

Konrad Jackson

From: Sen. Elvi Gray-Jackson
Sent: Thursday, May 02, 2024 4:37 PM
To: Sf Mistress; Senate Labor and Commerce; Sen. Jesse Bjorkman; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. Kelly Merrick; Sen. Forrest Dunbar
Cc: Kerry Crocker; besse.odem@akleg.gov; Keith.Bauguess@akleg.gov; Arielle Wiggin
Subject: RE: Oppose HB 254

Dear Terra, Maxine, Amber and Kat,

Thank you for writing and sharing your thoughts on HB254.

Sincerely,

"Representing Your Interests"

SENATOR ELVI GRAY-JACKSON

District G

*Serving Spenard, Midtown,
and Campbell*

120 4th St, Room 30

Juneau, AK 99801

907-465-4930



From: Sf Mistress <sfmistress@gmail.com>

Sent: Saturday, April 27, 2024 10:15 PM

To: Senate Labor and Commerce <Senate.Labor.And.Commerce@akleg.gov>; Sen. Elvi Gray-Jackson <Sen.Elvi.Gray-Jackson@akleg.gov>; Sen. Jesse Bjorkman <Sen.Jesse.Bjorkman@akleg.gov>; Sen. Click Bishop <Sen.Click.Bishop@akleg.gov>; Sen. Kelly Merrick <Sen.Kelly.Merrick@akleg.gov>; Sen. Forrest Dunbar <Sen.Forrest.Dunbar@akleg.gov>

Cc: Kerry Crocker <Kerry.Crocker@akleg.gov>; besse.odem@akleg.gov; Keith.Bauguess@akleg.gov; Arielle Wiggin <Arielle.Wiggin@akleg.gov>

Subject: Oppose HB 254

Re: Oppose HB254

April 28, 2024

Dear Alaska Senate Labor And Commerce Committee,

We are opposed to HB 254.

The amendments in HB 254 do not change our continued opposition. HB 254 as written continues to present significant dangers to the safety and privacy of everyone online, but especially those working

in the sex trades. We see clearly that the passage of this law would make the work of an already marginalized population more tenuous and dangerous. We strongly urge you to vote no on this law.

While HB 254 ostensibly targets “pornography,” the law uses sweeping language that includes liability for both “descriptions” and “depictions” (images, art, and text) of as little as a drawing of a breast. We are concerned that the law would be used to target and censor not just sexually explicit content, but our existence online, from personal websites and advertising platforms to resource hubs for sex workers.

Following the passage of FOSTA-SESTA, a federal law that also created vague platform liability, we saw an immediate censorship of resources that kept us safe, and a [rise in unsafe working conditions and sex trafficking](#).

We also see that this law will be used to target us individually. The provisions for the law are vague and allow for civil lawsuits against those who post adult content online. Unfortunately, due to piracy, we are not always in control of where our images go after we have posted them online. Something that is posted to a secure, age-verified site, can easily travel without our knowledge or consent to other platforms, where this bill would make us vulnerable to litigation and harassment.

This is not an unwarranted fear. When Germany passed regulation similar to the law being considered in Alaska, the overwhelming majority of those prosecuted [were small, independent content creators](#) and everyday users who were sharing adult content on Twitter. Unlike large platforms, most of us do not have resources to fight lawsuits or legal harassment.

But it's not just those of us who work in the industry who should be concerned. Information about one's sex and sexuality is incredibly sensitive and private, and few people are willing to sacrifice their anonymity when disclosure of that information can be used against them. We have seen hack after hack of databases, and leaks of private information, including in states that have passed these laws.

Ask yourself: would you feel secure uploading your ID and undergoing a face scan to access an adult site? Under the provisions of the law, the government or other databases used to verify identity by third-parties can keep and track this information.

This gives the private enterprises far too much power over our privacy and our private lives. It creates technical tools on adult websites that can be breached and expose our private information and used to harass us and other citizens. [Recently](#) a large healthcare provider sent out notifications that 13.4 million of its members' information were exposed. This is especially dangerous here in Alaska, the rape capital of the US, home of serial killers like Robert Hansen, Brian Smith, and others who famously targeted sex workers, and the state with the [second highest per capita](#) rate of serial killing.

We ask that for all of our safety and privacy, you vote no on HB 254 until the broad language and serious issues raised above can be addressed.

Thank you,

Terra Burns
Maxine Doogan
Amber Nickerson
Kat McElroy