

HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE
March 26, 2009
5:15 p.m.

5:15:31 PM

CALL TO ORDER

Co-Chair Stoltze called the House Finance Committee meeting to order at 5:15 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Representative Mike Hawker, Co-Chair
Representative Bill Stoltze, Co-Chair
Representative Allan Austerman
Representative Harry Crawford
Representative Anna Fairclough
Representative Richard Foster
Representative Les Gara
Representative Reggie Joule
Representative Mike Kelly
Representative Woodie Salmon

MEMBERS ABSENT

Representative Bill Thomas, Jr., Vice-Chair

ALSO PRESENT

Representative John Coghill, Sponsor

PRESENT VIA TELECONFERENCE

Tyler Preston, Juneau; Jeannette Lacey Dunn, Juneau; Britteny Cioni, Juneau; Rosanne Curran, Cordova; Jennifer Grimwood, Cordova; Dr. Jan Whitefiels, Anchorage; Sandy Barette, Wasilla; Barbara Reilly, Anchorage; Chrissa Phillips, Anchorage; Steve Bradley, Anchorage; Raymond Rzeszut, Anchorage; Amanda Metivier, Foster Care Alaska, Anchorage; Jan DeLand, Self, Anchorage; Christian Rawalt, Self, Anchorage; Mary Penick, Self, Fairbanks; Katherine Mowery, Self, Fairbanks; Laura Horning, Self, Mat-Su; Sarah Case, Fairbanks; Doug McKinnis, Mat-Su; Francesca Ridenour, Fairbanks; Schaeffer Cox, Fairbanks; Linda Shea, Fairbanks; Ruth Ewig, Fairbanks; Latanya Semones, Fairbanks; Ken Thesing, Fairbanks; Janine McCready, Fairbanks; Carol Wilkinson, Tok; Christine Grangaard, Tok; Sidney Glasscock, Anchorage; Carol Glasscock, Anchorage; Anmei Goldsmith, Anchorage; Paige Hodson, Anchorage; Brittany Goodnight, Anchorage; Molly Beich, Anchorage; Monique Karaganis, MD, Polar Pediatrics, Anchorage; Tiffany D. McClain, Self, Anchorage; Bob Hawkins, Self, Fairbanks; Trisha Hulse, Self, Anchorage; Kate Finn, Self, Anchor Point; Judith Moses,

Self, Fairbanks; Stefanie Martin, Self, Anchorage; Stefanie Latzel, Self, Yakutat; Devon Schroeder, Self, Anchorage; Bamirse Papraniku, Self, Anchorage; Chris Reynolds, Anchorage; Megan Malone, Anchorage; Jennifer Johnson, Fairbanks; Erica Thompson, Kodiak; Joelle Hall, Peters Creek; Robert Sotherlin, Anchorage; Tanya Pletzer, Reno, Nevada

GENERAL SUBJECT(S):

#hb35
 HB 35 - NOTICE & CONSENT FOR MINOR'S ABORTION

Public Testimony

The following overview was taken in log note format. Handouts will be on file with the House Finance Committee through the 26th Legislative Session, contact 465-6814. After the 26th Legislative Session they will be available through the Legislative Library at 465-3808.

[5:15:52 PM](#)

TIME	SPEAKER	DISCUSSION
5:15:56 PM	TYLER PRESTON, JUNEAU testified via teleconference	Expressed opposition to HB 35. He stressed the importance of communication within families. He suggested spending more money on prevention.
5:19:39 PM	JEANNETTE LACEY DUNN, JUNEAU testified via teleconference	Spoke against HB 35. She referenced the 2007 Supreme Court ruling and mentioned excessive legal costs. She suggested providing education and funding prevention.
5:21:56 PM	BRITTENY CIONI, JUNEAU testified via teleconference	Spoke in opposition to the bill based on the economic ramifications. She suggested putting funding toward prevention.
	Representative Gara	Voiced appreciation for the previous speakers' testimonies.
5:26:37 PM	ROSANNE CURRAN, CORDOVA testified via teleconference	Testified in favor of HB 35. She shared medical procedures that require parental consent and stressed parental rights.
5:28:23 PM	JENNIFER GRIMWOOD, CORDOVA testified via teleconference	Spoke in support of HB 35. She listed ways parents support their children.
5:30:34 PM	DR. JAN WHITEFIELDS, ANCHORAGE	Said he was available to answer questions.

	testified via teleconference	
	Representative Gara	Referred to page 2, lines 23 - 30, regarding when a doctor would be allowed to perform an abortion in a medical emergency. In that case, parental consent is not required. He questioned the language in (B), "a serious risk of medical instability caused by a substantial and irreversible impairment of a bodily function".
	Dr. Whitefiels	Explained that a physician would not necessarily know if a condition is reversible or not. He thought the problem was the wording "clinical judgment", which could be challenged in court and result in a criminal offense. He thought the words resulted in a "grey area" and a "chilling nature". He thought it had potential to harm a pregnant minor.
	Representative Gara	Concluded that there would be a risk of not performing an abortion and permanently damaging the minor. He asked under what type of conditions that might happen.
	Dr. Whitefiels	Gave some examples of potential dangerous medical situations such as toxemia and pre-eclampsia.
	Representative Gara	Questioned the meaning of line 29.
	Dr. Whitefiels	Replied that the language "medical instability caused by" was not clear to him and was very subjective.
	Representative Gara	Suggested on line 27, "can perform an abortion if necessary to avert the minor's death or to avert as substantial risk of serious harm to the minor."
	Dr. Whitefiels	Thought it would clarify the language, but it was still subjective.
	Representative Kelly	Asked Dr. Whitefiels if he had ever performed an abortion to save the mother's life or to avoid substantial impairment to a bodily function.
	Dr. Whitefiels	Said he had.
5:39:39 PM	Representative Gara	Questioned the 48-hour wait. He wondered if it applied to any other medical procedure. Dr. Whitefiels did not know of any others.
5:40:30 PM	Representative	Asked if Dr. Whitefiels had ever

	Kelly	performed an elective abortion.
	Dr. Whitefiels	Reported that he had.
	Representative Kelly	Inquired about Dr. Whitefiels' use of the word "chilling".
	Dr. Whitefiels	Opined that the intent of the bill is for the betterment of the pregnant minor. He explained his version of "chilling nature".
5:41:59 PM	Representative Kelly	Asked if the category "life threatening" was rare.
	Dr. Whitefiels	Related that it was not common.
5:42:36 PM	Representative Gara	Referenced page 2, lines 28-30. He wondered if the language was left unchanged, whether there was a concern of permanent bodily damage to young women.
	Dr. Whitefiels	Commented that it was a legitimate concern, although uncommon.
5:43:30 PM	SANDY BARETTE, WASILLA testified via teleconference	Testified in favor of HB 35. She thought parents should have ultimate authority.
5:46:49 PM	BARBARA REILLY, ANCHORAGE testified via teleconference	Spoke against HB 35 due to the expense generated by the bill. She opposed legislating morality. She shared a personal story.
5:50:27 PM	Representative Foster	Noted that he has nine foster children.
5:50:49 PM	CHRISSE PHILLIPS, ANCHORAGE testified via teleconference	Spoke in support of HB 35. She talked about protecting parental rights.
5:53:28 PM	STEVE BRADLEY, ANCHORAGE testified via teleconference	Testified in opposition to HB 35. He encouraged the committee to make the best decision based upon fact.
5:54:19 PM	RAYMOND RZESZUT, ANCHORAGE testified via teleconference	Spoke in support of HB 35. He spoke of the parental right to consent.
5:57:02 PM	AMANDA METIVIER, FOSTER CARE ALASKA, ANCHORAGE testified via teleconference	Testified in opposition to HB 35. She mentioned the trouble that children in foster care would have in working within the confines of the bill.
5:58:57 PM	Representative Gara	Expressed concern with the possibility that a person who may have no

		relationship or knowledge of the minor could be making this decision for the minor.
6:00:27 PM	Representative Foster	Spoke of a letter sent by a testifier. He wanted to point out that committee members should be present until the testimonies are concluded.
6:01:22 PM	JAN DELAND, SELF, ANCHORAGE testified via teleconference	Voiced support for HB 35. She stated that statistically breast cancer rates are higher in women who had abortions at a young age. She also cited birth control pills as a cause of breast cancer in women. She elaborated on the ills and possible health complications of abortion. She felt that the act of abortion was "against nature".
6:06:15 PM	CHRISTIAN RAWALT, SELF, ANCHORAGE testified via teleconference	Spoke in support of HB 35. He felt that the Supreme Court had overstepped proper legislative channels in its previous ruling. He mentioned the health risks associated with abortion.
6:09:32 PM	MARY PENICK, SELF, FAIRBANKS testified via teleconference	Spoke in support of HB 35. She felt that the decision to have an abortion should be shared with the parents of the teen. She felt that adoption was a viable option.
6:12:10 PM	KATHERINE MOWERY, SELF, FAIRBANKS testified via teleconference	Spoke in support of HB 35. She shared that she had been told to abort her son. She felt that parents know what is best for their children.
6:13:39 PM	LAURA HORNING, SELF, MAT-SU testified via teleconference	Testified in support of HB 35. She spoke of parental responsibilities.
6:15:56 PM	SARAH CASE, FAIRBANKS testified via teleconference	Testified in favor of HB 35. She shared a personal story. She did not want abusers to get away with their crimes.
6:18:30 PM	DOUG MCKINNIS, MAT-SU testified via teleconference	Urged support for HB 35. He maintained that parents should have consent.
6:22:34 PM	FRANCESCA RIDENOUR, FAIRBANKS testified via teleconference	Shared a personal story. She testified in favor of HB 35. She spoke of parental duties.
6:25:20 PM	SCHAEFFER COX, FAIRBANKS testified via teleconference	Testified in favor of HB 35. He thought the issues related to the pregnancy should be examined. He was not in favor of education as a means of prevention.

6:29:23 PM	LINDA SHEA, FAIRBANKS testified via teleconference	Spoke of loss of parental rights. She testified in favor of the bill. She shared a personal story.
6:31:44 PM	RUTH EWIG, FAIRBANKS testified via teleconference	Noted she was pro-family. She testified in favor of HB 35.
6:34:54 PM	LATANYA SEMONES, FAIRBANKS testified via teleconference	Spoke from a rural Native perspective. She urged opposition to the bill. She emphasized the value of prevention education.
6:36:35 PM	KEN THESING, FAIRBANKS testified via teleconference	Testified in support of HB 35. He termed the family "the sovereign nation".
6:40:47 PM	JANINE MCCREADY, FAIRBANKS testified via teleconference	Urged support for HB 35. She spoke of the emotional complexities of abortion.
6:43:50 PM	CAROL WILKINSON, TOK testified via teleconference	Testified in support of HB 35. She discussed the emotional trauma associated with abortions. She thought that the minor would benefit from the support of her parents.
6:44:20 PM	CHRISTINE GRANGAARD, TOK testified via teleconference	Spoke in support of HB 35. She stated that she found the language in the bill generous and accommodating toward minors.
6:46:15 PM	SIDNEY GLASSCOCK, ANCHORAGE testified via teleconference	Expressed support for HB 35. He stressed parental rights.
6:48:33 PM	CAROL GLASSCOCK, ANCHORAGE testified via teleconference	Voiced support for HB 35. She believed that a minor is not a woman and should have parental consent to have an abortion.
6:50:25 PM	ANMEI GOLDSMITH, ANCHORAGE testified via teleconference	Testified in opposition to HB 35. She maintained that if the bill passes, it would be overruled. She wondered how to involve the fathers of the unborn.
	Co-Chair Stoltze	Pointed out that the sponsor suggested involving the fathers.
6:53:01 PM	PAIGE HODSON, ANCHORAGE testified via teleconference	Spoke in opposition to HB 35. She talked of the expense involved with this legislation. She spoke of the burden to the courts and to foster

		care. She emphasized the need for prevention.
6:57:51 PM	BRITTANY GOODNIGHT, ANCHORAGE testified via teleconference	Testified against HB 35. She spoke of the expenses related to the bill. She voiced concern with the judicial bypass.
7:00:59 PM	MOLLY BEICH, ANCHORAGE testified via teleconference	Spoke in support of HB 35. She shared a personal story.
7:03:40 PM	MONIQUE KARAGANIS, MD, POLAR PEDIATRICS, ANCHORAGE testified via teleconference	Spoke in opposition to HB 35. She felt that teens who could not get an abortion in-state would seek out second trimester abortions out-of-state.
7:06:29 PM	TIFFANY D. MCCLAIN, SELF ANCHORAGE testified via teleconference	Expressed opposition for HB 35. She stressed that the bill endangered the well being of teenage girls in Alaska. She spoke in support of comprehensive sexual education throughout the state.
7:08:48 PM	BOB HAWKINS, SELF, FAIRBANKS testified via teleconference	Voiced support for HB 35. He mentioned that some of these pregnancies may be as a result of statutory rape. He felt that the bill upheld family values. He expressed concern that older men were preying on underage minors. He voiced that the issue was one of common sense.
7:12:38 PM	TRISHA HULSE, SELF, ANCHORAGE testified via teleconference	Expressed opposition to HB 35. She stresses that not all minors have caring adults to help them navigate through the choices abortion presents. She felt that children in the system would suffer most.
7:14:22 PM	KATE FINN, SELF, ANCHOR POINT testified via teleconference	Testified in opposition to HB 35. She shared stories of supportive families. She countered that sometimes the family members of the minor are more harmful than helpful. She stressed that sometimes the support the child needs cannot be found within the family alone.
7:19:21 PM	JUDITH MOSES, SELF, FAIRBANKS testified via teleconference	Spoke in opposition to HB 35. She felt that families with an open dialogue do not need this bill. She felt that the court process the bill presents could be intimidating to minors.
7:20:47 PM	STEFANIE MARTIN, SELF, ANCHORAGE testified via	Testified in opposition to HB 35. She expressed concern with the time limits presented in the bill.

	teleconference	
7:22:24 PM	STEFANIE LATZEL, SELF, YAKUTAT testified via teleconference	Expressed opposition to HB 35. She stressed that parents are not always available to help with decision making and that not all families are traditional families.
7:23:32 PM	DEVON SCHROEDER, SELF, ANCHORAGE testified via teleconference	Spoke in opposition of HB 35. Stressed that Planned Parenthood was not available primarily for abortions but helped in providing affordable health care. She felt that choices should start at home, but that young women should be allowed to make their own choices.
7:26:35 PM	BAMIRSE PAPERANIKU, SELF, ANCHORAGE testified via teleconference	Expressed opposition for HB 35. She expressed concern for minors without strong family support to begin with. She advocated for sex education.
7:29:42 PM	CHRIS REYNOLDS, ANCHORAGE testified via teleconference	Spoke of his work as a mental health therapist. He testified in opposition to HB 35. He discussed the difference between parental notification and parental consent. He spoke of his experience as a foster parent of at-risk children.
7:33:16 PM	MEGAN MALONE, ANCHORAGE testified via teleconference	Testified against HB 35. She spoke of the costs involved when a teen is forced to have a child.
7:35:45 PM	JENNIFER JOHNSON, FAIRBANKS testified via teleconference	Spoke in favor of HB 35. She pointed out that teen pregnancy is on the rise in spite of sex education.
7:37:36 PM	ERICA THOMPSON, KODIAK testified via teleconference	Voiced opposition to HB 35. She shared a personal experience. She listed the difficulties of being a teen parent.
7:41:24 PM	JOELLE HALL, PETERS CREEK testified via teleconference	Testified in opposition to HB 35. She detailed her role as a parent and emphasized the right of her daughter to make her own choices about reproduction. She argued that there is no correlation between abortion and any other medical procedure.
7:45:21 PM	ROBERT SOTHERLIN, ANCHORAGE testified via teleconference	Spoke in opposition to HB 35. The bill is not needed in healthy homes. He supported sex education.

7:47:22 PM	TANYA PLETZER, RENO, NEVADA testified via teleconference	Testified in support of HB 35. She shared a personal story.
7:56:44 PM	Representative Gara	Noted a memo from March 26, 2009, in the members' packets.
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<u>ADJOURNMENT</u> The meeting was adjourned at 7:56 PM		