voters should be automatically registered to vote via the PFD according to the clear will of the people.
2. The provision to remove ability of general law municipalities to mail ballots to voters who did not request an absentee ballot is unnecessary and limits abilities of municipalities to conduct free, fair and safe elections as conditions warrant. The 2020 Pandemic is a perfect example of why flexibility in using mail in voting can be beneficial. Throughout the country, absentee and mail in ballots allowed millions to safely exercise their right to vote. Contrary to popular belief, mail in voting is extremely secure and not prone to fraud as long as proper safeguards are used. In June 2020, Washington Post, with help from the nonprofit Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC), analyzed data collected by three vote-by-mail states and found that officials identified just 372 possible cases of double voting or voting on behalf of deceased people out of about 14.6 million votes cast by mail in the 2016 and 2018 general elections, or 0.0025 percent. The SB39 limits on mail in voting are just an unnecessary and dangerous attempt to make it harder for people to exercise their right to vote.

Thank you for considering this feedback,

Tim Silvers

Anchorage AK 99504

[REDACTED]

From:

Callie Simmons [REDACTED]

Sent:

Thursday, February 18, 2021 3:07 PM

To:

Senate State Affairs

Subject:

Public Testimony- Senate Bill 39

To Whom it may concern,

I'm sending this email to oppose Senate Bill 39 and urge you not to support it for the following reasons:

1. Removing the PFD Automatic Voter Registration increases the barriers to voting in AK.
2. Municipalities and rural places should control their own election process- SB 39 strips communities of those rights.
3. This bill limits our rights to care for our Elders, neighbors, and friends by making voting harder.
4. There is no evidence of voter fraud in the last election cycle. Please address actual problems facing Alaskans, including access to voting and voter suppression.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Callie Simmons

Sitka, Alaska.

[REDACTED]

From: susan walsh [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2021 2:47 PM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: SB 39

To whom it may concern:

I am in strong opposition to this attempt to make voting by mail even more onerous. If anything, we in Alaska, with our vast territory need to enhance access to the democratic process.

Sincerely,
Susan E Walsh
[REDACTED]
Ketchikan, Alaska
99901

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy S8 Active, an AT&T 5G Evolution capable smartphone

Terrence Shanigan

From: Ann Hackett
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2021 1:55 PM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: SB 39

Dear Senators,

I am writing to express my absolute opposition to SB 39. I believe that the right to vote is the most fundamental right in our system of government. The restrictions in this bill would make it harder for some people to vote. Bills such as this are being proposed around America, and they amount to nothing less than voter suppression under the false pretense of preventing voter fraud.

True patriots would be celebrating the record voter turnout in the last election, made possible by easier access to voting, rather than calculating how to manipulate access to voting to favor their party. I implore you to act as true patriots and reject this bill.

Sincerely,
Ann Agosti-Hackett
Fritz Creek AK 99603

[REDACTED]

From: Debbie Smith [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2021 1:53 PM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: SB39

Dear Senate Committee members,
I am writing to voice my objection to SB 39. The state needs to encourage voting not discourage it which is what this bill does by doing away with the automatic voter registration through PFD program. Alaska's elections have done fine and there is no evidence to support changing these practices. I, as an elder, especially want mail in voting to continue. With all the work that the state needs to do to correct our budgetary issues I object to you wasting time to "solve" a non-existent problem.

Sincerely, Deborah Smith [REDACTED] t Homer AK 99603 Sent from my iPad

[REDACTED]

From:

Sent:

To:

Subject:

Leanna Prax Williams [REDACTED]

Thursday, February 18, 2021 1:33 PM

Senate State Affairs

SB 39 Testimony

Dear Senate Affairs Committee -

I am writing to express my opposition to SB 39.

I voted absentee by mail in both the primary and general election and was grateful to be able to do so. Passage of SB 39 will create problems for Alaskans to vote by mail, rather than solve them.

We should, as a state, be making voting more accessible, rather than more difficult. Voting by mail has proven to be safe and secure. The legislature should respect that cities/municipalities know how to best serve its citizens during elections, especially during challenging times like our current ongoing pandemic. We should preserve automatic voter registration tied to the PFD application. This bill works counter to these goals and I therefore oppose it.

Thank you for your time,

Leanna Prax Williams

[REDACTED]
Fairbanks, AK 99701

[REDACTED]

From:
Sent:
To:
Subject:

[REDACTED]
Thursday, February 18, 2021 1:27 PM
Senate State Affairs
FW: SB 39

Senators,

I am opposed to this bill 100%. We the people of Alaska passed this ballot initiative to include voter registration on PFD applications. Your attempt to override the will of the people, your people, is merely voter suppression in disguise. Not only will this bill abolish automatic voter registration on PFD applications, it weakens the ability of local governments of using mail-in voting. I like mail in voting! This initiative needs to be shut down now; quit wasting your time and go balance the budget.

Sincerely,

Patricia Berkhahn

[REDACTED]
Soldotna, AK 99669
pgberkhahn@gmail.com

[REDACTED]

From:

ladyq1113 [REDACTED]

Sent:

Thursday, February 18, 2021 1:23 PM

To:

Senate State Affairs

Subject:

No to Senate Bill 39

As a senior citizen and long time Alaskan resident, I ask that you Not move forward with Senate Bill 39. This bill would overturn the will of Alaskan voters; interfere with mail-in voting; and it would make it harder for the elderly and disabled to get voting assistance.

Thank you for your listening ear.

Betty P. Sears, Retired RN
[REDACTED]

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy S7, an AT&T 4G LTE smartphone

[REDACTED]

From: Bridget Paule [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2021 1:09 PM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: Fwd: Senate Bill 39 is harmful and unnecessary

Dear Senators:

I am writing to urge you to kill Senate Bill 39. This bill is unnecessary and would actually be harmful, disenfranchising many voters who have only just begun to participate as a result of vote-by-mail procedures. In recent years, we have seen an uptick in the number of citizens who vote, which is exactly how a democracy should work. At the same time, there is no evidence of actual voter fraud occurring.

The bill appears to address a problem that doesn't exist and it goes about it in a way that would reduce valid participation.

Please swiftly put an end to this unnecessary and harmful proposal.

Respectfully,
Bridget Paule

[REDACTED]
Anchorage, AK 99517
[REDACTED]

--
on Dena'ina Elnena

[REDACTED]

From: Brenda Loughman [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2021 12:42 PM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: SB 39 voting

I oppose passage of SB 39. It is 2021 and we need to make voting easier for all Alaskans. Waiting a week to count mail in ballots was an embarrassment to Alaska.

I am blind and would love to be able to vote electronically at home using my computer and the software that is accessible to me.

Sincerely,
Brenda Loughman

[REDACTED]

From:

Sent:

To:

Subject:

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] on behalf of Matt Kynoch <mckynoch@evervationcustom.com>
Thursday, February 18, 2021 12:39 PM

Senate State Affairs

I oppose SB 39

Dear Senate State Affairs Committee,

I oppose Senate Bill 39 because it is a "solution" to a problem that doesn't exist. Where is the evidence of voter fraud in Alaska? All this bill is doing is disenfranchising rural Alaskans. It seems like efforts to restrict voting access to minorities are rampant across the country right now. It is nothing short of shameful. Every American should have equal voting opportunity.

Sincerely,

Matt Kynoch

[REDACTED] Fairbanks, AK 99709-6414 [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] mckynoch@gmail.com

From:

Sent:

To:

Subject:

Colin Mckenzie <wcmckenzie907@gmail.com>

Thursday, February 18, 2021 12:34 PM

Senate State Affairs

SB39

To our elected officials,

My name is William Mckenzie and I am a lifelong Alaskan.

I am writing today to express my wholehearted opposition to SB39 and my concern regarding the direction of our leadership in this state. SB39 seems as though it is designed specifically to make voting harder for Alaskans. There have been no significant threats to voting security in this state that would necessitate any sort of restriction. In fact, we should be making it easier for Alaskans to vote and encourage maximum participation in our democracy.

I fear that the politics of today are driving one side to fear the will of the people that they are sworn to serve. The result across the nation has been a continuation of systematic voter suppression under the guise of preventing alleged voter fraud. A problem that has not been proven to exist in any meaningful quantity.

Once again, as an Alaskan and an American. I fully oppose ANY legislation that takes away the right of the people to easily access and cast their ballots.

Sincerely

William Mckenzie

[REDACTED]

From: Megan O'Neill
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2021 12:27 PM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: Senate Bill 39

Senate Bill 39 discourages democracy and attacks voting rights for all Alaskans. As a US citizen and 39 year resident of Alaska, I am opposed to SB 39. Vote no on SB 39.

Sincerely,
Megan O'Neill
[REDACTED]
Homer, AK 99603

Sent from my iPad

[REDACTED]

From:

Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2021 12:27 PM

To: Senate State Affairs

Subject: I oppose SB 39

Dear Senate State Affairs Committee,

I oppose Senate Bill 39 for many reasons, but most simply because it will increase barriers to voting by adding additional hurdles to vote and by gutting the successful automatic voter registration system, which was passed overwhelmingly by Alaskans. Any legislation about voting access should make it easier not harder for more Alaskans to make their voices heard. Alaska's elections are safe and secure and the reasoning for the passage of this bill is nonexistent. Please do not pass Senate Bill 39.

Sincerely,

Olivia Edwards

2325 Wheat Ln Fairbanks, AK 99709-6423

oliviedwards@gmail.com

[REDACTED]

From:

Sent:

To:

Subject:

Arlene Ronda

Thursday, February 18, 2021 12:21 PM

Senate State Affairs

SB 39

Dear SSTA Committee Members:

I stand firmly opposed to SB 39.

Alaska has a secure working system of elections with no credible evidence of fraud. SB 39 would do nothing to strength that but would lessen local control.

I urge you to reject this bill.

Arlene Ronda

Homer

[REDACTED]

From:
Sent:
To:
Subject:

Tam Agosti-Gisler [REDACTED]
Thursday, February 18, 2021 12:12 PM
Senate State Affairs
SB39

Dear Senators - Please do not support SB 39 that seeks the elimination of automatic PFD voter registration. Why make it MORE cumbersome for folks to register to vote? If you are worried about people remaining on the voting rolls who've left Alaska, it makes more sense to develop a computer program that can flag the name of anyone who applied for a PFD in one year (and is automatically registered to vote) but does not apply for a PFD the next year; then send a message/letter only to those people asking them to confirm their residency for voting purposes with a certain time limit (6 months??) to respond. If they don't respond, then they are purged from the voter registration list. Additionally, if a smaller community wants to set up vote-by-mail, why should they be prohibited??

Thank you for your consideration of my thoughts.

Sincerely,

Tam Agosti-Gisler
[REDACTED]
Anchorage, AK 99508
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: lisa66519 [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2021 12:11 PM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: please stop trying to suppress voters

SB39 is voter suppression! it's obvious that you're trying to stop nonwhites from being able to vote. racism is wrong! people should automatically be registered to vote when they apply for their PFD and communities ought to be able to organize mail-in voting. why is it ok when politicians mail in their votes, but you try to suppress UNITED STATES CITIZENS from doing the same?!? stop endangering the lives of Alaska residents with partisan politics!

-Elisa Jackson

Sent from my Samsung Galaxy smartphone.

[REDACTED]

From: Arleigh Hitchcock [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2021 12:10 PM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: Senate Bill 39 public comment

Senators,

This bill is an embarrassment for Alaska. In a state where voting can be difficult depending on your location, you want to make it harder? Shame on you. You should be focusing on Covid relief, not suppressing Alaskan voices and votes. This is an attack on local government and their own Mail in policy's. Shame on you, this is not helping Alaskans, but elected officials trying to help themselves by hurting Alaskans because they are scared they won't be re-elected. Vote no on Bill 39 and get back to work

Arleigh Hitchcock
Fairbanks Alaska

--
Arleigh Hitchcock
They/Them [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From:

Sent:

To:

Cc:

Subject:

Thursday, February 18, 2021 11:55 AM

Senate State Affairs; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. Scott Kawasaki; Sen. Robert Myers

Rep. Adam Wool

NO on Senate Bill 39

Date: February 18, 2021

Subject: NO on Senate Bill 39

From: JoanBfranz@gmail.com

Date: February 18, 2021 at 1:38:17 PM MST

To: Senate.State.Affairs@akleg.gov

Cc: Robert.Myers@akleg.gov

Subject: NO on Senate Bill 39

Dear Legislators,

Hello, I am strongly opposed to the Voter Suppression efforts of Senate Bill 39. A healthy democracy encourages more legal voting to engage citizens throughout our state to voice their beliefs. Senate Bill 39 merely proposes the suppression of voters of all ages in our large geographically diverse state. Our governor and Representative Mike Prax outrageously attempted to disenfranchise the voters in other states following a heavily secured legally completed 2020 election. All of those efforts were shameful, UnDemocratic and do not represent most Alaskans.

Voter suppression is the focus of this bill, not protecting against voter fraud. Legislators I am asking you to Vote No against Senate Bill 39 that limits options to vote and does not support increasing the number of registered voters in our state.

I would appreciate a response and thank you for your public service.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

From: Karen Button [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2021 11:54 AM
To: Sen. Mia Costello
Cc: Senate State Affairs
Subject: SB39

Dear Senator Costello and the Senate Affairs Committee,

I am writing to the Senate Affairs Committee as a whole, but through you because you're my Senator and I've always appreciated how responsive you are to your constituents. I was intending to testify in person, but I understand the public hearing for today has been cancelled.

I'm asking that you disallow SB39 from leaving the Senate Affairs Committee. This bill has no place in Alaska.

Despite what Senator Shower, author of SB39, and chair of the committee, claims, there is no "loss of trust" in Alaska elections. Nor does Alaska have a "security" issue with our elections or a "voter fraud" issue. If anything, we have an issue with voter participation and access, which is why automatic registration with a PFD application and mail-in ballots are crucial.

If Senator Shower wants to authentically "secure" elections for Alaskans, he will not limit my and others' ability to vote, but instead will help Alaskans gain more access to the polls. For example, how does a provision that only a family member or caretaker can deliver the ballot of another person help Alaska or Alaskans, especially in rural Alaska and smaller villages who would be hardest hit by many of the provisions of this bill? It doesn't. It only makes voting more difficult.

Let's be honest about SB39. This is about voter suppression and is part of a coordinated national effort. Despite some states' attempts to curtail voting in 2020, others provided more access to in-person voting and opened the way for mail-in ballots. The result? In a pandemic year there was *record voter turnout*. That's what we want; **voter participation is the foundation of this country's democracy**. And yet, there are over 160 similar voter suppression bills in 33 states. We have to ask why. The answer is to look at who is putting these bills forward. It is this same radical faction of the Republican party who seem to care more about their own power than they do upholding the constitution, which guarantees every citizen an *equal* opportunity to vote. They didn't like the results of the 2020 election, so they seek to limit those who can vote.

We are in a fight for the soul of our democracy and the foundation of our republic right now. The examples are all around us, for example, the shameful censuring of Senator Murkowski. Why was she censured? Because she didn't tow the party line on impeachment, instead voting her principles and adhering to her oath of allegiance to the constitution and the people for whom it was written. Anyone who watched the trial last week saw that the issues of the trial are were much bigger than the former president; the issues were about setting limits on presidential power, *Democrat or Republican*. Disgraceful that some, like Senator Sullivan, couldn't or wouldn't see that.

I grew up in Alaska at a time when I was taught by my parents and grandparents to vote the person not the party, to be an independent thinker. I often don't

agree with Senator Murkowski, but I always respect when she is willing to go with her gut rather than tow the party line. The trend on the national level of politics where the party is more important than anything else is very disturbing.

I resent that this suppression attempt is being put forward in *my* home-state, a place where we have always valued independence, free-thinking and helping one another. I resent that it is wrapped in dishonest language about safety.

I bring all this up because SB39 is much more than a so-called election security bill; it is about inserting a dangerous ideology of suppression into our elections. We don't need that kind of meddling in an election system that even Division of Elections head Lt. Gov Meyers, a member of Senator Shower's own party, says is just fine. Just like we don't need SB14, brought forward by the same senator from the same agenda of suppression. But, that's for another hearing.

I'm deeply ashamed of Senator Shower for promulgating the lie that there is a problem with election security in this country by attempting to create the same lie in Alaska.

This is strongly worded testimony, but SB39 requires rebuke in the strongest way possible and I ask, again, that this ugly chapter end in the Senate Affairs Committee.

Sincerely,

~Karen Button

[REDACTED]

Anchorage, 99517

cc: Senate Affairs Committee

--

~karen button
a grateful inhabitant of Dena'ina EInena

To: Senate - State Affairs Committee

From: Wayne Aderhold

Ref: SB-39 / Comments:

In general, I am in favor of any legislation that encourages the citizenry to vote by incorporating positive changes in that respect (ie "making it easier" to vote); I am against any changes that make it harder to vote (ie "voter suppression"). Our country has a long history of voter suppression that is shameful. Many of our poorer citizens and recent immigrants are our most responsible and well-informed citizens and voter suppression is often aimed at them.

- SB-39 appears to respond to unfounded criticism of our recent election.
- We have an excellent system of voting management in AK (State/Borough/City) and I have ultimate faith in these dedicated people (Clerks, et al) as well as the temporary workers hired for elections and provide "quality control". Additionally, the election process involves poll watchers to bring "quality assurance" to the process.
- I am NOT in favor of changing the current automatic voter registration upon applying for a PFD: Anyone thinking themselves worthy of receiving a PFD should be automatically willing to commit to the prime duty of a citizen: educating themselves on election issues AND voting. Further, a complaint voiced in an earlier hearing on SB-39 inaccurately identified a problem with recording more than one address for a voter during the PFD application process. I recently noted on completing my application for this year that there is a specific opportunity to specify a different address in the application.

- Until learning more on the pros and cons (from election officials), I am ambivalent on the proposed "ballot destruction" changes.
- Facsimile transmission is considered "secure" so I do not agree to its deletion from absentee voting process (unless I hear more from a trusted election official).
- Any method of application for an absentee ballot is acceptable to me; the security is in the "tracking" and "signature verification" process. I am in favor of "vote by mail" and understand that we (State & local gov't) need to invest in technology to make that process run smoother and faster ... so please abandon any efforts to suppress/complicate "vote by mail" and instead allocate the necessary funds to build the technologic infrastructure needed.

- As far as timing on "counting" absentee ballots, I want to rely on election officials to determine what works. I don't see any problem with the current system (which creates a delay in counting absentee ballots). I realize this issue caused angst for some in the recent election but the overarching reason was for election security, the #1 concern. I don't trust politicians making changes.
- "ballot harvesting" has been subject to abuse by both parties in the past; reasonable accommodation (for families, caregivers, etc) assisting in the voting process should be incorporated. Again, I rely on professional election officials to suggest a secure process.

Sincerely,

Wayne Aderhold
[REDACTED], Homer, AK 99603


Terrence Shanigan

From: Bob [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2021 11:10 AM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: SB 39

To Senate State Affairs Committee Members:

I am a business owner and a 40-year resident of House District 9 and Senate District E. I have voted in every local, state, and national election during those 40 years. I am appalled at the attempt by my state senator to introduce voter suppression into the state of Alaska. Senator Shower provides rhetoric to hide the true intentions of this bill, which is similar to bills introduced throughout many state legislatures in the U.S. following last year's election. No matter what Senator Shower says, this is clearly voter suppression. The committee should kill this bill and not move it out of committee.

Robert Thompson

[REDACTED]
Palmer, Alaska
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: T. Tallant [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2021 10:48 AM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: Comments for Senate Bill 39, Short Title: BALLOT CUSTODY/TAMPERING; VOTER REG; MAIL

Dear Sir/Madam,

I would like to provide comments regarding Senate Bill 39, j"Ballot Custody/Tampering."

I represent myself.

My primary concern about SB 39 is that it is what amounts to a Trojan Horse bill: It seeks to establish voter suppression methods.

SB 39 jeopardizes Alaskan voting rights by gutting the popular PFD Automatic Voter Registration law.

The bill prohibits vote-by-mail in certain local elections, stripping municipalities of popular alternate voting provisions, and requiring all residents (rural and urban, young and old) to visit a polling place to choose their local leadership.

The Republican Party has increasingly relied on voter suppression techniques to remain in power, and SB 39 is a clear example of this trend. The bill, indeed all voter suppression bills, should not become law.

Thank you for allowing me to provide these comments.

Sincerely,

Thomas Tallant
[REDACTED]
Anchorage, AK 99508

[REDACTED]

From: Tim Whip [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2021 10:37 AM
To: Senate State Affairs
Cc: Sen. Gary Stevens; Rep. Sarah Vance
Subject: I oppose SB 39

I am writing in opposition to passing SB 39 from committee.

There is no reason to limit the voting rights of Alaskans. By having Alaskans automatically enrolled through the dividend application ensures that all Alaskans are able to access their obligation to vote. The dividend application ensures that Alaskans are legitimate voters and there should be no uncalled for barriers to voting. Voting by mail is a secured system as federal law ensures the privacy of mail.

Thanks,
Tim Whip
Homer, Alaska
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From:

[REDACTED] of Frank Keim
[REDACTED]
Thursday, February 18, 2021 10:33 AM

Sent: Senate State Affairs

To: Opposition to SB 39 (Voter suppression bill)

Subject:

Dear Senate State Affairs Committee,

I oppose Senate Bill 39 because it is just one more attempt by spoil-sport Republicans to suppress voting by qualified voters for whom there are legitimate obstacles already to voting in Alaska's elections.

SB 39 attempts to discourage voting by adding additional obstacles to vote by gutting the successful automatic voter registration system, which was passed overwhelmingly by Alaskans.

It attempts to make it illegal to deliver a ballot for an elder or disabled relative, friend or neighbor who has immense difficulty going personally to a voting location to vote in person. This is suppression at its worst because it affects disabled and elderly Alaskans.

In these ways, SB 39 will strip municipalities and rural communities of the option to control their own election process. This is undemocratic.

Frank Keim

Sincerely,
Frank Keim

[REDACTED] Fairbanks, AK 99709-6214
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From:

Sent:

To:

Subject:

Susan Vogt

[REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@evenactionclerk.com>

Thursday, February 18, 2021 10:20 AM

Senate State Affairs

I oppose SB 39

Dear Senate State Affairs Committee,

I oppose Senate Bill 39 because, it is totally unnecessary and is strictly written to suppress eligible voters. The whole basis of this country is that everyone has a right and a duty to vote and republicans are using this because their polices are so bad the only way to stay in power is to suppress as many voters as possible.
NO TO THIS BILL!!

Sincerely,

Susan Vogt

[REDACTED] Fairbanks, AK 99712-2502
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: Diana Ruhl [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2021 10:07 AM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: Senate Bill 39 Written Public Testimony

Dear Senate State Affairs Committee,

I'm writing to you today to express my strong opposition to Senate Bill 39. There seems to be a trend in some parts of the country to overhaul voting rights because of perceived widespread voter fraud during the last election cycle. These claims of voter fraud have repeatedly been found to be false and lacking evidence.

As we've seen during the pandemic, alternative options to voting in-person have been an important part of increasing voter participation, while maintaining the integrity of our elections. So if there is no identifiable problem with absentee or mail-in voting, with these options making it easier for citizens to participate in the democratic process, why would we restrict that?

Please continue to hold Alaskan's interest first and DO NOT support SB 39 as it seems to ultimately suppress the voices of thousands of Alaskans.

Sincerely,

Diana Ruhl

From:

Shelagh Sands

Sent:

Thursday, February 18, 2021 10:00 AM

To:

Senate State Affairs

Subject:

Senate bill 39

Dear legislators,

Democracy is not about suppressing the vote. It is about getting everyone to vote. You have seen the big lie that our Presidential election was rigged and it was not. We need to allow people to vote and encourage them to vote. Not suppress them. This bill reduces our voting rights. It is up to local governments to handle elections and decide if they do vote by mail. Vote by mail is honest and reasonable anytime, especially in a pandemic. It is honest and fair. There is no evidence of fraud in America or Alaska in mail in ballots.

Do not support this bill. Stop feeding into election lies. It is time to let people vote and help them vote by using mail in ballots if needed. It brings more people to the polls. Stop trying to suppress voting rights. You have seen where that has led us. January 6th is a perfect example of lies about voting and we must support Democracy.

Letting people sign up on the PFD application is perfectly reasonable. Honestly, what is the matter with our legislature if they ever supported this bill. Alaska is independent and has had no voter fraud to even consider this.

Shelagh Sands

[REDACTED]

From: Ryan Andrew [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2021 9:44 AM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: SB 39 Public Testimony

Dear Senate State Affairs Committee,

I'm writing you today to express my strong opposition to Senate Bill 39. There seems to be a trend in some parts of the country to overhaul voting rights because of perceived widespread voter fraud during the last election cycle. These claims of voter fraud have repeatedly been found to be false and lacking evidence.

As we've seen during the pandemic, alternative options to voting in-person have been an important part of increasing voter participation, while maintaining the integrity of our elections. So if there is no identifiable problem with absentee or mail-in voting, with these options making it easier for citizens to participate in the democratic process, why would we restrict that?

I respectfully ask that you do not support SB 39 as it seeks to disenfranchise thousands of Alaskan voters.

Sincerely,

Ryan Andrew
Wireman Business Representative
IBEW Local 1547

[REDACTED]
907.777-1252 Office
907.777-1264 Fax



[REDACTED]

From: Lili Misel [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2021 9:27 AM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: Stop Bill 39- stop voter suppression bill

Dear Senate Affairs Committee,

Thank you for your work on behalf of Alaskans. I am writing because I am concerned about Bill 39, which seeks to damage voter registration and suppress the votes of Alaskans.

If there are issues with the current automatic voter registration for applying to the PFD, these should be adjusted rather than tossing out the automatic voter registration. By having Alaskans be able to automatically register, it provides an excellent way for those Alaskans who have been unable for whatever reason to register. Do not take away this intrinsic right of Alaskans by eliminating the automatic voter registration.

Some will say that automatic registration registers felons and non-citizens. If that is the case, then make adjustments to the system so those people are excluded. There is also an argument that current voters are impacted because their polling place can be changed without being notified, and when they show up at their normal polling place they can't vote. This is a ridiculous argument because if you're a registered voter, you still have the ability to vote a question ballot which will be accepted. Changing a polling place does not affect your ability to vote - and again, this can be remedied by providing notification that a polling site has been changed.

This bill is an attempt to limit Alaskan's ability to vote by mail and to have an easy way to register to vote. Do not support SB39. It is not in the best interests of Alaskans.

Sincerely,
Lili Misel
Fairbanks

[REDACTED]

From: Margaret [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2021 8:46 AM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: Senate bill 39

Good morning Senators,

I am emailing to ask you do not pass senate bill 39.

You were elected to serve Alaskans. This does not.

Our family and friends in the villages need this because of the remoteness, which you already know. Not everyone has internet, it's too expensive to have in the villages.

Thank you for voting no on this bill.

A registered voter.
Margaret Pohjola
Alaska Resident originally from Chuathbaluk

Sent from my iPhone

[REDACTED]

From:
Sent:
To:
Subject:

Debra Call [REDACTED]
Thursday, February 18, 2021 8:28 AM
Senate State Affairs
HR Bill 39

As a lifelong Alaskan and super voter—I do not support this bill HR 39 —limiting Alaska residents of the opportunity to vote through automatic voter registration and local control of mail-in ballots. How can this bill be good for Alaska? Vote for keeping voters in control of Alaska — not political parties.

[REDACTED]

From:

Sent:

To:

Subject:

Randi Sweet [REDACTED]

Thursday, February 18, 2021 8:26 AM

Senate State Affairs

Fwd: SB 39 Testimony

Corrected email address

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Randi Sweet [REDACTED]

Date: Feb 17, 2021 15:55

Subject: SB 39 Testimony

To: Senate.State.Affairs@akleg.gov

Cc:

Please do not put obstacles in the way of Alaskans voting.

I voted by mail in the elections this year. The process was secure and assisted me in being safe during the pandemic. I live in a rural community and voting by mail is an important and convenient way for me to vote.

The most important issue is to make voting as easy for the voter as possible. Adding obstacles is counter to having free and fair elections. Fixing something that isn't broken is putting over burdensome regulations into place and harming voters.

Thank you for your consideration.

Renata "Randi" Maria Baranowski-Sweet

[REDACTED]
Seldovia AK 99663-0804

[REDACTED]

From: Michael Garvey [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2021 8:01 AM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: ACLU of Alaska letter on SB 39
Attachments: ACLU Letter to Senate State Affairs - SB 39 - 2-18-21.pdf

Good morning,

Please find attached a letter from the ACLU of Alaska for the record of SB 39, in advance of this afternoon's hearing on the bill. We appreciate the opportunity to submit our views to the committee.

Sincerely,
Michael

Michael Garvey
Advocacy Director
pronouns: he, him, his

American Civil Liberties Union of Alaska
1057 W. Fireweed Lane, Suite 207; Anchorage, AK 99503
M: 907-744-6341 | mgarvey@acluak.org
acluak.org  





February 18, 2021

The Honorable Mike Shower, Chair
Senate State Affairs Committee
Butrovich Room 205
Alaska Capitol Building
120 4th Street
Juneau, AK 99801

via email to: ssia@akleg.gov

Re: ACLU of Alaska Opposition of Senate Bill 39

Dear Chair Shower and Members of the Senate State Affairs Committee,

The ACLU of Alaska writes to you in opposition of Senate Bill (SB) 39, which as introduced would create barriers for Alaskans' ability to engage in the voting process, rather than further this committee's stated goal of increasing the security and integrity of this state's elections.

The right to vote is fundamental, enshrined in both the Alaska and United States constitutions. We work to ensure that Alaskans can exercise this right in policy and practice and agree with the committee that our elections need to be secure and fair for all voters, regardless of political affiliation, geography, and personal circumstance.

But pursuing integrity in elections requires focusing on reasons why people cannot vote, and eliminating well documented barriers to the ballot box. This is not to say that error, fraud, or violations of privacy should not be taken seriously. It is imperative that when a person votes, that vote is counted. We note that, over the last few weeks of hearings on SB 39, the committee has maintained that voter suppression is not the intent of this bill.

However, SB 39 would make it harder for Alaskans to vote; we describe these provisions later in this letter. The committee has not shown that the problems SB 39 purports to solve exist, or that the policies within are the least restrictive way to address these supposed problems. We are additionally disappointed that, during this process, the committee has not sought to learn more about well documented reasons why people have trouble voting — such as inadequate language assistance, insufficient elections administration infrastructure, and telecommunications challenges. Any elections reform bill is incomplete without considering these factors.

SB 39 is based on the premise that in order to provide for secure and fair elections, the state must overburden voters and threaten them with criminal penalties. We fundamentally reject that premise. Harm occurs any time a voter is turned away from voting because of unnecessary requirements, intimidation, uncertainty, or a lack of adequate information.

Should this committee consider revisions to SB 39, we urge it to refocus its efforts to address the documented ways Alaskans are left out of the voting process—especially by addressing how Alaska Native people continue to be disenfranchised.¹ For example, HB 66, introduced by Representative Tuck, offers a series of reforms that would improve access to voting. The Senate should take the same approach. Expanding access to the right to vote does not come at the expense of the security and fairness of elections. It will only make the state stronger.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at mgarvey@acluak.org.

Sincerely,



Michael Garvey
Advocacy Director

- Changing registration under the Permanent Fund Dividend (PFD) application to an opt-in system (Sec. 1). This provision would require people registered as a voter. Currently, under the law approved by voters via ballot measure in 2016, the state automatically registers eligible applicants to vote, or updates voter registration information of registered voters, of people who apply for a PFD.ⁱⁱ The measure also provided applicants an opt-out. Changing PFD voter registration to an opt-in system would overturn the will of Alaskans who voted to approve the 2016 ballot measure, and undercut the benefits of automatic voter registration — increasing registration of eligible voters, saving the state money on administrative and personnel costs necessary to register through another method, and increasing the accuracy and security of the voter rolls.ⁱⁱⁱ Automatic voter registration helps more people participate in the democratic process, and exercise their fundamental right to vote. If the committee intends this provision to address the maintenance of the state's voter rolls, it should pursue less restrictive and more targeted means of doing so — for instance, by ensuring the Division of Elections has adequate resources to carry out its duties under law.

- **Requiring immediate enforcement of the witness signature requirement after an emergency risks confusing voters, and invalidating their votes (Sec. 14).** This section is a direct response to *Arctic Village Council v. Meyer*, in which the Alaska Supreme Court affirmed a superior court ruling that maintaining the witness requirement in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic would force Alaskans to risk their health in order to vote.¹⁴ As a result of this ruling, Alaskans were not required to have a witness sign their absentee ballots during the 2020 general election. This section seeks foremost to end the effect of that ruling — as soon as the governor declares the COVID-19 emergency over, witness signatures would once again be required for absentee ballots in an election.
- **Applying criminal penalties to possession of ballots is voter suppression, and a solution in search of a problem (Sec. 18).** This bill would make it a crime for a person to knowingly collect a ballot from another voter unless 1) the person possesses only one other voter's ballot, and 2) is a family member, household member, or caregiver of the other voter; or is handling the ballot in the course of their duties as an election official or a delivery service. Put in other words, this bill would make it a crime for a person to carry both their parents' absentee ballots to a sign their absentee ballots, we consider that a just outcome. But we are also concerned that the committee may seek to exercise control of the judiciary. In *Arctic Village*, the court's decision was well within its constitutional powers. A necessary and critical function of the judiciary is to weigh the constitutionality of laws that the legislature passes. There is a difference between considering legislative intent and being deferential to it. If the committee suggests the latter, then there is no limit to the kinds of laws the legislature may pass.
- **Applying criminal penalties to possession of ballots is voter suppression, and a solution in search of a problem (Sec. 18).** This bill would make it a crime for a person to knowingly collect a ballot from another voter unless 1) the person possesses only one other voter's ballot, and 2) is a family member, household member, or caregiver of the other voter; or is handling the ballot in the course of their duties as an election official or a delivery service. Put in other words, this bill would make it a crime for a person to carry both their parents' absentee ballots to a

drop box, or deliver ballots for community elders, neighbors or friends for whom a drop box is not accessible. Threatening to impose criminal penalties for civic engagement constitutes clear voter suppression, especially considering that Alaska already has similar law on the books. AS 15.20.081(a) states that nothing in a subsection about the application, completion, and submission of absentee ballots is intended to "prohibit a voter from giving a completed absentee ballot application to a friend, relative, or associate for transfer to the United States Postal Service or a private commercial delivery service for delivery to the division."

Levying criminal penalties for substantially similar behavior is both legally confusing, unnecessary, and a careless invocation of the criminal legal system. The committee ought to take extreme care when proposing to impose criminal penalties for any behavior. Being arrested or charged with a criminal offense will change the course of a person's life, especially if they are incarcerated for any amount of time.

- **The bill would improperly limit by-mail voting (Sec. 22).** This section would amend the state's Municipal Government statute, adding language to prohibit a municipality from mailing general or special election ballots to voters unless requested by the voter. Voting exclusively by mail does not work for all communities in Alaska—notably Native American and rural communities. We note that Chair Shower did not intend to apply this provision to Home Rule cities such as Anchorage and Juneau.^v But we also note that Anchorage and Juneau have successfully utilized a secure vote by mail system. Just as municipalities and localities should not be required to operate a vote-by-mail system when they determine it will disenfranchise voters, they should not be pre-emptively restricted from conducting an election by mail when they deem it viable.

ⁱ Alaska Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, *Alaska Native Voting Rights* (June 2019), <https://www.usccr.gov/pubs/2019/09-19-AK-SAC-Voting-Report.pdf>; Nov. 2, 2020 letter from Native Peoples Action Community Fund, First Alaskans Institute et al., to Lieutenant Governor Kevin Meyer, available at <https://nativepeoplesaction.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Letter-to-Lt-Gov-Meyer-on-Elections-11.2.2020.pdf>.
ⁱⁱ Alaska Division of Elections, *Permanent Fund Dividend Automatic Voter Registration*, <https://elections.alaska.gov/Core/PFD/Vindex.php>.
ⁱⁱⁱ Brennan Center for Justice at New York University School of Law, *Automatic and Permanent Voter Registration: How It Works* (2015), [https://www.brennancenter.org/sites/default/files/publications/Automatic Permanent Voter Registration How It Works.pdf](https://www.brennancenter.org/sites/default/files/publications/Automatic%20Permanent%20Voter%20Registration%20How%20It%20Works.pdf).
^{iv} ACLU of Alaska, *Alaska Supreme Court Waives Witness Signature Requirement on Absentee Ballots for Upcoming Election* (Oct. 14, 2020), <https://www.acluak.org/en/news/alaska-supreme-court-waives-witness-signature-requirement-absentee-ballots-upcoming-election>.
^v Alaska's News Source, *Wasilla Republican senator's election bill sparks calls for his ouster as committee chair, but he says it's about election integrity* (Jan. 26, 2021), <https://www.alaskanewsresource.com/2021/01/27/wasilla-republican-senators-election-bill-sparks-calls-for-his-ouster-as-committee-chair-but-he-says-its-about-election-integrity/>.

[REDACTED]

From: Kevin McGee [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2021 7:17 AM
To: Sen. Scott Kawasaki
Cc: Cheryl Williams; Serena Satoran; Senate State Affairs
Subject: SB 39 Written Testimony in Opposition.

Mr. Chairman,

On behalf of the Anchorage NAACP, I am writing in opposition to SB 39, a shameless Jim Crow voter suppression bill.

This outrageous legislation would reverse voter registration measures put in place by popular initiative, and is designed to block voting by mail.

SB 39 is straight out of white supremacists' voter suppression handbook, and should receive no further consideration by this or any other committee.

The history of this country represents an ongoing struggle to realize the ideals contained in our Declaration of Independence. This struggle fundamentally has been one of democracy versus apartheid.

SB 39 would reverse years of progress and is a transparent attempt at voter suppression.

Shame on you Senator Shower for introducing this bill.

Kevin McGee
President, Anchorage NAACP

Sent from my iPhone

[REDACTED]

From:

Sent:

To:

Subject:

[REDACTED] Nathaniel Perry [REDACTED]

Wednesday, February 17, 2021 11:00 PM

Senate State Affairs

I oppose SB 39

Dear Senate State Affairs Committee,

I oppose Senate Bill 39 because, it is one of more than 160 bills introduced in statehouses across the country by the GOP in response to the failure of the Jan. 6th attack on the US Capitol to stop the Electoral Vote count. This followed numerous attempts to throw out the votes of people of color in 4 states only. I oppose any attempts to suppress voting in any way, shape, or form, as the descendant of a member of the Continental Congress.

Sincerely,

Nathaniel Perry

[REDACTED] Shaktolik, AK 99771-1002
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From:
Sent:
To:
Subject:

Meggie aube-trammell [REDACTED]
Thursday, February 18, 2021 5:47 AM
Senate State Affairs
Testimony on SB 39

Hi,

My name is Meghan Aube-Trammell and I am an Alaskan resident from Palmer. I am emailing to testify on Senate Bill 39. I believe that this bill should not be passed. This bill seems to be nothing more than a tactic for voter suppression. There seems to be no reason to ratify this bill other than to make it harder for people to register to vote and to cast their votes. Please do not let this bill pass. Thank you.

Meghan Aube-Trammell
Palmer resident

Sent from my iPhone

[REDACTED]

From:
Sent:
To:
Subject:

[REDACTED]

Linda Schandelmeier
Wednesday, February 17, 2021 11:42 PM
Senate State Affairs
Senate Bill 39

Hello Senate State Affairs Committee Members,

I am opposed to Senate Bill 39.

If passed it would remove automatic voter registration when signing up for a PFD, add burdensome regulations that would make it harder to vote, and interfere with the ability of local municipalities to offer vote by mail.

This bill is a blatant attempt at voter suppression. Please don't pass it.

Linda Schandelmeier
Fairbanks, Alaska

From: Daniella Ambrosino May <daniella.n.ambrosino@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 10:46 PM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: For Public Testimony SB 39

Senators,

I am a resident of District G, Ms. Reinbold is my Senator. I am writing to you today to publicly testify my strong opposition to SB39. I urge all senators to vote "NO" on this bill.

Quite frankly this bill is an absolute waste of time and taxpayer resources considering there are no issues with how we currently register to vote, and operate our elections. The Senate should be working on making sure the state issues another public health emergency declaration, and balancing our budget. I find the introduction of this bill beyond insulting to the constituency of Alaska, and a clear response to the "Big Lie" about the 2020 election despite what proponents of this bill have stated when asked about the motivation for the bill. I am not understanding why we are moving backwards on the process of voter registration, and voting accessibility. As we move into the future we should be automating more processes and making civic engagement more convenient/accessible to all constituents. Automatic registration through pfd application is a good system, and helps those who may be disenfranchised otherwise. It is also a system that Alaskans voted to put in place. Mail in voting is another system that works well, and is used by many residents. Many 1st world countries participate in automatic voter registration and mail in voting. They actually want to hear from ALL eligible constituents unlike some United State's legislators who prefer to suppress the voices of their constituency.

The state should focus on fixing the unprecedented fiscal challenges we face without a public health emergency in place for the COVID pandemic before even considering unnecessary, burdensome, and costly regulations that impact mine and others ability to vote. There are much more pressing matters at hand than meddling with a system that has proven to not require any change. Voting is a cornerstone of our democracy and should be easily accessible to all eligible residents. SB 39 is voter suppression, and I am absolutely disgusted by this proposal as it serves to disenfranchise the elderly. disabled, working class and those who live in remote areas of the state.

I strongly encourage you to do everything in your power to ensure this bill does not move forward. Vote "No" on SB 39.

Thank you,
Daniella May
Eagle River, AK

--
Regards,
Daniella N. Ambrosino May

From:
Sent:
To:
Subject:

Charlene Dolphin
Wednesday, February 17, 2021 9:54 PM
Senate State Affairs
Senate Bill 39

Dear Senators,

I wish to voice my strong opposition to SB39. This bill is fundamentally an attempt to suppress voters. It seeks to overturn Automatic PFD Voter Registration, an initiative passed by an overwhelming majority of Alaskans. This initiative has helped thousands of eligible Alaskans become registered voters. At a time where engagement in the public process is becoming more and more important, erecting barriers to voter registration is the last thing Alaska should be doing.

SB39 will also interfere with my local government's ability to conduct its own free and fair elections. If my community wishes to conduct an election by mail, we should be free to do so, unfringed by burdensome and unnecessary red tape. There is absolutely no evidence that the automatic registration through the PFD has resulted in significant voter fraud. Those who seek to suppress voter registration and make voting more difficult are not acting in the best interests of voters and are attempting to control the outcome of elections through voter suppression.

I strongly encourage you to stop this bill in its tracks.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Charlene Dolphin
Anchorage, Alaska 99508

[REDACTED]

From: Emily Klimek [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 9:41 PM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: Senate Bill 39 is unacceptable

To whom it may concern:
Senate Bill 39 must NOT go forward:
It would:
Eliminate automatic PFD voter registration
and
Prohibit smaller communities from instituting vote-by-mail systems.
We are a large state area wise and our mailing systems keep us connected and informed, it makes us family no matter where we reside in the state.
Sincerely,
Emily Klimek

[REDACTED]
[Juneau, AK](#)
[99801](#)

Sent from my iPhone

Sent from my iPhone

[REDACTED]

From:

Sent:

To:

Subject:

John Sisk <juansisk@everactioncustom.com>
[REDACTED]
Wednesday, February 17, 2021 9:35 PM

Senate State Affairs

I oppose SB 39

Dear Senate State Affairs Committee,

I oppose Senate Bill 39 because it is a "solution" to a problem that doesn't exist. Alaska's election systems and procedures are top notch as they are. Alaska's elections are safe and secure, and there was no evidence of voter fraud this last election cycle.

SB 39 will also increase barriers to voting by adding additional hurdles to vote by gutting the successful automatic voter registration system, which was passed overwhelmingly by Alaskans.

SB 39 is undemocratic, unnecessary and looks very much like a voter suppression bill, a bill that would disenfranchise certain voter demographics.

Please do not advance this legislation. Let it die a quiet death right now.

Thank you very much for your consideration,

John Sisk

Sincerely,

John Sisk

[REDACTED] Juneau, AK 99801-9410 juansisk@gmail.com

[REDACTED]

From:

Sent:

To:

Subject:

barisindogan@everyaction.us on behalf of Dogan Ozkan
Wednesday, February 17, 2021 9:34 PM

Senate State Affairs

I oppose SB 39

Dear Senate State Affairs Committee,

I oppose Senate Bill 39 because,

Senate Bill 39 (SB 39) will increase barriers to voting by adding additional hurdles to vote by gutting the successful automatic voter registration system, which was passed overwhelmingly by Alaskans.

SB 39 will strip municipalities and rural communities of the option to control their own election process.

SB 39 is a "solution" to a problem that doesn't exist. Alaska's elections are safe and secure, and there was no evidence of voter fraud this last election cycle.

SB 39 limits our right to act as a community and care for our elders, neighbors, and friends by making it illegal to deliver a ballot for a friend or neighbor. Think about how many people in your community were able to vote because your Tribal leadership, neighbor, or friend stepped up to help turn in your ballot. We need more Alaska Native voices to be heard, not less.

Sincerely,

Dogan Ozkan

[REDACTED] Fairbanks, AK 99701-4869 [REDACTED]

From:

Kathy Bracken [REDACTED] seanana49@yahoo.com

Sent:

Wednesday, February 17, 2021 9:20 PM

To:

Sen. Mike Shower; Senate State Affairs

Subject:

Senate Bill 39

From

Kathleen Bracken

PO Box 1201

[Petersburg, AK 99833](#)

Senate State Affairs Committee,

I am very concerned about Senate Bill 39. I strongly feel it is an act of voter suppression. This is not the direction in which Alaska should be heading.

First of all, Alaskans voted in 2016 to have automatic voter registration on the Alaska permanent fund dividend application. This was an initiative, The Alaska Automatic Voter Registration law was supported by the people of Alaska. It is the voice of the people. We should not let the wishes of one or a few legislators overturn the vote of the people.

We should be working toward making registering and voting easily-accessible to all Alaskans, not taking away that opportunity. Because of the permanent fund application registration 50,000 LEGAL voters were added. The PFD application form is a legal document, and fraud is punishable.

SB39 is voter suppression because marginalized people (voters) are impacted. Young people who would be registering for the first time might miss this opportunity to be registered, and then miss an opportunity to vote. Voters should be allowed to request their ballots by mail. Having those ballot REQUESTS sent out by mail helps Elders, people in outlying areas, and handicapped individuals. All voters should be sent mail-in ballot requests.

Last summer and fall there were conspiracy theories that claimed that dead people were voting, when in reality, the BALLOT REQUESTS were sent out to all those on the voter registration rolls. Ballots had to be legally requested, with documentation. Conspiracy theory lies were being spread.

Last fall, I assisted voters who were quarantined or elderly and not able to vote in person. Ballots were either mailed, dropped off and handled as absentee at a legal location, and one was handled on Election Day. All of these ballots were carefully scrutinized and double-checked by election officials, either in state headquarters or by the local sworn election official. No one voted illegally, no one double-voted.

With Senate Bill 39, what I did could be considered a felony. That would be denying access to voting to many people.

All Alaskans should be able to vote by mail. No-excuse voting by mail should be considered the norm. Preventing this would be voter suppression, especially of marginalized voters—Alaska Natives, elderly, handicapped, and even people who lead very busy lives.

Do not allow conspiracy theorists, white nationalists, white supremacists to govern our state. This act is full-out voter suppression and discrimination. It is also my feeling that Mike Showers should be censured for even submitting SB39.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Respectfully,
Kathleen Bracken

When the Power of Love overcomes the Love of Power, there will be PEACE.

From:
Sent:
To:
Cc:
Subject:

Marc Johnson
Wednesday, February 17, 2021 9:06 PM
Senate State Affairs
Marc Johnson
SB 39 - Public Testimony

Please enter the following statement into the public record at the THURSDAY, 02/18/21 3:30 p.m. public hearing on SB 39. Thank you.

Dear Alaska nSenators,
As a lif- long Alaskan who has lived in Alaska in Anchorage and Kenai since 1965, I strongly urge you to not move this bill past the Senate Affairs Committee.
There is clearly not a voter fraud problem in Alaska. This bill solves a problem that does not exist in Alaska. I remember the days when Alaskans were proud to "not care how they do it Outside." This bill is a cookie cutter bill copied from similar bills in other states and is not needed in Alaska and is definitely not tailored to the Alaska that I know and love.

The idea that a bill born in the Lower 48 and copied and introduced in our legislature is being promoted by an Alaskan Senator disturbs and disgusts me. All of you should be ashamed of yourselves for allowing this type of legislation to be considered in our State.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Marc Johnson
Anchorage, Alaska

Terrence Shanigan

From: b farris
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 8:37 PM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: SB39

I am writing today to ask that you reject SB39. This bill would eliminate automatic PFD voter registration. Automatic PFD registration makes it easier for new voters to become registered in Alaska. The only reason for eliminating this would be to suppress votes and no patriotic American should endorse that.

This bill would also hinder local governments that choose to use the vote by mail system. Vote by mail has been proven to increase voter turn out with no benefit to one political party over another.

Please vote no to suppressing Alaska votes and to SB39.

Thank you,
Barbara Farris

Terrence Shanigan

From:

Sent:

To:

Subject:

marianallen@everaction.com on behalf of Marian Allen (marianallen@everaction.com)

Wednesday, February 17, 2021 8:04 PM

Senate State Affairs

I oppose SB 39

Dear Senate State Affairs Committee,

I oppose Senate Bill 39. The foundation of representative democracy is voting. It is a responsibility as well as a right. Alaska has the best possible mechanism for achieving universal registration with automatic registration when you apply for a PFD. The will of the people is represented in our voting process. Constructing more "requirements" in order for any one to vote, things like not allowing anyone to deliver a ballot to another person, perhaps an invalid, ill person or an Elder unable to make it to the voting booth is anti-democratic. It relegates the voices heard from citizens to the privileged who can meet arbitrary criteria. Voting is not a privilege but a right and a responsibility as a citizen.

We do not have a problem with voter fraud in Alaska or in the United States. In fact we need better methods in many states to be sure we do hear from every citizen through the voting process. That is not our problem here in Alaska. The premise behind this bill is that people want to cheat. In fact there has been no evidence of any significant voter fraud/cheating as assessed by the professional election officials who carry out their jobs in a non-partisan manner because they are professional. The courts have agreed to election results when cases have been brought before them claiming fraud. This whole move away from encouraging people to vote to being fearful of fraud started publicly as soon as Trump was elected President and he maintained the position that there was voter fraud for four years. It was not true. The problem is the exact opposite: we need to make sure that every citizen's voice is heard. Alaska has taken a positive step to this end. Changing the progress we have made based on lies and conspiracy is a move away from democracy.

Sincerely,

Marian Allen

Sitka, AK 99835

Sincerely,

Marian Allen

Sitka, AK 99835-7242

marianallen@hotmail.com

From:

Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 7:52 PM

To: Senate State Affairs

Subject: I oppose SB 39

Dear Senate State Affairs Committee,

I have lived in Alaska for more than 40 years and have never failed to vote in an election. I oppose Senate Bill 39 because it will increase barriers to voting by adding additional hurdles to vote by gutting the successful automatic voter registration system, which was passed overwhelmingly by Alaskans.

If enacted, the bill will strip municipalities and rural communities of the option to control their own election process. SB 39 is a "solution" to a problem that doesn't exist. Alaska's elections are safe and secure, and there was no evidence of voter fraud this last election cycle.

Moreover, SB 39 limits our right to act as a community and care for our elders, neighbors, and friends by making it illegal to deliver a ballot for a friend or neighbor. Think about how many people in your community were able to vote because your Tribal leadership, neighbor, or friend stepped up to help turn in your ballot. We need more Alaska Native voices to be heard, not less.

Sincerely,

James Mackovjak

2000 6th Avenue, Anchorage, Alaska 99503-1000

[REDACTED]

From:

Sent:

To:

Subject:

[REDACTED]
Chris/Nancy DuBois/DuBois <chrisandnancy2005@gmail.com>
Wednesday, February 17, 2021 7:53 PM

Senate State Affairs

SB39

Greetings,

I would like to address Senator Mike Shower's attempt to make voting more a challenge for Alaska citizens with Senate Bill 39.

Our voting record in Fairbanks is abysmal in previous years. Any work from legislators that does not promote more effective voting practices in Alaska should be held accountable.

SB 39 is a bad decision for Alaska's citizens. I urge legislators to consider options that help citizens vote.

Respectfully,

Chris DuBois

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From:

Sent:

To:

Subject:

Barb & Wayne [REDACTED]

Wednesday, February 17, 2021 7:24 PM

Senate State Affairs

Fwd: Senate Bill 39

> This message is in regards to Senate Bill 39

>

> Please Do NOT eliminate automatic PFD voter registration. All residents of legal age should be registered to vote in this state. Each person has a right to vote or not to vote, but at least they will have the option of voting during local & state elections because they are registered. Keep the voter registration when applying for the PFD!

>

> I believe it should be the right of all residents to vote by mail if they so choose, for any reason. It should not matter where you live....

>

> Barbara Kinunen

> registered voter

> [REDACTED]
> Ketchikan, Ak 99901

Terrence Shanigan

Brian Lynch lynchb@everaction.com

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 7:17 PM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: I oppose SB 39

Dear Senate State Affairs Committee,

Dear Senate State Affairs Committee Members,

I am opposed to SB-39 as currently written. While assuring elections are fair and equitable should be a priority for any functional democratically elected representative government, I am opposed to any legislative action(s) that seeks to increase the difficulties for any qualified citizen to vote. Unfortunately, it appears that that is the goal of SB-39.

I am particularly concerned with the proposed change to Section 1. AS 15.070.050(a)(5) which overturns the 2016 voter's initiative to automatically register qualified PFD applicants to vote. Why is the Senate even considering such an action? Have there been identifiable problems associated with the two general elections that have taken place since this provision went into effect? The Sponsor Statement provides no evidence of voter registration irregularities created by the 2016 initiative. The Sponsor Statement is entirely directed at voter and voting integrity and provided no actual or even perceived irregularities in or identifiable problems with the PFD registration process that could have prompted the proposed changes to this section. It is still up to the individual if they want to vote, or not. Overturning a voter initiative is a serious matter that should be considered and justified only if identifiable problems with implementation or constitutionality are identified. Neither of which have been identified in the Sponsor Statement.

Changes to Section 18 AS 15.56.035(8) are also troubling. The proposed changes would preclude anyone except family members, caregivers, or election officials from handling another person's ballot. During the 2020 pandemic influenced election, people who were not family members or caregivers could sign-in at a polling place to deliver and collect ballots from shut-ins and people under quarantine. Although, they were not election officials they were authorized by election officials to perform that function on a case-by-case basis. Without this allowance, several people in our community would not have been unable to vote. Why would this be a desirable goal of the Senate? Again, the Sponsor Statement does not delineate any voter fraud that occurred in the 2020 election.

Also, the documents submitted by the Heritage Foundation and others in support for SB 39 have little or no specific bearing on nor expressly support the bill. The Crawford v. Marion County Election Board case was about in-person voter ID and was decided by SCOTUS for the plaintiffs based on the ability to obtain photo ID, NOT on if in-person voter fraud is a problem needing a solution. Justice Souter's dissent even stated: "The type of voting fraud that may be remedied by a photo ID requirement is virtually nonexistent: the 'problem' of voter impersonation is not a real problem at all". The submitted documents, SB 39 Over-Registration.pdf and SB 39 Voting Facts in Alaska.pdf, do nothing more than demonstrate that one number is larger than another while providing no reasonable analysis on why that is. Why might the number of Alaska registered voters be greater than the population of Alaskans eligible to vote? Well, people die, they move out of state or they may become incarcerated or legally incompetent but remain on voter registration records. So, the reason why registered voters may

outnumber the population of eligible voters may simply be due to election officials not keeping voter registration up to date and not the result of voter registration fraud.

It is truly distressing to see some members of the Alaska State Senate apparently joining other state's legislatures in efforts to implement legislation designed to make voting more difficult for qualified citizens. The Alaska Legislature should be doing the exact opposite and enacting laws making safe and secure voting as simple and easy as possible for qualified Alaska voters.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my testimony.

Sincerely,
Brian Lynch
[REDACTED] Petersburg, AK 99833-1247
[REDACTED]

From:

Sent:

To:

Subject:

david whisnant

Wednesday, February 17, 2021 7:00 PM

Senate State Affairs

39

Please don't try and reduce voter registration under the false guise of voter fraud. The more inclusive we are the better our representation.

No on 39

David Whisnant

Palmer AK

99645

Sent from my iPhone

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 6:33 PM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: Fwd: SB 39

Begin forwarded message:

From: [REDACTED]
Date: February 17, 2021 at 6:26:38 PM AKST
To: Senate.State.Affairs@akleg.gov
Subject: SB 39

This bill is obviously intended to be voter suppression; it is contrary to the principles of democracy and majority rule. Most of the Republicans in the legislature are well aware of this and don't care. Their pretended concern with election security doesn't fool anyone who reads edited news. Hopefully some of you can see your way to making it easier for Alaskans to vote rather than doing everything you can to make it difficult. For you sponsors of this bill - shame on you.

Tom and Martha Nelson
Anchorage 99507

[REDACTED]

From:

Sent:

To:

Subject:

[REDACTED] Jim Steffen

[REDACTED] 1norcoast@everyactionus.com

Wednesday, February 17, 2021 6:23 PM

Senate State Affairs

I oppose SB 39

Dear Senate State Affairs Committee,

I oppose Senate Bill 39 because it will disenfranchise many, many Alaskans, particularly in communities that has voting protocols that enable people to exercise this right. I am a 44 year Alaska resident and I put a high priority on voters' rights. Please vote against SB 39.

Sincerely,

Jim Steffen

[REDACTED] Sitka, AK 99835-0936

[REDACTED] 1norcoast@gmail.com

[REDACTED]

From:

Sent:

To:

Subject:

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] on behalf of Angela Ferrari

Wednesday, February 17, 2021 6:01 PM

Senate State Affairs

I oppose SB 39

Dear Senate State Affairs Committee,

I oppose Senate Bill 39 because, this is blatant voter suppression. It is a cycle that repeats itself every time the democratic party gains control. The GOP voter suppression tactic is like a broken record. Alaska is unlike any state in the lower 48. We need to let the current system in place alone. It has worked well for years. And will continue to work not just if the GOP remains in control.

Sincerely,

Angela Ferrari

[REDACTED] Anchorage, AK 99517-1549

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From:
Sent:
To:
Subject:

Mike Bronson
Wednesday, February 17, 2021 5:59 PM
Senate State Affairs
Kill SB 39. Expand voting instead.

Expand voting. Kill SB 39.

Thanks.



From:
Sent:
To:
Subject:

Michelle Gillette smirog72@gmail.com
Wednesday, February 17, 2021 5:48 PM
Senate State Affairs
Senate Bill 39

Please stop trying to limit voting. We should be making it easier for people to vote, not trying to limit democracy. Stop SB 39 now.

From:

Sent:

To:

Subject:

Cee Jay Levine

amanstap@everactioncustom.com

Wednesday, February 17, 2021 5:46 PM

Senate State Affairs

I oppose SB 39

Dear Senate State Affairs Committee,

Senate Bill 39 is a slap in the face to the majority of Alaskans, particularly how it strips municipalities and, especially, the rural communities of the option to control their own election processes. Not only that, it "fixes" a problem that doesn't even exist! There was no evidence of voter fraud during this last election cycle. It also mutes a large number of voices, since it makes it illegal to deliver a ballot for a friend or neighbor. Think about how many people in your community were able to vote because your Tribal leadership, neighbor, or friend stepped up to help turn in your ballot. We need more Alaska Native voices to be heard, not less.

Sincerely,

Cee Jay Levine

Seward, AK 99664-1733

[REDACTED]

From: Tom Snyder <TomSnyder@ny.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 5:16 PM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: Senate Bill 39

Senate Bill 39 is clearly politically motivated and is a 'solution in search of a problem' that does not exist. You all know this is true and so do the voters. Kill SB 39!



This email has been checked for viruses by Avast antivirus software.
www.avast.com

ioelacab@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Joseph Jacob
ioelacab@everyactioncustom.com

Wednesday, February 17, 2021 4:12 PM

Senate State Affairs

Jonnoise SB 39

...fifteen.

2025/03/26 14:14:14

8-0076

From: Terri Robbins
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 5:06 PM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: Senate Bill 39

Please do not pass SB39 out of committee. This Bill seeks to disenfranchise Alaskan voters. Voter suppression is the enemy of democracy. Giving as many people as possible a voice in their own governance should not be seen as a threat. If lawmakers truly aspire to serve the people of Alaska, then every effort should be made to create voter eligibility and engagement. Vote SB39 down.

Terri Robbins
Ketchikan, AK

Gratitude is the fairest blossom which springs from the soul-Henry Ward Beecher

From:
Sent:
To:

Paula Kalbrener
Wednesday, February 17, 2021 4:54 PM
Senate State Affairs

Please do not go through with this bill. We need more voter registration and voting opportunities. This bill will depress voter turnout, which is not what our great state and country need--we need more voters. The PFD automatic voter registration is a wonderful program. Voting by mail is a wonderful system. PLEASE DO NOT MOVE THIS BILL FORWARD, THROW IT AWAY!

--
Kalbrener
Juneau, Alaska

[REDACTED]

From:

Sent:

To:

Subject:

[REDACTED] Peggy Mullen
Wednesday, February 17, 2021 4:52 PM

Senate State Affairs

I oppose SB 39

Dear Senate State Affairs Committee,

I oppose Senate Bill 39 because, we should, instead, be trying to enable more citizens to be voters. I would hope that they would be well educated on issues and candidates, but we cannot place impediments to voting in their path to the ballot box or mail box.

Peggy Mullen

[REDACTED]
Soldotna AK 99669

Sincerely,

Peggy Mullen

[REDACTED] Soldotna, AK 99669-8039
[REDACTED]

From:

Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 4:50 PM

To: Senate State Affairs

Subject: I oppose SB 39

Dear Senate State Affairs Committee,

I oppose Senate Bill 39 because the Alaska Voting system is strong, safe, inclusive and effve AS IT IS!

Mail in voting options were a literal lifesaver in 2020 during this Covid 19 pandemic, and is a great way for we busy Alaskans to vote. Living in a harsh climate, having the option to vote by mail helps take the worry of potential delays or travel difficulty to polls if there is a snowstorm on election day (which it seems happens often!).

In-person early voting should also be extended so that people who have to work, or have a sick child or car trouble, etc. have more days to get in to cast their vote for an election. I have used both in-person early voting and mail-in voting to cast my ballot in many previous years because of being out of town for hunting or work travel. It also makes me feel good to vote early and make room at the polls on election day for other voters.

Oregon does all their elections, very safely and successfully, through mail in ballots - Alaska would do well to do the same!

Voting is the foundation of an effective democracy; in Alaska we must help all adults cast their ballots and have their voices heard. Voting by mail is tried and true format for that. Elders and people with physical difficulties deserve the right for a friend or family to deliver their ballot if they are unable.

It is very important that Alaska municipalities and tribal villages have control over their own election processes.

I strongly oppose SB 39 since is LIMITS voting registration options and LIMITS ways Alaskans can cast their ballot. We must keep both of this essential processes: the automatic PFD voter registration is important to keep, as is mail-in and early voting choices.

As my wise dad would say, "If it's not broken (and the Alaska automatic voter registration and mail in balloting isn't!!) don't 'fix' it!"

Sincerely,

Mary VerHoef

Fairbanks, AK 99709-2716

[REDACTED]

From:

Sent:

To:

Subject:

[REDACTED] Kathy Hanson
Wednesday, February 17, 2021 4:49 PM

Senate State Affairs

I oppose SB 39

Dear Senate State Affairs Committee,

I oppose Senate Bill 39 because our goal should be to engage the most number of voters rather than try to suppress the vote. Our democracy depends on a wide range of voters making their choices. Allowing people to register to vote on their pfd applications makes it convenient for new voters. There's nothing wrong with making it easier to vote to vote, is there?

Sincerely,

Kathy Hanson

[REDACTED] Bethel, AK 99559-0022
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: Mary Hilcoske [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 4:47 PM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: SB 39

We all know that this bill is copied from other red states which have decided to continue to pursue voter suppression as a potential means of retaining or winning back voters. We know this because Absolutely zero proof of non-fair elections exists in Alaska, which renders this bill ridiculously meaningless and fraught with ulterior motives.

We also all know that there is much more important legislation before our legislature than this piece. It should not only be put on the back burner; SB 39 should be put into the incinerator, never to see the light of day again. Come on, Mr. Showers, show some integrity in your work and focus on the important tasks at hand.

Mary Hilcoske [REDACTED]
Anchorage AK 99501

[REDACTED]

From: Judy Veerman [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 4:33 PM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: SB 39

Alaska Senators,

Please make voting easier in Alaska.
SB 39 is an attempt at voter suppression. It's a solution in search of a problem.

There is no problem with registering to vote on PFD applications nor with mail in ballots and drop boxes in various communities.

Please get on with Alaska's more pressing problems such as Covid vaccinations, domestic violence, and the state budget to name a few.

Respectfully,
Judith Veerman

[REDACTED]

From:

Sent:

To:

Subject:

[REDACTED] Chelsea Vukovich [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Wednesday, February 17, 2021 4:05 PM

Senate State Affairs

I oppose SB 39

Dear Senate State Affairs Committee,

I oppose Senate Bill 39 because, voting is at the epicenter of our rights as an American. Alaska has shown during the last year that we are capable of having vote by mail system that ensures accountability. Senate Bill 39 would make voting harder for thousands of Alaskans.

Sincerely,

Chelsea Vukovich

[REDACTED] Anchorage, AK 99516-1612 [REDACTED]

From:

Sent:

To:

Subject:

Wednesday, February 17, 2021 3:34 PM

Senate State Affairs

I oppose SB 39

Dear Senate State Affairs Committee,

I oppose Senate Bill 39 because,

Senate Bill 39 (SB39) will increase barriers to voting by adding additional hurdles to vote by gutting the successful automatic voter registration system, which was passed overwhelmingly by Alaskans.

SB 39 will strip municipalities and rural communities of the option to control their own election process.

SB 39 is a "solution" to a problem that doesn't exist. Alaska's elections are safe and secure, and there was no evidence of voter fraud this last election cycle.

SB 39 limits our right to act as a community and care for our elders, neighbors, and friends by making it illegal to deliver a ballot for a friend or neighbor. Think

about how many people in your community were able to vote because your Tribal leadership, neighbor, or friend stepped up to help turn in your ballot. We

need more Alaska Native voices to be heard, not less.

Sincerely,

Sean Den Adel

201 Lake Ave #3 Cordova, AK 99574

sean.denadel@alaska.com

[REDACTED]

From: Anne Ruggles [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 3:37 PM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: Opposed to Senate Bill 39

I am opposed to Senate Bill 39 which will:

- Eliminate automatic PFD voter registration and
- Prohibit smaller communities from instituting vote-by-mail systems

I think it is best for our system of government which relies on voters voting to make it as simple and easy as possible for people to both register to vote and to vote. This current pandemic has demonstrated why it is important to create as many avenues as possible for people to vote. We tested our voting system this year and found that it is robust and inclusive. Illegal votes were virtually non-existent thus I see no reason to implement measures that will make it more difficult for people to register to vote and to vote.

Please do not support Senate Bill 39.

Thank you
Anne Ruggles
[REDACTED]
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709

Anne Ruggles
[REDACTED]

From:
Sent:
To:
Subject:

Heidi James Frost
Wednesday, February 17, 2021 3:29 PM
Senate State Affairs
Fwd: SB39

Dear Senators,

I can't find a reason why this bill was created. It creates more problems than solutions for our state. The PFD automatic registration wasn't compelling anyone to vote but allowed them to register for the vote. Why is that a good thing? Well, some folks don't have the time and some don't know exactly they register to vote. By allowing folks to register, safely and securely, via the PFD is a good thing (unless - you know - your goal is fewer folks voting - which is an awful outcome). This bill creates another problem too. By disallowing vote by mail (especially in smaller communities) you are all but guaranteeing a smaller rural turnout. I think the majority must want that - which means you are against everyone having the opportunity to vote.

So, this is a bad bill and shows bad faith by our elected officials because it shows us that your ultimate goal is to reduce the voter pool. We want to increase the opportunity for folks to get involved in the running of our government, not less!

Please vote NO on SB39.

Sincerely,
heidi

Heidi Frost

Anchorage,

[REDACTED]

From:

Sent:

To:

Subject:

[REDACTED] Melanie Wead [REDACTED]

Wednesday, February 17, 2021 3:23 PM

Senate State Affairs

I oppose SB 39

Dear Senate State Affairs Committee,

I oppose Senate Bill 39 because,

Senate Bill 39 (SB 39) will increase barriers to voting by adding additional hurdles to vote by gutting the successful automatic voter registration system, which was passed overwhelmingly by Alaskans.

SB 39 will strip municipalities and rural communities of the option to control their own election process.

SB 39 is a "solution" to a problem that doesn't exist. Alaska's elections are safe and secure, and there was NO evidence of voter fraud this last election cycle.

SB 39 limits our right to act as a community and care for our elders, neighbors, and friends by making it illegal to deliver a ballot for a friend or neighbor. Think about how many people in remote communities were able to vote because Tribal leadership, neighbors, or friends stepped in to help turn in ballots. We need more Alaska Native voices to be heard, not less.

This bill is a waste of lawmakers' time, and quite frankly tax payers' time. We shouldn't have to speak out about how RIDICULOUS and frankly, unconstitutional this bill is.

Sincerely,

Melanie Wead

[REDACTED] Wasilla, AK 99654-4208 [REDACTED]

From:

Sent:

To:

Subject:

Inari Kylanen

Wednesday, February 17, 2021 3:00 PM

Senate State Affairs

I oppose SB 39

Dear Senate State Affairs Committee,

I am an immigrant from Finland and I have been a US citizen for 11 years. One of the reasons I went through the naturalisation process was to get the right to vote and have my voice heard. I am very worried that the Senate Bill 39 will make it harder for Alaskans to vote and will end up disenfranchising citizens.

After carefully reading through the Senate Bill 39, I have come into a conclusion that it will decrease voter turnout and make it harder for Alaskans to turn their ballots in. There are several provisions that are worrisome. Firstly, the bill will end the automatic voter registration. I don't have to remind you that the registration bill was passed by a popular referendum, thus making this bill undemocratic. Secondly, the bill will forbid local governments from running a mail-in election. The participation in local elections is already low, and does not need additional barriers added to the process. Thirdly, the language of the bill will make it impossible for individuals to deliver a ballot for someone else, making it harder for some segments of the population to vote.

There are no compelling reasons to pass this bill. Alaska does not have a problem of a voter fraud that would make any of these provisions reasonable. Instead Alaska will benefit if the the democratic process is robust and encourages participation in every election. Certainly, this bill does not do that. There are better ways to monitor the voting process to make sure it is properly conducted, and to make sure that every vote is counted. This bill will only make it harder for Alaskans to participate.

Therefore, I am opposed to the Senate Bill 39 and I encourage you to vote against its passing,

Thank you

Sincerely,

Inari Kylanen

906 W 12th Ave Juneau, AK 99801-1520

ikylanen@gmail.com

[REDACTED]

From:

Sent:

To:

Subject:

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wednesday, February 17, 2021 3:07 PM

Senate State Affairs

SB 39

Stop this bill. It is a threat to our democracy and our right to vote. We need to make voting easier not harder by eliminating automatic PFD voter registration and prohibiting smaller communities from instituting vote-by-mail systems. This is a blatant attempt to deprive voters of their constitutional right to vote. Stop this bill NOW.

Patricia Stark

[REDACTED]

Fairbanks, AK 99708

Terrence Shanigan

From: Glenn Cravez
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 3:03 PM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: Re: Oppose SB 39

- >
- > Good afternoon, I write in opposition to SB 39, a solution in search of a problem. This bill will make it harder for folks to vote - for no reason. The bill also precludes smaller communities from instituting vote by mail systems. Conservatives should favor local control and oppose SB 39. Glenn Cravez. 2810 Kingfisher Drive. Anchorage 99502.
- >
- > Sent from my iPad

Terrence Shanigan

From:

Sent:

To:

Subject:

Kary Brinson

Wednesday, February 17, 2021 2:55 PM

Senate State Affairs

I oppose SB 39

Dear Senate State Affairs Committee,

I oppose Senate Bill 39 because, The Alaskans demonstrated their rights of voting equality by passing measures in the last election for fair voting elections in Alaska it past overwhelmingly.

Interesting that it was the only recount required by the Republicans after the election it was the only measure that didn't pass I think we have spoken that we do not want our voter rights suppressed and I strongly oppose of this bill.

Kary Brinson
Ak Resident

Sincerely,

Kary Brinson

PO Box 1333 Homer, AK 99603-3333

From:

Sent:

To:

Subject:

Lauren Padawer

Wednesday, February 17, 2021 2:45 PM

Senate State Affairs

I oppose SB 39

Dear Senate State Affairs Committee,

I oppose Senate Bill 39 because:

- Senate Bill 39 (SB39) will increase barriers to voting by adding additional hurdles to vote by gutting the successful automatic voter registration system, which was passed overwhelmingly by Alaskans.
- SB 39 will strip municipalities and rural communities of the option to control their own election process.
- SB 39 is a "solution" to a problem that doesn't exist. Alaska's elections are safe and secure, and there was no evidence of voter fraud this last election cycle.
- SB 39 limits our right to act as a community and care for our elders, neighbors, and friends by making it illegal to deliver a ballot for a friend or neighbor. We need more Alaska Native voices to be heard, not less.

Sincerely,

Lauren Padawer

20 Box 394 Cordova, AK 99574-0394

[REDACTED]

From: Taylor Gill [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 2:55 PM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: Senate Bill 39

My name is Taylor Gill, and as an Alaskan resident I'm writing this to say that I am against Senate Bill 39. With there being no evidence of voter fraud this would only serve to make voting more difficult and exclude people who would otherwise have their voice be heard.

Thank you,

Taylor Gill

Sent from my iPhone

Terrence Shanigan

From:

Sent:

To:

Subject:

Dave Haas

Wednesday, February 17, 2021 2:07 PM

Senate State Affairs

I oppose SB 39

Dear Senate State Affairs Committee,

I oppose Senate Bill 39 because,

I have voted in very election in Juneau since first voting here in 1980. Please reject this proposal to lessen the ease of voting for Alaska residents. This bill would be a reduction in our democratic right to vote.

Dave Haas

Sincerely,

Dave Haas

Juneau, AK 99801-6833

Terrence Shanigan

From: Izze Marshall
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 1:51 PM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: Written Testimony for Senate Bill 39 - Isabel Marshall

Alaska State Senate, this is not a bill you should pass. This only limits our already oppressed Native groups' voting abilities that live in rural areas off of our road system. The PFD Automatic Voter Registration is a great tool that enables our Alaskan citizens to vote; this is something uniquely Alaskan that we should not lose. Our state government should also not interfere with our state's municipalities and rural communities' implemented systems of voting. Our communities should retain that ability, no matter what. Additionally, this is a "solution" to a problem that doesn't exist. **Voter fraud is non-existent.** There have been studies and investigations on federal, state, and city levels. All of them have found **no concluding evidence.** Do not pass Senate Bill 39.
The next generation of voters is watching.

Isabel Marshall
Anchorage Municipality

--
Isabel Marshall



Terrence Shanigan

Patricia Gaedeke

From:

Sent:

To:

Subject:

Wednesday, February 17, 2021 1:44 PM

Senate State Affairs

I oppose SB 39

Dear Senate State Affairs Committee,

I oppose Senate Bill 39 because living in Alaska presents it's own problems - weather, distances to populated areas.

There is no excuse for suppressing or complicating the basic right to vote. I oppose this blatant attack on the right to vote which should be as easy as possible.

I oppose Senate Bill 39.

Sincerely,

Patricia Gaedeke

Fairbanks, AK 99709

[REDACTED]

From:

Sent:

To:

Subject:

[REDACTED] John Neary [REDACTED]

Wednesday, February 17, 2021 1:29 PM

Senate State Affairs

SB 39 is a mistake

Dear Senate State Affairs Committee,

Senate Bill 39 is an attempt to solve a problem that doesn't exist, and it creates more problems on its own. The existing voter registration process is valid and works well, please leave it alone.

Sincerely,

John Neary

[REDACTED] Juneau, AK 99801

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From:

Sent:

To:

Subject:

[REDACTED] Diane Ziegner [REDACTED]

Wednesday, February 17, 2021 1:20 PM

Senate State Affairs

I oppose SB 39

Dear Senate State Affairs Committee,

I oppose Senate Bill 39 because, there is no reason to make voting more difficult. We need to make participation in the democratic process accessible for all people. There is no voter fraud in Alaska. Let's use our time to fight real issues instead of dividing the electorate.

Sincerely,

Diane Ziegner

[REDACTED] 5104 E. Pow Wow Tr. Talkeetna, AK 99676 [REDACTED]

Terrence Shanigan

From: Muriel Reid
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 12:48 PM
To: Senate State Affairs; Sen. Bert Stedman
Subject: Objection to SB 39

I am opposed to Senate Bill 39 on the basis that the bill will hinder access to voting for rural populations, especially elders and other physically disabled persons, to curb a problem that does not affect Alaska nearly enough to warrant such changes. Yesterday was Elizabeth Peratrovich day, I hope you recognize the importance of that day and of voting rights in Alaska. Historically, laws presented as ways to eliminate voter fraud have disproportionately affected disenfranchised groups. This bill is no exception. Villages in Alaska must be allowed the freedom to control their elections in a way that best serves their residents. Citizens in Alaska must be allowed the help they need to get their ballot to a polling place. Gunalcheesh.

Muriel Reid
Sitka Alaska
(she/they)

Terrence Shanigan

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 11:30 AM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: SB 39

Dear Senators,

I am writing to express my deep concern for the apparent effort to suppress voters in SB 39. Please consider these comments as part of the public testimony tomorrow, as I will not be able to attend.

Eliminating automatic PFD voter registration, taking away local control of elections and limiting our ability to vote by mail are not good for Alaska.

Not only does this bill take away local control of elections but it actually creates barriers for eligible voters to register and vote. This bill is government overreach at its worst.

Inadequate polling places, increasingly limited voting hours, disenfranchisement of formerly incarcerated individuals, and barriers to mail-in voting are not welcome here in Alaska.

Allowing people options for voting – including by mail – means more people can access the democratic process.

I urge you to vote no on advancing this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Cheryl Keepers
[REDACTED]
Fairbanks AK 99707

[REDACTED]

From:

Sent:

To:

Subject:

Sandra Sterling [REDACTED]

Tuesday, February 16, 2021 6:19 PM

Senate State Affairs; Sen. Mike Shower; Sen. Peter Micciche

Senate Bill 39

Senate Bill 39

I do not support any legislation that makes it harder for the common resident to register or even vote.

This bill sounds like a retaliatory effort to control folks unnecessarily.

Sandra Sterling

[REDACTED]
Soldotna AK, 99689

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Terrence Shanigan

From:
Sent:
To:
Subject:

Della Cheney
Tuesday, February 16, 2021 4:21 PM
Senate State Affairs
Objection to SB 39

Aloha please vote against SB 39. We encourage people to vote whenever and wherever they can. Not limit their participation. Thank you. Ha'waa!
Della Cheney

Terrence Shanigan

From: Susan Love
Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2021 11:07 AM
To: Senate State Affairs; Senate State Affairs
Subject: No on SB 39

Dear Senators Shower, Reinbold, Costello, Holland, and Kawasaki,

Please do not pass SB 39. The automatic voter registration associated with the PFD has been very successful and popular in Alaska and there is no reason to gut it. Many communities, especially remote ones, need to have the option to vote by mail and there is no proof that it has led to voter fraud. This bill disenfranchises Alaskan voters and is unacceptable. It is also irresponsible to introduce a bill that will take precious state resources away from real problems impacting Alaskans.

Sincerely,
Susan Love
Valdez, Alaska

From: Raeanne Holmes
Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2021 8:43 AM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: Tlingit & Haida Resolution in Opposition to SB39
Attachments: EC21-01.pdf

Good Morning,

In advance of the scheduled hearing on SB 39, please find a copy of the Central Council of the Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska's resolution EC 21-01 entitled "Opposition to SB 39 and the Erosion of Voting Access."

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Gunalchéesh, Háw'aa (Thank You),

Raeanne Holmes
Saanjin

Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska
Office of the President • Communications Coordinator
9097 Glacier Highway • Juneau, Alaska 99801
T: 800.344.1432 ext. 7368 • W: 907.463.7368 F: 1.888.335.8981
E: rholmes@ccthita-nsn.gov • W: www.ccthita-nsn.gov • FB: facebook.com/ccthita • Twitter: twitter.com/tlingithaida • Instagram: instagram.com/tlingithaida

Our Mission

Preserve our sovereignty, enhance our economic and cultural resources, and promote self-sufficiency and self-governance for our citizens.

Confidentiality Notice: This message is intended solely for the use of the addressee(s) and may contain information that is privileged, confidential and exempt from disclosure under applicable law. If you are not an addressee, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, use, distribution or copying of this message is strictly prohibited. If you received this message in error, please notify me by reply e-mail or by telephone (1.800.344.1432) and immediately delete this message and any and all of its attachments. If you properly received this message, maintain the contents of the message in confidence to preserve any privilege that may be available to protect confidentiality.



CENTRAL COUNCIL
Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska
Office of the President • Edward K. Thomas Building
9097 Glacier Highway • Juneau, Alaska 99801

Executive Council of the Central Council
TLINGIT & HAIDA INDIAN TRIBES OF ALASKA

Resolution EC 21-01

Title: Opposition to SB 39 and the Erosion of Voting Access

WHEREAS, the Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska (Tlingit & Haida) is a federally recognized tribe with more than 32,000 citizens; and

WHEREAS, under Article X of the Tlingit & Haida Constitution, the Executive Council is the governing body of Tlingit & Haida when the Tribal Assembly is not in session; and

WHEREAS, the Tribal Assembly is not in session; and

WHEREAS, every eligible Alaskan citizen has a fundamental right to vote; and

WHEREAS, on November 8, 2016, Alaskan's overwhelmingly voted to make voting easier and clear unwarranted hurdles to access to our most basic right through the Automatic Voter Registration ballot initiative; and

WHEREAS, since becoming law the "PFD Automatic Voter Registration" allows simultaneous voter registration when an eligible citizen applies for the yearly PFD unless a citizen opts out;

WHEREAS, the Alaska Division of Elections estimated that approximately 70,000 eligible Alaska citizens have become new, registered voters within the first year of passage; and

WHEREAS, the PFD Division already uses comprehensive fraud detection analysis and would prevent voter registration fraud, allowing Alaska to have the most accurate voter database in the nation; and

WHEREAS, a PEW Foundation study demonstrated that processing electronic registrations cost ten times less than paper processing; and

WHEREAS, Rural Alaska uses vote-by-mail for Rural Educational Attendance Area (REAA) elections to ensure a robust voter turn-out; and

WHEREAS, in 2020 the number of Alaskans that took advantage of our ability to vote-by-mail increased voter turnout by almost 10%; and

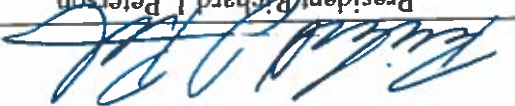
WHEREAS, efforts to increase Alaskans ability to vote in any secure way possible, should be increased, not decreased; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 39 is a bill that seeks to undo the clear directive of Alaska's voters by eliminating both Automatic Voter Registration and limit the ability to vote-by-mail; and

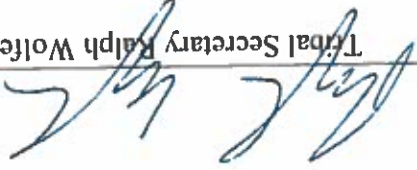
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Executive Council of the Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska hereby strongly opposes Senate Bill 39 and any attempts at erode access to voting.

ADOPTED this 29th day of January 2021, by the Executive Council of the Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska, by a vote of 4 yeas, 0 nays, 0 abstentions and 2 absences.

CERTIFY


 President Richard J. Peterson

ATTEST


 Tribal Secretary Ralph Wolfe

Terrence Shanigan

From: Clyde Boyer and Vivian Finlay
Sent: Monday, February 15, 2021 9:35 AM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: SB39

We strongly oppose any effort to make voting more challenging in the State of Alaska. We are a rural state and many of us travel extensively. We oppose most of Senator Mike Shower's proposed changes to existing election law. There was no fraud in our last election where a record number of people voted. Let us, the people, have easy and safe access to voting, by mail, and in other ways. Let's encourage voting. We typically have a dismal percentage of people involved enough to vote in any election - let's not make it harder to encourage people to vote.

Thank you.

Vivian Finlay and Clyde Boyer

355 Elderberry Drive
Homer, AK. 99603 USA



Juneau Legislative Information Office
State Capitol, Terry Miller Building, Suite 111
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

February 9, 2021

State Senate Affairs Committee,

The Alaska Libertarian Party stands firmly against SB-39, most of which introduces unnecessary red tape and spending under the guise of election security. We oppose any legislation that could limit voters' rights to participate in the electoral process and include unnecessary increases in state spending.

- The auto-registration on the PFD application harms no one, and helps some. Without legitimate evidence of fraud, there is no cause to remove this service for Alaskans.
- Multiple amendments within SB-39 would increase spending through additional, burdensome processes and further delay the nation's slowest election process under the guise of election security. Alaska's elections were verified by hand counts of one randomly selected precinct per district and a full hand recount of Ballot Measure Two. Without evidence of fraud, the legislature should not be adding red tape or taking more from Alaskans' pockets.
- Prohibiting absentee vote by facsimile simply removes an avenue for rural individuals to exercise their right to vote. We oppose all attempts to restrict people from exercising their rights without valid reason.

There are a few items within the bill that the Alaska Libertarian Party supports:

- ◆ The language within the bill seeking to ensure verification requirements are enforced again after an emergency declaration, is important. While there may be occasions necessitating court waivers due to an emergency, permanence of those waivers should be a matter of legislation.
- ◆ The language added that calls on the Division of Elections to notify voters whose ballot was disqualified, in order to explain why and offer a solution to avoid disqualification in future votes, is a solid proposal to help limit disenfranchisement and voter apathy.

The Alaska Libertarian Party, and its thousands of registered voters, encourage our elected officials to use individual liberty and fiscal responsibility as a litmus test for all proposed legislation. Our board would be happy to work with any state representative who wishes to receive perspective through the lens of libertarian principles.

Yours in Liberty,

Jon Watts
Chair

Alaska Libertarian Party



200 W 34th Ave #543
Anchorage, AK 99503
<http://alaskalp.org/>
Facebook:@AlaskaLiberty

From:

Sent:

To:

Subject:

Cami Dalton

Thursday, January 28, 2021 10:03 PM

Senate State Affairs

HB 39

I am a longtime Alaskan and voter. The right to vote is important to me. I believe every citizen should have the opportunity to vote! That means everyone who is a registered voter should find that they can easily cast a ballot. If one goes to the trouble to apply for a permanent fund dividend, why should they not automatically be able to become a registered voter?

This proposed bill seeks to repeal the automatic Permanent Fund dividend voter registration initiative that was passed by the VOTERS in 2016. Are you seriously ignoring the will of 65% of Alaskans who voted for this? If there are things that need to be fine tuned in order to improve these regulations, fine, do some tweaking. But there is no need to throw the baby out with the bath water. **There is no need to repeal the law.**

This measure also appears to make it more difficult for municipalities to hold vote-by-mail elections and removes a measure of local control from our communities.

This is absurd! I live in Anchorage. Members of my family and I have enjoyed being able to vote by mail. It is so easy and makes so much sense. No need to get an absentee ballot if you are going to be away on election day. No trips to a polling place. Our city (along with countless others in the US) has conducted safe and secure vote-by-mail elections since 2018 and I **do not support any measure that makes it more difficult to vote by mail.**

Thank you for letting me share my thoughts on this bill.

Cami Dalton
Anchorage Alaska

From: Laurie Sica
Sent: Thursday, January 28, 2021 3:15 PM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: SB39 Comments

Hello to the members of the Senate State Affairs Committee,

I was hoping to testify but the legislative affairs office said that would not take place today, but written comments are accepted, so I hope you will consider my written words. I am a retired municipal clerk and have conducted over 25 elections, so have significant experience with elections in the State of Alaska.

Regarding SB 39, I hope you will table this indefinitely. I do not understand what problem this wide ranging legislation is trying to solve. There is no sponsor statement, so I hope to learn more about the intent at the hearing today. There is also no fiscal note, and the items in this bill could create significant expense to the state as well as local governments if it were to pass.

Lt. Governor Meyer himself said in a recent interview with KTUU that he "didn't know of any cases of voter fraud during the 2020 general election." Has the sponsor worked directly with the Division of Elections to understand what changes they might recommend to facilitate elections?

Voter registration through the PFD should not be changed. It was a voter initiative supported by 65% of the voters in 2016 and has succeeded in registering an additional 70,000 voters in Alaska over a four year period. This is a GOOD THING - voter registration. Don't we all believe in encouraging voter registration over voter suppression? Linking the PFD with voter registration provides the Division of Election with MORE information to verify the voter rolls during list maintenance.

Section 22 of the bill should be stricken from the bill completely as it aims to tell municipalities how best to run their elections. Just as many elected officials want to promote state's rights, the Alaska Constitution calls for maximum local control and Section 22 attempts to squash the rights of municipalities. Please remove section 22.

There are many other questionable sections of SB39 which may become more clear to me after the hearing. However, I don't see anything in this bill that jumps out to me as necessary or worthy of the legislature's limited time.

Thank you for your consideration.

Laurie Sica
Juneau, AK 99802