

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
HOUSE COMMUNITY AND REGIONAL AFFAIRS STANDING COMMITTEE

April 18, 2023

8:04 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Representative CJ McCormick, Chair
Representative Kevin McCabe, Vice Chair
Representative Tom McKay
Representative Josiah Patkotak
Representative Justin Ruffridge
Representative Rebecca Himschoot
Representative Donna Mears

MEMBERS ABSENT

All members present

COMMITTEE CALENDAR

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 77(CRA) AM

"An Act relating to municipal property tax; and providing for an effective date."

- MOVED HCS CSSB 77(CRA) OUT OF COMMITTEE

HOUSE BILL NO. 99

"An Act relating to and prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity or expression."

- HEARD & HELD

PREVIOUS COMMITTEE ACTION

BILL: SB 77

SHORT TITLE: MUNI PROP TAX EXEMPTION/TAX BLIGHTED PROP

SPONSOR(S): SENATOR(S) DUNBAR

02/22/23	(S)	READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
02/22/23	(S)	CRA
03/16/23	(S)	CRA AT 1:30 PM BELTZ 105 (TSBldg)
03/16/23	(S)	Heard & Held
03/16/23	(S)	MINUTE(CRA)
03/23/23	(S)	CRA AT 1:30 PM BELTZ 105 (TSBldg)
03/23/23	(S)	-- MEETING CANCELED --
03/28/23	(S)	CRA AT 1:30 PM BELTZ 105 (TSBldg)

03/28/23 (S) Moved CSSB 77(CRA) Out of Committee
03/28/23 (S) MINUTE(CRA)
03/29/23 (S) CRA RPT CS 5DP SAME TITLE
03/29/23 (S) DP: DUNBAR, GRAY-JACKSON, OLSON,
GIESSEL, BJORKMAN
04/11/23 (S) TRANSMITTED TO (H)
04/11/23 (S) VERSION: CSSB 77(CRA) AM
04/12/23 (H) READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
04/12/23 (H) CRA, FIN
04/13/23 (H) CRA AT 8:00 AM BARNES 124
04/13/23 (H) Heard & Held
04/13/23 (H) MINUTE(CRA)
04/18/23 (H) CRA AT 8:00 AM BARNES 124

BILL: HB 99

SHORT TITLE: DISCRIMINATION: GENDER ID.;SEXUAL ORIENT.
SPONSOR(S): REPRESENTATIVE(S) ARMSTRONG

03/08/23 (H) READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
03/08/23 (H) L&C, CRA, JUD
03/15/23 (H) L&C AT 3:15 PM BARNES 124
03/15/23 (H) <Bill Hearing Canceled>
03/17/23 (H) L&C AT 3:15 PM BARNES 124
03/17/23 (H) Heard & Held
03/17/23 (H) MINUTE(L&C)
03/20/23 (H) L&C AT 3:15 PM BARNES 124
03/20/23 (H) Heard & Held
03/20/23 (H) MINUTE(L&C)
03/27/23 (H) L&C AT 3:15 PM BARNES 124
03/27/23 (H) Moved HB 99 Out of Committee
03/27/23 (H) MINUTE(L&C)
03/29/23 (H) L&C RPT 3DP 3NR 1AM
03/29/23 (H) DP: FIELDS, CARRICK, SUMNER
03/29/23 (H) NR: SADDLER, WRIGHT, RUFFRIDGE
03/29/23 (H) AM: PRAX
04/11/23 (H) CRA AT 8:00 AM BARNES 124
04/11/23 (H) Heard & Held
04/11/23 (H) MINUTE(CRA)
04/18/23 (H) CRA AT 8:00 AM BARNES 124

WITNESS REGISTER

SENATOR FORREST DUNBAR
Alaska State Legislature
Juneau, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: As prime sponsor, presented CSSB 77(CRA).

MARGARET AUTH, representing self
Anchorage, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in support of SB 77.

ARI BARGIL, Senior Attorney
Institute for Justice
Fort Lauderdale, Florida

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified during the hearing on SB 77.

CHRIS SCHUTTE, representing self
Anchorage, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in support of SB 77.

SAM SPIEGELMAN, Attorney
Pacific Legal Foundation
Seattle, Washington

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified during the hearing on SB 77.

BETHANY MARCUM
Alaska Policy Forum
Anchorage, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in opposition to SB 77.

DENNIS HULL
Americans for Tax Reform
Washington, DC

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in opposition to SB 77.

MIKE ROBBINS, Executive Director
Anchorage Community Development Authority
Anchorage, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Gave invited testimony in support of SB 77.

BILL POPP, President & CEO
Anchorage Economic Development Corporation
Anchorage, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Gave invited testimony in support of SB 77.

JENNIE ARMSTRONG
Alaska State Legislature
Juneau, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: As prime sponsor, presented HB 99.

TRISTAN WALSH, Staff
Representative Jennie Armstrong
Alaska State Legislature
Juneau, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Answered questions on HB 99 on behalf of Representative Armstrong, prime sponsor.

HAYLEE WILSON
Kenai, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Gave invited testimony in support of HB 99.

JOSH SMITH
Chugiak, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Gave invited testimony in support of HB 99.

MICHAEL FLINT
Anchorage, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Gave invited testimony in support of HB 99.

MORGAN LIM
Planned Parenthood
Juneau, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in support of HB 99.

CRYSTAL HOWARD, representing self
Wasilla, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in support of HB 99.

RANDY GRIFFIN, representing self
Fairbanks, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in opposition to HB 99.

SHAWN GARDNER, representing self
Anchorage, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in support of HB 99.

KC CASORT, representing self
Fairbanks, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in support of HB 99.

MENEKA THIRU, representing self
Anchorage, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in support of HB 99.

ROSE O'HARA, representing self
Anchorage, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in support of HB 99.

REBECCA BERNARD, representing self
Anchorage, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in support of HB 99.

BRYAN MULKERN, representing self
Anchorage, Alaska
POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in support of HB 99

MICHAEL GARVEY
Alaska Civil Liberties Union
Anchorage, Alaska
POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in support of HB 99.

THEA SCALISE, representing self
Anchorage, Alaska
POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in support of HB 99.

LIV SWONGER, representing self
Anchorage, Alaska
POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in support of HB 99.

ALEX PETKANAS, representing self
Anchorage, Alaska
POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in support of HB 99.

RICK ANDERSON, representing self
Nome, Alaska
POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in support of HB 99.

KATE VEH, representing self
Soldotna, Alaska
POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in support of HB 99.

KARINA KOWALSKI, representing self
Fairbanks, Alaska
POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in support of HB 99.

PHILLIP MOSER, representing self
Juneau, Alaska
POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in support of HB 99.

BROOK BEVERIDGE, representing self
Anchorage, Alaska
POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in support of HB 99.

JESSICA ROZATO, representing self
Denali Park, Alaska
POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in support of HB 99.

DAN POLSEN, representing self

Anchorage, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in support of HB 99.

EARL WILLIAMS JR., representing self

Sitka, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in support of HB 99.

JACOB POWEL, representing self

Anchorage, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in support of HB 99.

DOUG KOESTER, representing self

Juneau, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in support of HB 99.

JESSICA PHILLIPS, representing self

Anchorage, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in support of HB 99.

VIKKI JO KENNEDY, representing self

Juneau, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in support of HB 99.

ED MARTIN, representing self

Kenai, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in opposition to HB 99.

MOIRA PYHALA, representing self

Anchorage, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in support of HB 99.

HANNAH WARREN, representing self

Anchorage, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in support of HB 99.

JOHN HESSERT, representing self

Willow, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified during the hearing of HB 99.

ACTION NARRATIVE

[8:04:14 AM](#)

CHAIR CJ MCCORMICK called the House Community and Regional Affairs Standing Committee meeting to order at 8:04 a.m. Representatives McKay, Patkotak, Mears, McCabe, and McCormick

were present at the call to order. Representatives Himschoot and Ruffridge arrived as the meeting was in progress.

SB 77-MUNI PROP TAX EXEMPTION/TAX BLIGHTED PROP

[8:05:19 AM](#)

CHAIR MCCORMICK announced that the first order of business would be CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 77(CRA) am, "An Act relating to municipal property tax; and providing for an effective date."

[8:05:35 AM](#)

SENATOR FORREST DUNBAR, Alaska State Legislature, as prime sponsor, presented SB 77, which is the companion to HB 84 from Representative Sumner that would provide two optional tools to municipalities for the purposes of (indisc.) construction and property development. He offered his understanding that there may be an amendment offered today in reference to defining the term "blighted".

[8:06:58 AM](#)

CHAIR MCCORMICK opened public testimony on CSSB 77(CRA).

[8:07:20 AM](#)

MARGARET AUTH, representing self, testified in support of SB 77. She explained she has lived in Spenard [Anchorage], Alaska, for 35 years and is an active member of the Spenard Community Council. She described her activity working in code enforcement to try to get some movement on abandoned and derelict properties, as well as working with the assembly to make housing more affordable. She pointed out that the abandoned houses tend to be used for drug dens and squatters, which in turn can also become fire hazards and lead to lower property values.

[8:10:59 AM](#)

ARI BARGIL, Senior Attorney, Institute for Justice, stated his concern is that there is no definition of "blight", and his interest is in finding out what the proposed amendment will contain.

[8:13:17 AM](#)

CHRIS SCHUTTE, representing self, testified in support of SB 77. He stated the timing of the bill is critical; housing is in dire need in Alaska, and the costs of construction of new homes are at all-time highs. He encouraged the committee to pass the bill and allow the state to help develop neighborhoods and communities across Alaska.

[8:14:35 AM](#)

SAM SPIEGELMAN, Attorney, Pacific Legal Foundation, cautioned that the lack of definition for any sort of "blight" opens floodgates for local abuse of the definition.

[8:17:54 AM](#)

BETHANY MARCUM, Alaska Policy Forum, testified in opposition to SB 77. She stated the bill under consideration would give Alaska's boroughs and municipalities "carte blanche" to call commercial and some personal properties "blighted," and then levy taxes on those properties. As written, there are no guardrails for defining what constitutes "blighted" property to protect Alaska property owners from this "government overreach."

[8:20:51 AM](#)

DENNIS HULL, Americans for Tax Reform, testified in opposition to SB 77. He stated that it would be one of the broadest frameworks for local blight tax authorizations in the nation, and municipalities would have to ability to adopt any definition of "blight" that they like, as well as impose a very heavy new tax burden amongst the 60 percent.

[8:23:32 AM](#)

CHAIR MCCORMICK, after ascertaining that there was no one else who wished to testify, closed public testimony on SB 77.

[8:23:47 AM](#)

MIKE ROBBINS, Executive Director, Anchorage Community Development Authority, gave invited testimony in support of SB 77. He explained the first part of the bill is an economic incentive to help drive housing development across the state. The second part of the bill he called a "blighted incentive." He explained that currently, municipalities have no tools available to encourage redevelopment of blighted properties, and the blighted section of the bill would give municipalities the

tools they need to help redevelop needed housing and other commercial property.

[8:27:14 AM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE MCCABE asked Mr. Robbins to explain how the bill would benefit more than just Anchorage.

MR. ROBBINS explained that he had been involved in conversations as the Community Development Authority contemplated the legislation, and blighted in Bethel, Alaska, is different than blighted in Anchorage, Alaska. Local municipalities need to have some leeway to be able to define what that means within their jurisdiction. The amendment would provide the right kind of guardrails for that.

[8:29:31 AM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE MCKAY expressed that he is a defender of private property rights, and asked if there is a mechanism for appeal - to give the property owner a place to say whether a property is blighted or not.

MR. ROBBINS replied it is not the intention of the bill to violate private property rights. He envisioned that for each locale would be an arduous but complete public process. The municipality would go through steps to notify the property owner ahead of time with ample time to submit a plan.

[8:31:56 AM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE MCKAY stated his belief that it is important for a property owner to have a chance to defend themselves and not get "railroaded."

MR. ROBBINS affirmed this is not a punitive measure. The goal through the bill would be that cities can work with property owners to encourage redevelopment - not take anything away.

[8:33:22 AM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE MEARS observed in the amendment several opportunities for remediation and working with local governments to improve things.

MR. ROBBINS agreed and said the intention behind the bill is to offer multiple opportunities for the property owner to work with the city for redevelopment.

[8:34:26 AM](#)

MR. ROBBINS, in response to a question from Representative McCabe, reiterated that as the legislation was contemplated, municipalities would have the ability to create a system of support. The intention behind the bill is not to collect more tax, but to encourage redevelopment.

[8:37:12 AM](#)

MR. ROBBINS, in response to Representative Himschoot, related that there are at least 18 states that have defined "blighted" to varying degrees, but it has worked in most of those states. The first resort would not be to "whack someone with a blighted tax," he remarked. In response to a follow-up question, he said the other states have provided a guide for municipalities to manage their own processes at the local level.

[8:39:36 AM](#)

BILL POPP, President & CEO, Anchorage Economic Development Corporation, testified in support of SB 77, in particular the tax abatement language in the bill is an important new tool added to the "limited toolbox" that already exists.

[8:41:25 AM](#)

CHAIR MCCORMICK moved to adopt Amendment 1 to CSSB 77(CRA), labeled 33-LS0416\S.A.3, Dunmire, 4/17/23, which read:

Page 2, line 13, following "blighted;":

Insert "the standards must include the following requirements:

(A) the condition of the property endangers public health and safety;

(B) the property has been declared a public nuisance under a local housing, building, plumbing, fire, or other related code or ordinance;

(C) the property has been vacant for not less than one year;

(D) the unsecured, vacant, or deteriorated state of the property has caused it to become the subject or center of repeated illegal activity; and

- (E) the property is
- (i) open to the elements;
- (ii) unfit for occupancy; or
- (iii) a fire hazard;"

[8:41:54 AM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE PATKOTAK objected for the purpose of discussion.

CHAIR MCCORMICK withdrew his motion to adopt Amendment 1, in response to Representative McCabe pointing out he was the maker of the amendment.

[8:42:06 AM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE MCCABE moved to adopt Amendment 1 to CSSB 77(CRA), labeled 33-LS0416\S.A.3, Dunmire, 4/17/23, [text previously provided]. He explained Amendment 1 would define "blighted" and set the controls that are necessary to flesh out Section 2 of the bill, regarding "blighted tax".

[8:43:59 AM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE HIMSCHOOT inquired about the intent of a conceptual amendment for Amendment 1 [in the committee packet and not yet offered].

[8:44:59 AM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE MCCABE moved to adopt Conceptual Amendment 1 to Amendment 1. There being no objection, Conceptual Amendment 1 to Amendment 1 was adopted. [Included in the committee packet is a page from Representative McCabe that describes the intent of Conceptual Amendment 1 to Amendment 1, and which read as follows [original punctuation provided]:

This is a conceptual amendment. Legislative Legal is directed to make any changes or deletions to the suggested language, including technical, conforming, or bill title changes, in order accomplish the intent.

INTENT OF AMENDMENT: To add language clarifying that the definition of "blighted" may include one, some, or all of the items listed on the amendment. As currently written, it could be interpreted that all of the descriptions in the amendment are necessary in order for a property to be deemed "blighted".

Suggested Language:

Page 1, line 9, following "activity;"
Delete "and"
Insert "or"

8:45:20 AM

REPRESENTATIVE PATKOTAK removed his objection to Amendment 1, [as amended]. There being no further objection, Amendment 1, as amended, was adopted.

[8:46:03 AM](#)

SENATOR DUNBAR, in closing, expressed appreciation for the comments heard and the work done by the committee to help improve the bill. He stated he hoped everyone can move forward together and increase the amount of housing in the state.

[8:47:28 AM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE MCCABE reemphasized that under the proposed legislation, a municipality would not "take your home from under you," and the language assures that.

[8:48:39 AM](#)

The committee took an at-ease from 8:48 a.m. to 8:51 a.m.

[8:51:52 AM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE MCCABE moved to report CSSB 77(CRA), as amended, out of committee with individual recommendations and the accompanying fiscal notes, and to authorize Legislative Legal Services to make any conforming and technical changes necessary to implement the intent of the committee.

[8:52:21 AM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE PATKOTAK objected.

[8:52:25 AM](#)

The committee took a brief at-ease at 8:52 a.m.

[8:52:30 AM](#)

[The objection by Representative Patkotak was treated as removed.]

CHAIR MCCORMICK announced there being no objection, HCS CSSB 77(CRA) was reported out of the House Community and Regional Affairs Standing Committee.

[8:53:04 AM](#)

The committee took an at-ease from 8:53 a.m. to 8:56 a.m.

HB 99-DISCRIMINATION: GENDER ID.;SEXUAL ORIENT.

[8:56:34 AM](#)

CHAIR MCCORMICK announced that the final order of business would be HOUSE BILL NO. 99, "An Act relating to and prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity or expression."

[8:56:56 AM](#)

JENNIE ARMSTRONG, Alaska State Legislature, as prime sponsor, presented HB 99. She stressed that the bill would make sure that sex means the same thing across all the subject areas. She noted there is not one community of people that would have a special or protected class; the bill would encompass all [based on sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression] to be treated the same.

[8:58:47 AM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE MCCABE requested more of a description of what "gender expression" means.

REPRESENTATIVE ARMSTRONG replied that as defined in the bill, and confirmed with Legislative Legal Services, "gender identity or expression" means having or being perceived as having or expressing a gender, self-image, appearance, or behavior, regardless of whether that gender, self-image, appearance, or behavior is different from that traditionally associated with the sex assigned to that person at birth. She reiterated an example from the last hearing regarding different perceptions of what it is to be "feminine" or "masculine," and the idea that gender is not something that can be used as a way to discriminate against anyone.

[9:01:20 AM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE MCCABE brought up a scenario on someone's appearance hindering them from buying a house and the resulting lawsuits it could create. He stated his concern that [the definitions in the bill] are not "narrow" enough.

REPRESENTATIVE ARMSTRONG replied that half of the state is already under non-discrimination ordinances, and she stressed there is a very high bar for proof in such a scenario.

[9:03:06 AM](#)

TRISTAN WALSH, Staff, Representative Jennie Armstrong, Alaska State Legislature, expanded on the answer to Representative McCabe and referenced [Bostock v. Clayton County] regarding gender identity.

[9:04:46 AM](#)

CHAIR MCCORMICK welcomed invited testimony on HB 99.

[9:05:22 AM](#)

HAYLEE WILSON, representing self, provided invited testimony in support of HB 99. She gave a background of her career as a health clinician and explained her experience working directly with Alaska residents thus giving her the opportunity to see people from various demographics throughout the state. She described the impact discrimination has on the labor force and stated that workplace moral impacts mental health. She stated that HB 99 would not only positively impact the workplace and mental health of the lesbian, bisexual, gay, transgender, queer, plus (LBGTQ+) community but also reduce the economic burden of those whom legislation had previously not protected.

[9:10:39 AM](#)

JOSH SMITH, representing self, gave invited testimony in support of HB 99 and provided his background as a tenured U.S. Air Force veteran, where he had enlisted under the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" (DADT) policy. He described the emotional turmoil and discrimination he experienced both personally and professionally before the culture shifted. He explained while there were some developing workplace regulations addressing discrimination on the base, none existed outside. He became concerned about

"bigger events in his life," such as when he purchased a home. He opined that it is time for the state government to recognize that discrimination has no place in Alaska, and language matters.

[9:15:21 AM](#)

MICHAEL FLINT provided invited testimony in support of HB 99. He described one of his experiences with discrimination when purchasing a home with his VA Home Loan with his husband, and the banker tried several times to convince him to remove his husband from the loan. He ended up going with a national bank for the loan. He stressed that the message should be that all are welcome in Alaska, and the LGBTQ+ community just wants the same protections as anyone else.

[9:19:17 AM](#)

CHAIR MCCORMICK opened public testimony on HB 99.

[9:19:41 AM](#)

MORGAN LIM, Planned Parenthood, testified in support of HB 99. He thanked the committee members for their leadership in addressing this issue and urged them to pass the bill.

[9:22:01 AM](#)

CRYSTAL HOWARD, representing self, testified in support of HB 99, noting the state does not currently have a civil rights law that explicitly includes sexual orientation and gender identity.

[9:23:39 AM](#)

RANDY GRIFFIN, representing self, testified in opposition to HB 99, describing the bill as a "sneaky" law, changing the definition of sex; it should just say "sexual orientation." He stated he is against all anti-discrimination laws directed at the private sector.

[9:26:12 AM](#)

SHAWN GARDNER, representing self, testified in support of HB 99. She noted Alaska being at the forefront of civil rights, and she posited that the state should keep following that path.

[9:27:50 AM](#)

KC CASORT, representing self, testified in support of HB 99, and she stated she would be "overjoyed" if it passed this year.

[9:29:58 AM](#)

MENEKA THIRU, representing self, testified in support of HB 99, and she expressed concern about discrimination against unprotected communities.

[9:31:21 AM](#)

ROSE O'HARA, representing self, testified in support of HB 99. She stated the LGBTQ community is not asking for extra, just equal, and she urged support for HB 99.

[9:33:32 AM](#)

REBECCA BERNARD, representing self, testified in support of HB 99 and expressed her view that this is a commonsense bill that would extend legal protections from discrimination to people who are not already covered.

[9:35:23 AM](#)

BRYAN MULKERN, representing self, testified in support of HB 99. He stated there is no logical reason to continue to permit discrimination that is arbitrary against Alaska citizens, and Alaska law should protect all of Alaska.

[9:38:26 AM](#)

MICHAEL GARVEY, Alaska Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), testified in support of HB 99. He expressed his belief that HB 99 would put LGBTQ people in a better position to have what anyone else wants: a home, economic security, and to feel welcome in their community.

[9:40:13 AM](#)

THEA SCALISE, representing self, testified in support of HB 99. She stated she echoed the testifier statements of support that preceded hers.

[9:41:17 AM](#)

LIV SWONGER, representing self, testified in support of HB 99 and stated the bill is "truly a beacon of hope and light."

[9:43:11 AM](#)

ALEX PETKANAS, representing self, testified in support of HB 99. He stated all LGBTQ+ Alaskans deserve explicit protection from discrimination.

[9:45:20 AM](#)

RICK ANDERSON, representing self, testified in support of HB 99. He stated he would like to see the state provide all citizens a safe place to live.

[9:45:57 AM](#)

KATE VEH, representing self, testified in support of HB 99.

[9:47:43 AM](#)

KARINA KOWALSKI, representing self, testified in support of HB 99, not only for herself but for her children's safety.

[9:49:01 AM](#)

PHILLIP MOSER, representing self, testified in support of HB 99.

[9:51:32 AM](#)

BROOK BEVERIDGE, representing self, testified in support of HB 99.

[9:53:02 AM](#)

JESSICA ROZATO, representing self, testified in support of HB 99 and voiced her support for human rights for all of Alaska.

[9:53:54 AM](#)

DAN POLSEN, representing self, testified in support of HB 99. He stated groups left vulnerable to discrimination would also magnify economic harm, and if the bill passed, it would bring Alaska law in harmony with federal law.

[9:56:38 AM](#)

EARL WILLIAMS JR., representing self, testified in support of HB 99.

[9:57:06 AM](#)

JACOB POWEL, representing self, testified in support of HB 99, and stated his belief that the bill is part of a fiscal plan for Alaska.

[9:59:34 AM](#)

DOUG KOESTER, representing self, testified in support of HB 99.

[10:00:45 AM](#)

JESSICA PHILLIPS, representing self, testified in support of HB 99, and stated if there is a way to stop discrimination, then it should be done.

[10:01:09 AM](#)

VIKKI JO KENNEDY, representing self, testified in support of HB 99. She stated the bill should finally be passed so "we" can "move on."

[10:02:53 AM](#)

ED MARTIN, representing self, testified in opposition to HB 99. He referenced the Alaska constitution and pointed out the various rights already in place.

[10:05:29 AM](#)

MOIRA PYHALA, representing self, testified in support of HB 99, because, she opined, it is "morally correct."

[10:07:42 AM](#)

HANNAH WARREN, representing self, testified in support of HB 99.

[10:08:14 AM](#)

JOHN HESSERT, representing self, testified during the hearing on HB 99.

[10:10:30 AM](#)

CHAIR MCCORMICK noted the email address public testifiers are to use if they were unable to testify today and still wished to do so.

[10:10:55 AM](#)

CHAIR MCCORMICK closed public testimony on HB 99.

[10:11:24 AM](#)

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the committee, the House Community and Regional Affairs Standing Committee meeting was adjourned at 10:11 a.m.