

## **David Song**

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**From:** Cody Crook [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 21, 2021 2:33 PM  
**To:** Rep. Neal Foster; Rep. Geran Tarr; Rep. David Eastman; Rep. Christopher Kurka; Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins; Rep. Sarah Vance; Rep. Harriet Drummond; Rep. Matt Claman; Rep. Liz Snyder; Rep. Sara Hannan; Rep. Grier Hopkins; Rep. Ivy Spohnholz; Rep. Tiffany Zulkosky; Rep. Calvin Schrage; Rep. Chris Tuck; Rep. Andi Story; Rep. Zack Fields  
**Subject:** In support of House Bill 5

Hello members of the House Judiciary Committee (and Co-sponsors of House Bill 5),

My name is Brian Lara and I am writing in support of House Bill 5, also known as Alaska's Consent Bill.

As you are well aware, Alaska is perennially the state with the highest per-capita sexual assault rate in the country, making sexual assault/rape one of the biggest public health crises in our society.

Much of this crisis can be attributed to the completely inadequate sexual assault statutes and consent definition we have in this state. House Bill 5, sponsored by Rep. Tarr and many other members in the House, is a comprehensive solution that addresses many of the gaps that exist in our statutes.

This bill would expand the definition of consent to be "freely given AND reversible," eliminating a common defense that precludes prosecution. HB 5 would also eliminate and criminalize "rape by fraud," in which an individual obtains consent by misrepresenting their identity. In addition, it would protect 16 and 17-year-olds in our state from predators such as our former AG, Ed Sniffen. Finally, it would expedite the processing of rape kits by our law enforcement, something that has been vocally supported by Governor Dunleavy.

These common-sense solutions are needed ASAP. The additional cost of prosecution is completely justified given the awful negative impacts of rape in our state.

I urge the Judiciary committee to not only hear this bill, but to PRIORITIZE its passage in regular session. It is unconscionable that it is being stalled in the Judiciary committee when so many people in Alaska are demanding action on this issue. To the cosponsors of HB 5, I commend your dedication to the safety of Alaskans and I hope that there is action taken on this bill soon.

## David Song

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**From:** Erin Laughlin [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 21, 2021 2:22 PM  
**To:** Rep. Neal Foster; Rep. Geran Tarr; Rep. David Eastman; Rep. Christopher Kurka; Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins; Rep. Sarah Vance; Rep. Harriet Drummond; Rep. Matt Claman; Rep. Liz Snyder; Rep. Sara Hannan; Rep. Grier Hopkins; Rep. Ivy Spohnholz; Rep. Tiffany Zulkosky; Rep. Calvin Schrage; Rep. Chris Tuck; Rep. Andi Story; Rep. Zack Fields  
**Subject:** Support of HB 5

Hello members of the House Judiciary Committee (and Co-sponsors of House Bill 5),

My name is Erin Laughlin and I am writing in support of House Bill 5, also known as Alaska's Consent Bill.

As you are well aware, Alaska is perennially the state with the highest per-capita sexual assault rate in the country, making sexual assault/rape one of the biggest public health crises in our society.

Much of this crisis can be attributed to the completely inadequate sexual assault statutes and consent definition we have in this state. House Bill 5, sponsored by Rep. Tarr and many other members in the House, is a comprehensive solution that addresses many of the gaps that exist in our statutes.

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Shouldn't we be doing more to protect Alaska's future? This is one way we can.

These common-sense solutions are needed ASAP. The additional cost of prosecution is completely justified given the awful negative impacts of rape in our state.

I urge the Judiciary committee to not only hear this bill, but to PRIORITIZE its passage in regular session. It is unconscionable that it is being stalled in the Judiciary committee when so many people in Alaska are demanding action on this issue. To the cosponsors of HB 5, I commend your dedication to the safety of Alaskans and I hope that there is action taken on this bill soon.

Erin Laughlin  
[REDACTED]

## **David Song**

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**From:** Jorge Clifton [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 21, 2021 2:49 PM  
**To:** Rep. Neal Foster; Rep. Geran Tarr; Rep. David Eastman; Rep. Christopher Kurka; Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins; Rep. Sarah Vance; Rep. Harriet Drummond; Rep. Matt Claman; Rep. Liz Snyder; Rep. Sara Hannan; Rep. Grier Hopkins; Rep. Ivy Spohnholz; Rep. Tiffany Zulkosky; Rep. Calvin Schrage; Rep. Chris Tuck; Rep. Andi Story; Rep. Zack Fields  
**Subject:** House Bill 5

Hello members of the House,

My name is Jorge Clifton and I am writing in support of House Bill 5.

It's high time that Alaska seriously tackles the long-standing and awful reputation that we have as the state with some of the highest rates of sexual assault in the country. House Bill 5 is a big step towards achieving this goal and will give our justice system some of the tools it needs to protect our communities from sexual predators.

Please hear and pass this bill out of the Judiciary Committee.

## **David Song**

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**From:** Milo Hou [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 21, 2021 2:19 PM  
**To:** Rep. Andi Story; Rep. Calvin Schrage; Rep. Chris Tuck; Rep. Christopher Kurka; Rep. David Eastman; Rep. Geran Tarr; Rep. Grier Hopkins; Rep. Harriet Drummond; Rep. Ivy Spohnholz; Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins; Rep. Liz Snyder; Rep. Matt Claman; Rep. Neal Foster; Rep. Sara Hannan; Rep. Sarah Vance; Rep. Tiffany Zulkosky; Rep. Zack Fields  
**Subject:** House bill 5

Hello members of the House Judiciary Committee (and Co-sponsors of House Bill 5),

My name is Milo Hou and I am writing in support of House Bill 5, also known as Alaska's Consent Bill.

As you are well aware, Alaska is perennially the state with the highest per-capita sexual assault rate in the country, making sexual assault/rape one of the biggest public health crises in our society.

Much of this crisis can be attributed to the completely inadequate sexual assault statutes and consent definition we have in this state. House Bill 5, sponsored by Rep. Tarr and many other members in the House, is a comprehensive solution that addresses many of the gaps that exist in our statutes.

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I urge the Judiciary committee to not only hear this bill, but to PRIORITIZE its passage in regular session. It is unconscionable that it is being stalled in the Judiciary committee when so many people in Alaska are demanding action on this issue. To the cosponsors of HB 5, I commend your dedication to the safety of Alaskans and I hope that there is action taken on this bill soon.

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Milo Hou  
[REDACTED]

## **David Song**

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**From:** Rio Alberto [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 21, 2021 11:30 PM  
**Subject:** Testimony on HB5

Hello members of the House, My name is Rio Alberto, and I am writing in support of House Bill 5. It is high time that Alaska seriously tackles the long-standing and awful reputation that we have as the state with some of the highest sexual assault rates in the country. House Bill 5 is a big step towards achieving this goal, and will give our justice system the tools it needs to protect our communities from sexual predators. Please hear and pass this bill out of the Judiciary committee.

## **David Song**

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**From:** Santi Ruggeri [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 22, 2021 10:41 AM  
**To:** Rep. Geran Tarr  
**Subject:** I support bill HB5

Dear Legislator Tarr,

I am emailing to call you to support bill HB5. I believe that sexual consent is incredibly important in the way the world works these days and we need to make sure that this is upheld in our society's legislation and beliefs. Thank you very much for your time and I hope you have a good day.

Kindly,  
Santi Ruggeri

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Santi Ruggeri

## David Song

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**From:** Allegory Smith [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 12:53 PM  
**To:** Rep. Christopher Kurka; Rep. David Eastman; Rep. Harriet Drummond; Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins; Rep. Liz Snyder; Rep. Matt Claman; Rep. Sarah Vance  
**Cc:** Rep. Andi Story; Rep. Calvin Schrage; Rep. Chris Tuck; Rep. Geran Tarr; Rep. Grier Hopkins; Rep. Ivy Spohnholz; Rep. Neal Foster; Rep. Sara Hannan; Rep. Tiffany Zulkosky; Rep. Zack Fields  
**Subject:** Support for HB 5

Hi y'all,

I may be a bit late, but I heard HB 5 is making progress on its way to becoming law, and I need to add my voice in support.

In a recent re-release of an episode of the podcast 'For the Wild', Dallas and Ayana review the overlap between the forms of violence we are often coerced into showing the earth - the more-than-human world - and the violence done to women and 2LGBTQIA+ folks. They quote others in saying that the body of Mother Nature, mother of all of us, is the first body we know in life; and also the first body trespassed, the first body done violence to, the first body raped. I know I'm speaking beyond the purview of HB 5, but in a state described as America's natural resource warehouse, with massive freedom taken by corporations to exploit and extract "capital" from the land, is it any wonder why Alaska has the highest rates of sexual/intimate partner violence in the country, and an ongoing crisis of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and two-spirit people? We need to get this bill passed, and then we need to stop enabling the systems that make HB 5 necessary in the first place. We've all learned untruths in our lives, and as a male-bodied person, I've found one of the most harmful to be that we can grow and have resilience without accountability, when in fact caring about the consequences of our actions and learning from others - empathy, reciprocity - is where real security lies. There is no strength in silently abetting the suffering of our non/human relatives; no growth in the stagnation of business as usual; no resilience in a future without care and compassion. I need a future where yes means yes, and I hope we can help each other get there.

<https://forthewild.world/listen/dallas-goldtooth-on-responding-to-toxic-masculinity-encore-255>

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Allegory S.  
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.

## **David Song**

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**From:** Joyce Song [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 17, 2022 5:01 PM  
**To:** House Judiciary; Rep. Christopher Kurka; Rep. Geran Tarr; Rep. Harriet Drummond; Rep. Liz Snyder; Rep. Sarah Vance; Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins; Rep. Matt Claman  
**Subject:** House Bill 5

Dear Representative Claman and the House Judiciary Committee,

I am writing today in support of House Bill 5, Alaska's Consent Bill. This bill addresses some of the biggest public health and public safety issues in our state - our unacceptably high rate of sexual assault, our rape kit backlog, and several legal loopholes that prevent many predatory sexual behaviors from being prosecuted. This bill addresses some of the biggest barriers to prosecuting sexual assault in our state: one is an outdated definition of consent that requires the prosecution to demonstrate that there was a violent defensive struggle, although in many cases of assault, survivors "freeze." This bill would modernize our consent definition to be "freely given AND reversible."

Another part of this bill would address the predatory behavior of older adults who seek to have sex with a 16 or 17-year-old child. As you are aware, there was a recent, high-profile example of this loophole, in which former Alaska Attorney General Ed Sniffen was discovered to have exploited this gray area to obtain sex with a minor. House Bill 5 additionally addresses the loophole of "rape by fraud," in which individuals obtain sex through deception.

Finally, House Bill 5 expedites the processing of Alaska's rape kit backlog, a bipartisan priority that is a key part of Governor Dunleavy's policy platform. This evidence can help provide healing and justice to individuals and communities across the state, and must be processed in a timely manner.

There is a cost associated with this bill, as it would prosecute crimes that are currently going unaddressed. However, it is my opinion that the safety and healing of our communities is more than worth that cost. So many individuals in our state are constantly re-traumatized by having to see their abusers live freely in the community (and often continue to traumatize other individuals in the community with impunity), and this cycle will only continue to happen unless we take action.

In conclusion, I urge you to hear House Bill 5 in the House Judiciary Committee and put it to the floor for a vote. This bill is too important to die in committee, and to ignore the scourge of sexual assault is to abdicate your duty as a legislator.

Sincerely,

Joyce Song

## **David Song**

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**From:** Debra Reed [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 16, 2022 7:11 AM  
**To:** Rep. Matt Claman; Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins; Rep. Harriet Drummond; Rep. Christopher Kurka;  
Rep. Sarah Vance; Rep. Liz Snyder; Rep. David Eastman; Rep. Zack Fields  
**Cc:** House Judiciary; Rep. Geran Tarr  
**Subject:** Please support HB5 - Make our kids and communities safer

Good Morning Representatives~

**Alaska still leads the country in rates of sexual assault!**

Alaska's current definition of consent is decades old must be improved.

**I support HB5 and urge you to support it also!**

**Let's define consent to~**

Give prosecutors the teeth they need to pursue charges in sexual assault cases;  
Close the loophole of "RAPE BY FRAUD" wherein sex is obtained by deception isn't prosecuted;  
Protect 16-17 year old minors from older sexual predators; and to  
Ensure consent is freely given and REVERSIBLE!

**Let's also~**

Expedite the processing of rape kits so that justice is not delayed. Survivors need support and SWIFT justice!

Thank you for your consideration in supporting HB5.

Respectfully,  
Debra Reed

**Debra Reed**

## David Song

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**From:** Ian Poe [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 17, 2022 6:11 PM  
**To:** House Judiciary; Rep. Christopher Kurka; Rep. Geran Tarr; Rep. Harriet Drummond; Rep. Liz Snyder; Rep. Sarah Vance; Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins; Rep. Matt Claman  
**Subject:** House bill 5

Dear Representative Claman and the House Judiciary Committee,

I am writing today in support of House Bill 5, Alaska's Consent Bill. This bill addresses some of the biggest public health and public safety issues in our state - our unacceptably high rate of sexual assault, our rape kit backlog, and several legal loopholes that prevent many predatory sexual behaviors from being prosecuted. This bill addresses some of the biggest barriers to prosecuting sexual assault in our state: one is an outdated definition of consent that requires the prosecution to demonstrate that there was a violent defensive struggle, although in many cases of assault, survivors "freeze." This bill would modernize our consent definition to be "freely given AND reversible."

Another part of this bill would address the predatory behavior of older adults who seek to have sex with a 16 or 17-year-old child. As you are aware, there was a recent, high-profile example of this loophole, in which former Alaska Attorney General Ed Sniffen was discovered to have exploited this gray area to obtain sex with a minor. House Bill 5 additionally addresses the loophole of "rape by fraud," in which individuals obtain sex through deception.

Finally, House Bill 5 expedites the processing of Alaska's rape kit backlog, a bipartisan priority that is a key part of Governor Dunleavy's policy platform. This evidence can help provide healing and justice to individuals and communities across the state, and must be processed in a timely manner.

There is a cost associated with this bill, as it would prosecute crimes that are currently going unaddressed. However, it is my opinion that the safety and healing of our communities is more than worth that cost. So many individuals in our state are constantly re-traumatized by having to see their abusers live freely in the community (and often continue to traumatize other individuals in the community with impunity), and this cycle will only continue to happen unless we take action.

In conclusion, I urge you to hear House Bill 5 in the House Judiciary Committee and put it to the floor for a vote. This bill is too important to die in committee, and to ignore the scourge of sexual assault is to abdicate your duty as a legislator.

Sincerely,

Ian Poe-Yamagata

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Ian Poe-Yamagata  
University of Maryland, College Park - 2019  
B.S. in Economics and B.A. in Japanese.  
[REDACTED]

## David Song

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**From:** Maya Lapinski [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 17, 2022 10:29 AM  
**To:** House Judiciary; Rep. David Eastman; Rep. Christopher Kurka; Rep. Sarah Vance; Rep. Liz Snyder; Rep. Harriet Drummond; Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins; Rep. Matt Claman  
**Cc:** Rep. Geran Tarr  
**Subject:** Support for HB 5

Dear House Judiciary Committee,

I am writing today in support of House Bill 5, Alaska's Consent Bill. This bill addresses some of the biggest public health and public safety issues in our state - our unacceptably high rate of sexual assault, our rape kit backlog, and several legal loopholes that prevent many predatory sexual behaviors from being prosecuted.

This bill addresses some of the biggest barriers to prosecuting sexual assault in our state: one is an outdated and inaccurate definition of consent that requires the prosecution to demonstrate that there was a violent defensive struggle, although in many cases of assault, survivors "freeze." This bill would modernize our consent definition to be "freely given AND reversible."

Another part of this bill would address the predatory behavior of older adults who seek to have sex with a 16 or 17-year-old child. House Bill 5 additionally addresses the loophole of "rape by fraud," in which individuals obtain sex through deception.

Finally, House Bill 5 expedites the processing of Alaska's rape kit backlog, a bipartisan priority that is a key part of Governor Dunleavy's policy platform. This evidence can help provide healing and justice to individuals and communities across the state, and must be processed in a timely manner.

I understand that there is a cost associated with this bill, as it would prosecute crimes that are currently going unaddressed. However, it is my opinion that the safety and healing of our communities is more than worth that cost. So many individuals in our state are constantly re-traumatized by having to see their abusers live freely in the community (and often continue to traumatize other individuals in the community with impunity), and this cycle will only continue to happen unless we take action.

In conclusion, I urge you to hear House Bill 5 in the House Judiciary Committee and put it to the floor for a vote. This bill is too important to die in committee.

Thank you,  
Maya Lapinski

## David Song

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**From:** Jeremy Houston [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 17, 2022 4:54 PM  
**To:** House Judiciary; Rep. Matt Claman  
**Cc:** Rep. Geran Tarr  
**Subject:** In support of HB 5

Dear Representative Claman and the House Judiciary Committee,

I am writing today in support of House Bill 5, Alaska's Consent Bill. This bill addresses some of the biggest public health and public safety issues in our state - our unacceptably high rate of sexual assault, our rape kit backlog, and several legal loopholes that prevent many predatory sexual behaviors from being prosecuted.

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In conclusion, I urge you to hear House Bill 5 in the House Judiciary Committee and put it to the floor for a vote. This bill is too important to die in committee, and to ignore the scourge of sexual assault is to abdicate your duty as a legislator.

Sincerely,  
Jeremy Houston  
[REDACTED]

## **David Song**

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**From:** Milo Hou [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 17, 2022 4:31 PM  
**To:** Rep. David Eastman; Rep. Christopher Kurka; Rep. Sarah Vance; Rep. Liz Snyder; Rep. Harriet Drummond; Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins; Rep. Geran Tarr; Rep. Matt Claman  
**Subject:** Consent bill

Dear Representative Claman and the House Judiciary Committee,

I am writing today in support of House Bill 5, Alaska's Consent Bill. This bill addresses some of the biggest public health and public safety issues in our state - our unacceptably high rate of sexual assault, our rape kit backlog, and several legal loopholes that prevent many predatory sexual behaviors from being prosecuted.

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In conclusion, I urge you to hear House Bill 5 in the House Judiciary Committee and put it to the floor for a vote. This bill is too important to die in committee, and to ignore the scourge of sexual assault is to abdicate your duty as a legislator.

Sincerely,  
Milo Hou

result of being victimized sexually at such a young age. In 2022, I still struggle with my depression. I honestly believe I wouldn't have struggled with depression or suicide ideation if it wasn't for my abuse many years ago.

I am in FULL support of HB5, and truly appreciate Representative Tarr for following through with addressing sexual abuse after HB49. Alaskan victims are relying on this bill to address the HUGE concern of what the word consent means relating to sexual assault, and the name blame needs to stop now!

Alaska is still leading the nation by being the number one in sexual assault. I believe the following will help Alaska cases and Alaskan victims. Alaska's laws relating to sexual assault are decades old and must reflect that it is freely given and reversible. Our current consent law prevents prosecutors from pursuing charges unless there is a clear evidence of defensive struggle which isn't the case as I shared with you earlier. Lastly, Alaska's rape kit has been back logged for many decades and isn't victim's friendly. HB 5 would expedite rape kits in a timely fashion to help the victim seek true justice.

If protecting the public the Government's priority then there should be a fiscal cost being tied up to our safety!! As a survivor, we need to place our number one crime (sexual assault) as our top priority, both being victim oriented as well as zero care to how much it would cost to fix the issue of sexual abuse, as well as, redefining the terminology "consent of sexual abuse!!" I understand there are members who may see problems with HB 5, but I am completely willing to take time off of work to sit down with EACH members to find a common ground to how we can better serve our victims. I respectfully request that you bring HB 5 back to committee and pass on to help Alaskan victims. Our victims have suffered enough just by the abuse, and don't need to be SHAMED more than they already see in themselves.

By placing HB5 aside, you are setting a precedent that victims of sexual abuse don't matter to you, nor worthy of your help. I'd like to believe that you do care, and you can prove to me and other survivors by bringing this bill back in committee. Please know that I can always be reached for questions and always willing to help make Alaska safe again.

Thank you for reading this email. Please pass HB5!!

Katie Botz  
District 34

Sent from my iPhone

## David Song

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**From:** Katie Botz [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 17, 2022 12:33 PM  
**To:** Rep. Matt Claman; Rep. Sarah Vance; Rep. Harriet Drummond; Rep. Sara Rasmussen; Rep. David Eastman; Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins; Rep. Christopher Kurka; Rep. Liz Snyder; Rep. Louise Stutes; Rep. Andi Story  
**Cc:** Rep. Andi Story; Rep. Geran Tarr  
**Subject:** Please bring HB 5 back to legislative committee!!

Greetings Mr Chair and members of the House Judiciary committee members, my name is Katie Botz and I am speaking on behalf of myself from district 34. On February 18, 2019, I went before the Senate Judiciary committee and shared what I'm about to share with you, today.

Originally I was raised in Kodiak, Alaska where at the age of 12 I was victim of sexual abuse. Statistics shows that victims knows their offenders, and mine was a friend of a brother. At the time my house was a place where all of my siblings and my friends would come over as a safe place to hang out. We had a pool table, darts, every single gaming console from original Nintendo to the first PlayStation.

It was multiple attempts. The person was Alaskan Native. There was a 6 years difference. I was 12 he was 18. I tried to hide in every room, tried to sneak in every hiding place, tried to go in every closet, for I didn't want him inside me!

As far as difficulties, he would pull my hair, grab me fiercely (but left no bruises) by my limbs, including my throat. Recreated my, I attempted to kick my offender, but would make sure to restrain my legs. I also attempted to retaliate against him by hitting, but he grabbed and restrain my tiny hands so I couldn't have movements. My offender made sure that I was silenced during each penetration by placing a hand over my mouth and the other hand to keep my hands where he wanted. I wanted to scream. I wanted to yell. Instead, I was silently crying every single penetration, being forced in a frozen position that only satisfied my offender. I had zero outlet to receive help from my family members who were sleeping. Although I had zero outlet to receive help from my family, I was able to manage to lick his hands with my tongue just to get some breaths. I must say, without consent was a bit challenging to prove 22 years ago.

My mother of all things, caught my offender in the act. Not only did it break her heart, but it devastated mine. I never wanted my mother to see such devastation in the family. She was the one who kicked him out. She was the one who called the police and set the procedure in place. I was 12, what did I know what to do in a small town?

After going to court and having the rape kit completed, to this day I wished my offender had more than 6 years in prison. I'm truly thankful for Senate Judiciary committee to take my story to heart and helped changed that in HB49 crime law. Even though I wasn't strangled, and no bruises weeee on my body, I still remember the abuse as of it happened yesterday. For 5 years every night I cried myself to sleep, which was caused by nightmares. Each nightmare was related to the abuse by being attacked physically against my will, each and every night. From the moment my family and I placed my offender to jail to age 24, I never placed an ouch of trust in any man that came in my path. Why should I? I was robbed of my dignity, character, and honor by an Alaskan bred, Alaskan Grown man!! Do you blame me? In fact, I never spoken of my nightmares and rarely of my abuse to anyone until the 31st Senate Judiciary committee because of the stigma of sexual assault and our terrible consent law!!!!

It took me appropriate 12 years to get over my abuse. I still recall having a notebook of goodbye letters to every family members and friends, for I was planning on jumping off of the bridge in Kodiak. Thankfully, I never acted on the idea, but each time I went to my father's boat, I recall mapping out a way to get up and over just to take my life. I lost count of how many times, in the course of my life, that I had the idea of committing suicide. Suicide ideation still comes and go in my 30's. Consequently, on August 20, 2018, I was diagnosed with Major Depression Disorder which is the underlying

## David Song

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**From:** Alexander Bergman [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 17, 2022 5:46 PM  
**To:** House Judiciary; Rep. Christopher Kurka; Rep. David Eastman; Rep. Harriet Drummond; Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins; Rep. Liz Snyder; Rep. Sarah Vance  
**Cc:** Rep. Geran Tarr  
**Subject:** More momentum to pass HB5

Hey gang,

Wishing everyone good health.

I know I've emailed before in support of HB5, and I'm here to do it again. You're all doubtless familiar with the points and purposes of the bill by now - the freely-given and reversible standard of consent, the elimination of loopholes that allow for sex with minors and rape by fraud (as well as the burden of proof of a struggle), and the expediting of rape kit processing - and I would hope those are reason enough to pass it on out for a vote and passage into law. We have the highest rates of sexual assault in the country, and this bill, being both proactive and reactive, is absolutely a step in the right direction for addressing that.

Go team.

A

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they/them

<https://fireweedcollectiveak.org/>

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.

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [House Judiciary](#); [Rep. Matt Claman](#); [Rep. Sarah Vance](#); [Rep. David Eastman](#); [Rep. Harriet Drummond](#); [Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins](#)  
**Subject:** Written Testimony of HB5  
**Date:** Friday, April 08, 2022 11:43:45 AM

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Greetings Mr Chair and members of the House Judiciary committee members, my name is Katie Botz and I am speaking on behalf of myself from district 34. On February 18, 2019, I went before the Senate Judiciary committee and shared what I'm about to share with you, today.

Originally I was raised in Kodiak, Alaska where at the age of 12 I was victim of sexual abuse. Statistics shows that victims knows their offenders, and mine was a friend of a brother. At the time my house was a place where all of my siblings and my friends would come over as a safe place to hang out. We had a pool table, darts, every single gaming console from original Nintendo to the first PlayStation.

It was multiple attempts. The person was Alaskan Native. There was a 6 years difference. I was 12 he was 18. I tried to hide in every room, tried to sneak in every hiding place, tried to go in every closet, for I didn't want him inside me!

As far as difficulties, he would pull my hair, grab me fiercely (but left no bruises) by my limbs, including my throat. Recreated my, I attempted to kick my offender, but would make sure to restrain my legs. I also attempted to retaliate against him by hitting, but he grabbed and restrain my tiny hands so I couldn't have movements. My offender made sure that I was silenced during each penetration by placing a hand over my mouth and the other hand to keep my hands where he wanted. I wanted to scream. I wanted to yell. Instead, I was silently crying every single penetration, being forced in a frozen position that only satisfied my offender. I had zero outlet to receive help from my family members who were sleeping. Although I had zero outlet to receive help from my family, I was able to manage to lick his hands with my tongue just to get some breaths. I must say, without consent was a bit challenging to prove 22 years ago.

My mother of all things, caught my offender in the act. Not only did it break her heart, but it devastated mine. I never wanted my mother to see such devastation in the family. She was the one who kicked him out. She was the one who called the police and set the procedure in place. I was 12, what did I know what to do in a small town?

After going to court and having the rape kit completed, to this day I wished my offender had more than 6 years in prison. I'm truly thankful for Senate Judiciary committee to take my story to heart and helped changed that in HB49 crime law. Even though I wasn't strangled, and no bruises wee on my body, I still remember the abuse as if it happened yesterday. For 5 years every night I cried myself to sleep, which was caused by nightmares. Each nightmare was related to the abuse by being attacked physically against my will, each and every night. From the moment my family and I placed my offender to jail to age 24, I never placed an ouch of trust in any man that came in my path. Why should I? I was robbed of my dignity, character, and honor by an Alaskan bred, Alaskan Grown man!! Do you blame me? In fact, I never spoken of my nightmares and rarely of my abuse to anyone until the 31st Senate Judiciary committee because of the stigma of sexual assault and our terrible consent law!!!!

It took me appropriate 12 years to get over my abuse. I still recall having a notebook of goodbye letters to every family members and friends, for I was planning on jumping off of the bridge in Kodiak. Thankfully, I never acted on the idea, but each time I went to my father's boat, I recall mapping out a way to get up and over just to take my life. I lost count of how many times, in the course of my life, that I had the idea of committing suicide. Suicide ideation still comes and go in my 30's. Consequently, on August 20, 2018, I was diagnosed with Major Depression Disorder which is the underlying result of being victimized sexually at such a young age. In 2022, I still struggle with my depression. I honestly believe I wouldn't have struggled with depression or suicide ideation if it wasn't for my abuse many years ago.

I am in FULL support of HB5, and truly appreciate Representative Tarr for following through with addressing sexual abuse after HB49. Alaskan victims are relying on this bill to address the HUGE concern of what the word consent means relating to sexual assault, and the name blame needs to stop now!

Alaska is still leading the nation by being the number one in sexual assault. I believe the following will help Alaska cases and Alaskan victims. Alaska's laws relating to sexual assault are decades old and must reflect that it is freely given and reversible. Our current consent law prevents prosecutors from pursuing charges unless there is a clear evidence of defensive struggle which isn't the case as I shared with you earlier. Lastly, Alaska's rape kit has been back logged for many decades and isn't victim's friendly. HB 5 would expedite rape kits in a timely fashion to help the victim seek true justice.

If protecting the public the Government's priority then there should be a fiscal cost being tied up to our safety!! As a survivor, we need to place our number one crime (sexual assault) as our top priority, both being victim oriented as well as zero care to how much it would cost to fix the issue of sexual abuse, as well as, redefining the terminology "consent of sexual abuse!!" I understand there are members who may see problems with HB 5, but I am completely willing to take time off of work to sit down with EACH members to find a common ground to how we can better serve our victims. I respectfully request that you bring HB 5 back to committee and pass on to help Alaskan victims. Our victims have suffered enough just by the abuse, and don't need to be SHAMED more than they already see in themselves.

By stalling HB5 for as long as you've been doing, you are setting a precedent that victims of sexual abuse don't matter to you, nor worthy of your help. It's also crystal clear that constituents voice don't matter fo you. I'd like to believe that you do care, and you can prove to me and other survivors by bringing this bill back in committee. Please know that I can always be reached for questions and always willing to help make Alaska safe again.

Please pass HB5 out of committee for it has been a long emotional session of being silenced by this committee!

Thank you for reading this email. Please pass HB5!!  
Katie Botz  
District 34

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Rep. David Eastman](#); [Rep. Christopher Kurka](#); [Rep. Sarah Vance](#); [Rep. Harriet Drummond](#); [Rep. Liz Snyder](#); [Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins](#); [Rep. Matt Claman](#); [House Judiciary](#)  
**Cc:** [Rep. Geran Tarr](#)  
**Subject:** HOUSE BILL 5  
**Date:** Monday, April 11, 2022 6:56:04 PM

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NO MEANS NO!! Pass House Bill 5... There have been 8 hearings let's prioritize and move this bill out of the committee ASAP!!... The only thing I have to say is imagine your grandmother, mother, auntie, cousin, wife or daughter being the reason this bill is on the floor... PROTECT THE WOMEN IN THE STATE OF ALASKA... especially since Abortions are no longer protected by the State...

Roz'lyn Grady-Wyche

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [House Judiciary](#); [Rep. Matt Claman](#); [Rep. David Eastman](#); [Rep. Christopher Kurka](#); [Rep. Sarah Vance](#); [Rep. Harriet Drummond](#); [Rep. Liz Snyder](#); [Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins](#)  
**Cc:** [Rep. Geran Tarr](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB 5  
**Date:** Thursday, April 14, 2022 5:40:30 PM

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To the members of the Alaska House Judiciary Committee:

My name is Amanda Lyon, I am a resident of Seward, and working on my Master of Social Work degree through UAA. I am writing to ask you to pass House Bill 5 regarding sexual assault and the definition of consent. Alaska's current definition of consent is outdated and requires prosecutors to prove force or threat to pursue sexual assault charges. "No means no" as the standard for consent has been replaced since the 1990s with affirmative consent, or "yes means yes." Affirmative Consent means verbally asking and verbally giving or denying consent for all levels of sexual behavior.

It is well-established that when under threat, automatic responses include fight, flight, or freeze. The current definition of consent in Alaska only recognizes the fight and flight stress response (Roelofs, 2017). Women who have experienced childhood sexual abuse (CSA) are more likely to have a freeze response when under threat. When a victim has a threat response of freezing, it is much more difficult or impossible to prove threats or violence, making prosecution difficult or impossible. Many survivors describe a state of paralysis during sexual assault; feeling unable to move or speak. This 'freeze' response is a physiological response to the release of stress-related hormones in the body. In a 2017 study of women who had experienced rape, 70% described having a freeze response (Moller, Sondergaard, & Helstrom, 2017).

According to the 2021 Alaska Victimization Survey, 58 out of every 100 women in Alaska have experienced intimate partner violence, sexual violence, or both in their lifetimes. I am one of those women. I am a survivor of CSA, and have frozen in response to sexual

assault. Consider the women in your life, nearly 6 out of every 10 women around you may also be survivors of physical and/or sexual violence.

Again, I urge you to pass HB 5 and develop pathways for justice and to create a better future for women and children in Alaska. If you wish to contact me, my email is

[REDACTED] Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Amanda J. Lyon

## **References**

Moller, A., Sondergaard, H.P., & Helstrom, L. (2017, June 7). Tonic immobility during sexual assault – a common reaction predicting post-traumatic stress disorder and severe depression. *Acta Obstetrica Gynecologica Scandinavica* 96(8).

<https://obgyn.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/aogs.13174>

Roelofs K. (2017). Freeze for action: neurobiological mechanisms in animal and human freezing. *Philosophical transactions of the Royal Society of London. Series B, Biological sciences*, 372(1718), 20160206. <https://doi.org/10.1098/rstb.2016.0206>

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [House Judiciary](#)  
**Cc:** [Rep. Geran Tarr](#)  
**Subject:** HB5  
**Date:** Friday, April 15, 2022 12:36:42 PM

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Good afternoon,

I work at Arctic Women in Crisis in Utqiagvik- a shelter for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault and witness first-hand the devastating effects of sexual assault in our communities. Alaska's rate of rape and sexual assault continues to lead the country, and it's time to prioritize HB5 and finally move it out of committee. Alaska does not currently define consent in statute. Every day we can see that Alaska desperately needs an affirmative definition of consent, and HB 5 defines consent as "freely given and reversible." Currently, prosecutors cannot pursue sexual assault charges unless there is evidence of coercion or force. Sexual violence does not happen in one single way. There should not be a need to have a weapon involved or for the victim to fight back and scream "no" over and over for it to count as rape or sexual assault. We need immediate processing of rape kits, and Governor Dunleavy himself has stated that this is a priority. 12 states created statutes prohibiting "rape by fraud/deception" and it is unconscionable that a legal loophole still exists for "rape by fraud." And it is unacceptable that adults can stalk and prey upon 16-17 year old minors for sex. HB 5 would criminalize sex between a minor between 13-17 and an adult who is 18 years or older, and is at least 10 years or older than the victim. We need to protect our youth from much older predators. The national definition of what is allowable and tolerable regarding sexual assault and harassment has changed, and we need our Alaskan laws to better reflect these changes.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

*Quyanaqpak,*

**The Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act (VAWA) of 2022 was just signed into law!**



support for survivors of sexual harassment and abuse by wearing a teal ribbon – the color of sexual violence prevention – on April 5<sup>th</sup>.



Ginny Walsh, MSW, LCSW-C  
(she, her)  
AWIC Program Coordinator  
NSB Department of Health and Social Services, Arctic Women in Crisis



"May each of us be well and assured in ourselves; And may we see and value the well-being and strength of others. And may our ways of relating bring us deeper into a harmony that releases us from clinging, conceit, loss, separation and despair."

~Ajahn Sucitto

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [House Judiciary](#)  
**Subject:** Support HB 5  
**Date:** Friday, April 15, 2022 3:56:49 PM

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Hello,

My name is Julie Smyth. I live in Alaska and I'm writing in representing myself and others like me that I know across the state of Alaska.

Our State's definition of rape is not good enough to help many people in the State of Alaska.

I personally have experienced rape and other forms of sexual assault in my life. I am a client of the Interior Alaska Center for Non-Violent Living and have been for 6 years. I've stories growing up about the lack of support for victims and the struggles for people like me to see Justice. I myself have not seen Justice either.

This Bill will also help victims by giving better timelines for testing of rape kits which is also a possibility to provide extra employment opportunities for places that struggle to meet these deadlines.

This Bill will better protect teenagers from predatory adults. Something I've seen quite often. I remember being a teenage and seeing quite a few teens get pregnant by someone in their later 20's and people thinking the teenagers understood how predatory these older men were when they really thought they were being loved and cared for (that's why these predators attack minors).

This Bill won't fix all of the issues in Alaska, but it will have a better definition for judges as well as timelines that reflect that we don't want people who are found guilty of rape to be able to walk free. Did you know that I learned at IACNVL that only 1% of rape charges ever see jail time in our state?

I personally was raped by my then husband. I consented to sexual intercourse, but asked him to stop when it became painful because of our position. He refused and instead continued in a way that was even more painful. I had to do my best to stay quiet to avoid waking our children in our cabin without doors. This Bill makes it clear that a person can remove consent at any point in time and once they do, if the other party doesn't stop, it's rape. Something that has been taught at IACNVL for at least the last 6 years, but still isn't clear according to our State's definition since we don't clearly define consent. Luckily for me, when I reported my rape the police officer understood and filed charges, though he said that because of the lack of evidence (which would have happened no matter when I reported since I had consented to begin with), my case would likely never see the inside of a courtroom. I know many other women both in my city and across Alaska who aren't as lucky.

Please pass HB 5.

--  
Kunaan Julie Smyth  
she/her/they/them



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Rep. Geran Tarr](#); [Rep. Harriet Drummond](#); [Rep. Matt Claman](#)  
**Subject:** HB5 Additional testimony from Friday, 4/15/22  
**Date:** Monday, April 18, 2022 5:04:56 PM

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Dear Representatives,

I am writing to expand on my testimony Friday afternoon to include information that was prohibited by the time restraint.

As I mentioned, I am a survivor of a violent rape kidnapping assault in 1970. I had significant injuries such that police and district attorney were interested in prosecuting the case against my attackers. Because of these injuries, consent was not at issue.

10 years ago my granddaughter was assaulted and raped in her college dorm at Lake Forrest Illinois. The rapist was someone with whom she had a prior relationship who refused to take no for an answer. She had no apparent outward signs of trauma.

Because authorities did not believe her, she became severely depressed and dropped out of school. Although she had scholarships, she lost financial support from school because she dropped out.

Until Alycia came out as a rape survivor I did not know she had attempted suicide several times during this period.

Eventually she made enough units at Berkeley Community College to transfer to American University in Washington DC. She crowd funded her tuition after coming forward as a rape survivor. She graduated with honors in Arabic language, foreign policy, and terrorism.

Her story, part of Sheryl Sandberg's book about overcoming adversity, is here:

<https://optionb.org/stories/when-i-graduated-it-was-the-best-day-of-my-life-because-i-remember-how-close-i-was-to-giving-up-s1w9ofmtx>

I hope you will take the time to read it. I hope you can take from it the damage done to victims who are not believed, who were told they did not resist enough, and/or may not show outward signs of trauma.

Alycia is now a senior policy analyst at Google tasked with removing inappropriate content on YouTube in several languages. She almost didn't make it.

We don't know how many women and girls, young men and boys didn't make it because they were not believed.

HB5 would support investigations by police even in cases without outward signs of trauma, while also enhancing protections for minors and increasing accountability in the handling of rape test by investigative agencies. DNA identification is becoming more and more important especially in Alaska where a perpetrator may have multiple victims.

Know that the trauma for such intimate violation of one's personhood and bodily autonomy may not heal or present visible symptoms of the damage endured.

“No” is a complete declaratory sentence. Nothing further should be required by the law.

Thank you for your time.

Janice L. Park