

From: [Michaela Phillips](#)
To: [Transportation](#)
Subject: HB386 - OPPOSED
Date: Wednesday, March 13, 2024 11:36:08 PM

Note: HB 386 is the companion bill to SB 255

Dear committee members,

I am writing to you to express my deep reservations against this bill. The right of American citizens to peaceful assemble and the expression is f their opinions is the most intrinsic element of the U.S. Constitution. So important is this right, that the crafters placed it firstly above all others. Please do not allow this unconstitutional bill to pass. Keep democracy free!

Thank you,
Michaela Kamalei Phillips
[REDACTED]
Anchorage, AK 99502
[REDACTED]

From: [Crystal Jackson](#)
To: [Transportation](#)
Subject: Opposition to HB 386
Date: Wednesday, March 13, 2024 2:18:01 PM

Note: HB 386 is the companion bill to SB 255

Hi,

I strongly oppose the passing of HB 386.
Criminalizing peaceful protesting activities violates our American freedom of speech, association, and other rights. This is not the path I want to see my state go down.

Thank you,
Crystal Jackson
From Juneau, AK

From: R Norton <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, March 13, 2024 7:45 PM
To: Transportation
Subject: OPPOSE HB 386

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

3/13/2024

Good evening, my name is Roberta Norton, a resident of Kotzebue.

I am writing and testifying in OPPOSITION to HB 386, because it violates my First Amendment rights freedom of speech and right to assemble.

This bill attempts to stop public protests and criminalize Alaskans who are exercising their constitutional rights.

Please stop this bill from advancing, protect the most fundamental rights of all Alaskans.

Respectfully,
Roberta Norton
Kotzebue, AK.

Sent from my iPhone

From: Tim Flanery <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, March 14, 2024 12:07 AM
To: Transportation
Subject: OPPOSE HB 386

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Hello, my name is Tim Flanery, and I'm a resident of Ketchikan. I am testifying in opposition to HB 386, because it violates my First Amendment freedom of speech and my right to assemble. This bill attempts to chill public protest and criminalize Alaskans who are exercising their constitutional rights.

Please stop this bill from advancing to protect the most fundamental rights of all Alaskans.

OPPOSE HB 386 TAKE ACTION

Gunalchéesh, thank you,
Tim Flanery (Gaanáx aya yáada)

From: [Tonia Blumer](#)
To: [Transportation](#)
Subject: I oppose HB386
Date: Thursday, March 14, 2024 10:05:20 AM

Note: HB 386 is the companion bill to SB 255

Hello, my name is Tonia Blumer and I live in Sterling, AK. I am writing in opposition to HB 386 because it violates my First Amendment freedom of speech and my right to assemble. This bill attempts to quiet public protest and criminalize Alaskans who are exercising their constitutional rights. Please stop this bill from advancing to protect the most fundamental rights of all Alaskans."

Thank you for your time,
Tonia Blumer
Sent from my iPhone

From: Christin Swearingen <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, March 14, 2024 11:10 AM
To: Transportation
Subject: Oppose HB 386

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Hello,

I'm writing to express strong opposition (shock and horror) at HB 386.

I can only assume the governor is unaware of the protection of the freedom of assembly. The first amendment protects the individual right to come together and collectively express and defend their shared ideas. There have been multiple Supreme Court cases that uphold the right to assemble in public places.

The intent of this bill seems to be criminalizing Alaskans who are exercising their rights. Please stop this bill from advancing.

-Christin

From: [Alysha McGuire](#)
To: [Transportation](#)
Subject: HB 386
Date: Thursday, March 14, 2024 11:31:26 AM

Note: HB 386 is the companion bill to SB 255

Good afternoon, my name is Alysha McGuire and I live in Anchorage, AK and have been an Alaskan resident my entire life.

I am sending this email today because I am in opposition of HB386 because it violates my First Amendment right to freedom of speech and my right to assemble.

Protesting has been a way of capturing the attention of the general public and public officials since the start of US history. Protests are not meant to be passive and easy to ignore. They are meant to disrupt the status quo because that's how you get people talking. Especially, in the age of social media.

Opposing HB386 isn't just about preserving our right to protest the issues of today but also about protecting our right to future freedom.

Thank you for your time.

From: M. Silvia Capezio [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 14, 2024 11:36 AM
To: Transportation
Subject: Opposition to HB386

Good morning,
My name is Maria Capezio Crookes, and I am a resident of Anchorage, AK (99504).

I am emailing you today in opposition to HB 386. This bill is undemocratic, it violates my 1st Amendment rights of freedom of speech and my right to assembly, and will criminalize Alaskans who exercise these rights.

Also, since moving here in 2018, during so many times of national unrest, I've never seen a protest that justifies the writing of this bill.

Respectfully,

Maria Capezio Crookes
United Methodist Church Deaconess
Consultant (Office of Deaconess and Home Missioner)

From: [Daniel King](#)
To: [Transportation](#)
Subject: Oppose HB 386
Date: Thursday, March 14, 2024 12:56:42 PM

Note: HB 386 is the companion bill to SB 255

Hello,

I'm a resident of Anchorage. I am writing in opposition to HB 386. After reading the language, I think portions are too vague in where they would apply and leave open to interpretation what "obstruction" would mean. This gives too much control over local policy officers enforcing this to decide whether they will or won't arrest someone, since "unreasonable inconvenience" in passing is very vague. They could say blocking a portion of entry on a sidewalk (staying out of the street) is unreasonable, which would call into question people standing on corners with signs in favor of this or that political candidate. If the officer supports the candidate, maybe they let it slide. If they oppose the candidate, maybe they arrest the people or at least disperse them under this new law.

This infringes on the rights of people to not only protest but campaign as well!

There is no impetus in Alaska for these changes since we haven't had major issues of obstruction. So why is this being brought forward now?

Daniel King

[REDACTED]

From: J Campbell <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, March 14, 2024 1:03 PM
To: Senate Transportation Committee
Cc: J Campbell
Subject: Oppose SB255

Dear Senate Transportation Committee,

I write to you to strongly oppose SB255 in its entirety. This bill is a thinly veiled attempt to crack down on Alaskan's ability to protest, demonstrate, and freely assemble in public places. This bill is vague and broad and proposes criminal consequences for everything from protests to homelessness. It would hold Alaskans civilly liable for exercising their constitutionally afforded rights without consideration for protected speech and other First Amendment defenses.

There is no current issue this bill attempts to correct. It merely restricts Alaskan's ability to practice our First Amendment rights. Civil discourse and disagreement are fundamental rights in a democracy and make our state and country a better place to live.

I urge you to oppose SB255 and protect our fundamental constitutional rights.

Respectfully,
Jennifer Campbell
Fairbanks, AK

From: [Amy Vail](#)
To: [Transportation](#)
Subject: OPPOSE HB386
Date: Thursday, March 14, 2024 1:11:29 PM

Note: HB 386 is the companion bill to SB 255

I am a resident of Anchorage. I am writing in opposition to HB 386. I believe I am an intelligent individual, yet after reading the language of the bill I can't interpret exactly what its purpose is. The bill is vague in where it should be applied, and leaves open to interpretation what "obstruction" would mean. This gives too much power to local law enforcement. They could say blocking a portion of entry on a sidewalk (staying out of the street) is unreasonable, which would call into question people standing on corners with signs in favor of this or that political candidate.

This infringes on the rights of people to not only protest but campaign as well!

There is no impetus in Alaska for these changes since we haven't had major issues of obstruction. So why is this being brought forward now?

Amy Vail

From: [Dan Poulson](#)
To: [Transportation](#)
Subject: Subject: HB 386
Date: Thursday, March 14, 2024 1:36:05 PM

Note: HB 386 is the companion bill to SB 255

Hello, I am a lifelong Alaskan who would like to state my opposition to HB 386. This bill is anti-democratic, anti-American and offensive to the Alaska constitution. At a moment when our state is confronting existential crises ranging from climate change, rising healthcare costs, lack of affordable housing, underfunded schools, and statewide labor shortages, it makes no sense to spend taxpayer resources on an authoritarian law that silences and punishes free expression. We already have laws on the books that criminalize conduct that creates hazardous conditions for others. This law goes much further. By imposing new criminal and civil liabilities on public gatherings that inconvenience others, this law places unacceptable burdens on our collective right to assembly. Alaskans who wish to peacefully protest should be able to do so without the risk of criminal prosecution based on the remote possibility that someone may be disadvantaged. This law is simply too broad and sweeping to survive constitutional challenge, and if enacted, it will face a swift and immediate opposition from civil rights activists.

Laws like HB 386 diminish our state's long-cherished history of celebrating individual freedom and the right to dissent. We can do better than play these kinds of games with Alaskan's civil liberties. Free speech is under attack at home and abroad, and we should not cave into the mindset of reactionary extremists who subscribe to the notion that free speech only matters if it is inoffensive. That is a mere shadow of freedom. Kill this legislation -- and focus on laws that actually aim to improve the lives of Alaskans.

Sincerely,

Dan Poulson



Anchorage, Alaska

From: [Hannah Hill](#)
To: [Transportation](#)
Subject: Opposing HB 386
Date: Thursday, March 14, 2024 2:02:27 PM

Note: HB 386 is the companion bill to SB 255

Good Afternoon House Transportation Committee -

My name is Hannah Hill & I am a resident of Fairbanks, Alaska. I am writing today to express my opposition to HB 386.

Not only does this bill invent thought crimes ("encouraging a protest"), violate Alaskan's First Amendment rights in at least two ways (assembly & speech) & threaten Alaskans who participate in democracy but its broadly unspecific language would criminalize homelessness in public spaces under the new "obstruction of free passage" crime.

For years, I have worked in homeless services here in Fairbanks & see how such thoughtless laws harm Alaska's most vulnerable residents every single day. I am deeply concerned at the impact this bill will have on my freedoms, the freedoms of my fellow Alaskans & the safety of Alaska's homeless residents. We do not need to invent new crimes for old actions that are already illegal (as civil disobedience - such as blocking roads, etc - already is).

HB 386 creates more problems than it solves & proposes to do so at the expense of Alaskan's protected freedoms. I encourage the Committee not to pass this overreaching, unconstitutional bill.

Thank you for your time,

-Hannah C. Hill
Fairbanks, Alaska

"Love is an act of will,
both an action & an intention."
-bell hooks

From: tosh bygosh [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 14, 2024 2:11 PM
To: Transportation
Subject: NyTauscha turner Ketchikan ak and I oppose HB386

To whom it may concern,

I am NyTauscha Turner from Ketchikan Ak and I am writing to testify against HB 386 as an Alaskan and as an American I believe this bill strips us of our rights to protest our freedom to express ourselves. With possible jail time and fines for opposing our government is just another nail in the coffin to a fascist state this bill protects no one but those in power. We as the American people are the Government you represent us you should not fear listening to our concerns and you should not be blocking us from voicing them through our fundamental right of protest.

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Earl Williams Jr](#)
To: [Transportation](#)
Subject: Regarding HB 386
Date: Thursday, March 14, 2024 2:34:09 PM

Note: HB 386 is the companion bill to SB 255

Hello My Name is Earl Williams Jr
I'm from Sitka, Alaska

So regarding HB 386 The AntiProtest Bill. I encourage everyone to Vote No on it. Don't mess with my 1st Amendment Rights. Again Vote No on it thanks

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From: [Anthony Bossler](#)
To: [Transportation](#)
Subject: Opposition to HB386
Date: Thursday, March 14, 2024 2:14:14 PM

Note: HB 386 is the companion bill to SB 255

Hello,

If I live in Anchorage near Wonder Park Elementary. I'm writing to voice my opposition to HB386. It is an undermining of the first amendment and leaves to much grey area for harshly penalizing law abiding citizens exercising their right to protest. Under this proposed bill felony charges could be given out if the government or law enforcement deems "anything as an obstruction to public safety." I urge all members of the legislature to vote NO on this proposal.

Thank you
Anthony

From: Aviate your real estate dreams, with Angie Marie <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, March 15, 2024 9:49 AM
To: Transportation
Subject: OPPOSE HB 386

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Hello,

My name is Angela Marie, and I'm a resident of Anchorage. I am testifying in opposition to HB 386 because it violates my First Amendment freedom of speech and my right to assemble. This bill attempts to chill public protest and criminalize Alaskans who are exercising their constitutional rights. Please stop this bill from advancing to protect the most fundamental rights of all Alaskans.

This is Alaska not Los Angeles!!! Please stop the nonsense and taking away constitutional rights.

Thank you
Angela Marie

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Santa Claus](#)
To: [Transportation](#)
Subject: TESTIMONY RE HOUSE BILL 386: (Text and video link)
Date: Friday, March 15, 2024 12:54:36 PM
Importance: High

SANTA CLAUS OPPOSES ALASKA HB 386 LEGISLATURE 3-14-24

Alaska House Transportation Committee Chairman and Members:

I am Santa Claus, former Mayor Pro Tem of the City of North Pole, Alaska, testifying in opposition to HB 386 because, as the American Civil Liberties Union, the ACLU of Alaska, emphasizes, it violates my First Amendment freedom of speech and my right to assemble freely in public places.

The ACLU notes that HB 386 would create the new crime of "obstruction of free passage in public places," which is constitutionally problematic; and, the language would capture a broad range of activity, contains no exceptions for lawful speech and protest, and proposes criminal consequences for everything from protests to homelessness.

Again, as ACLU Alaska points out, the First Amendment of our Constitution prohibits any laws that abridge the freedom of speech, interfere with the right to peaceably assemble, or prohibit citizens from petitioning for a governmental redress of grievances.

It was adopted into the U.S. Bill of Rights in 1791. Furthermore, the Court has interpreted the Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment as protecting the rights in the First Amendment from interference by state governments; and, that includes Alaska.

Alaska's Constitution's Declaration of Rights in Article 1, Section 5 reads, "Every person may freely speak, write, and publish on all subjects, being responsible for the abuse of that right." And, Section 6 reads, "The right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government shall never be abridged."

During his inauguration, Governor Dunleavy took this oath, "I do solemnly swear or affirm that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States of America and the Constitution of the State of Alaska, and that I will faithfully discharge my duties as Governor for the State of Alaska to the best of my ability."

If HB 386 becomes law, as currently written, the Governor will have violated his oath and neglected his duty to support and defend the Constitutions and subjected himself to the prospect of a recall under Alaska's Constitution Section 11.8 for his neglect of duties, as provided in Alaska Statute 15.45.510.

Again, I respectfully request that you all **oppose House Bill 386**. Thank you!

Here is the link to a video of my TESTIMONY on HB 386:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9eP4Gswp41Y>

From: [Kristine Schmidt](#)
To: [Senate Transportation Committee](#)
Subject: Please Vote No on HB 386/SB 255
Date: Monday, March 18, 2024 5:03:46 PM

Dear Committee Members Kaufman, Wilson, Tobin, Kiehl and Myers:

The Alaska Constitution, Article I, Declaration of Rights, Section 6, recognizes the right of the people "peaceably to assemble." I am writing to oppose HB 386 and SB 255, which would interfere with Alaskans' constitutional right to freely assemble in public places. These bills are vague, make a felony out of what is now merely an offense or misdemeanor, and do not give notice in the language of the actual conduct that would constitute a crime, but leaves it up to "someone" else to decide.

As far as I am aware, this bill is not addressing any critical issue in Alaska right now. It's just overkill and frankly, part a frightening trend to criminalize ordinary behavior. Please vote against moving this bill to the House floor.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kristine A. Schmidt

[REDACTED]

Kenai, Alaska 99611

[REDACTED]

From: [Mel Langdon](#)
To: [Senate Transportation Committee](#); [House Transportation](#)
Subject: HB386 / SB 255
Date: Monday, March 18, 2024 5:25:04 PM


Dear Transportation committee members in the House and Senate,

As we saw in the 1960s, the right to demonstrate and assemble in public places is an essential way for marginalized people to assert their rights. "The only weapon we have in our hands ... is the weapon of protest," said the eloquent M.L.King Jr. Relevant to this bill, and to current conditions in Russia and China, Dr. King went on to say, "If we were incarcerated behind the iron curtains of a communistic nation - we could;t do this. If we were trapped in the dungeon of a totalitarian regime - we could do this. But the great glory of American democracy is the right to protest for the right." And that particularly includes public spaces in the great state of Alaska.

I write to you opposing HB 386/ SB 255, which would crack down on Alaskans' ability to protest, demonstrate, and freely assemble in public places. This bill is vague and broad and proposes criminal consequences for everything from protests to homelessness. It would hold Alaskans civilly liable for exercising their constitutionally afforded rights without consideration for protected speech and other First Amendment defenses.

HB 386/ SB 255 does not work to address a current issue within Alaska. This legislation does not make Alaskans safer or address a current problem for people protesting across the state. It sends a threatening message to protesters that effectively chills free speech.

Freedom of speech and freedom to assemble are fundamental rights enjoyed by all Alaskans and Americans. Please oppose HB 386/ SB 255 to protect Alaskans' First Amendment rights.

Sincerely,
Mel Langdon

Anchorage

From: [Sue I. Sherif](#)
To: [House Transportation](#); [Senate Transportation Committee](#)
Subject: HB386/SB255
Date: Tuesday, March 19, 2024 1:46:50 PM

Dear Senate and House Transportation Committees:

I question the rationale for HB386/SB 255. Terrorist-type disruptive activity is one thing, but peaceful, group protest is an established American tradition and should not be felonized. Protestors are often willing to be arrested as a symbol of their commitment to the right to free speech, but the proposed legislation endangers their rights under the First Amendment.

We celebrate the Boston Tea Party as a landmark in our history, but would its destruction of property and interference in the shipping trade of the time in order to protest taxation without representation be a felonious act under this legislation? Would the celebrated protestors, who peacefully protested, rather than using force, and who won women's right to vote and demonstrated effectively against Jim Crow laws in the 1950's and 1960's--many of whom were in fact arrested in these peaceful acts-- be considered felons rather than heroes of our democracy?

What problem is this legislation trying to solve? There are already laws against willful destruction of public property or endangering human life. My reading of the proposed law makes me think it is written so vaguely that the state is courting rulings of unconstitutionality and many subsequent lawsuits. It would unintentionally or intentionally be putting a damper on Alaskans' ability to gather and to express their opinions and disenfranchise protestors who become convicted felons.

With all the important issues your committees and the legislature faces on our behalf, this proposal seems to be a waste of important legislative time. Please do not advance this bill.

Sue Sherif

Residence:

[REDACTED]

Fairbanks, AK 99712

[REDACTED]

Note: HB 386 is the companion bill to SB 255

From: [Susan A](#)
To: [House Transportation](#); [Rep. Frank Tomaszewski](#); [Senate Transportation Committee](#)
Subject: HB386
Date: Tuesday, March 19, 2024 2:09:55 PM

HB 386 is a clear first amendment violation and violates my freedom of speech, my rights to assemble, and attempts to set up a new criminal charge for using those Constitutional rights.

This bill is a clearly meant as a scare tactic used to silence some Alaskans. I urge you all to strong oppose this bills passage.

Susan Allmeroth
Two Rivers
Myself

From: [T. Tallant](#)
To: [House Transportation](#); [Senate Transportation Committee](#)
Subject: HB 386 and SB 225
Date: Tuesday, March 19, 2024 6:16:50 PM

Dear Alaska Legislators,

I'm writing to say I oppose HB 386 and SB 225 because it violates my First Amendment freedom of speech rights and my right to assemble. This bill will stifle public protest and criminalize Alaskans who exercise their constitutional rights. Please stop this bill from advancing. Protect the rights of all Alaskans to protest peacefully and to assemble.

Sincerely,

Thomas Tallant
Anchorage, Alaska