

**ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
HOUSE JUDICIARY STANDING COMMITTEE**

February 26, 2024

1:33 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Representative Sarah Vance, Chair
Representative Jamie Allard, Vice Chair
Representative Ben Carpenter
Representative Craig Johnson
Representative Andrew Gray
Representative Cliff Groh

MEMBERS ABSENT

Representative Jesse Sumner

COMMITTEE CALENDAR

HOUSE BILL NO. 238

"An Act relating to criminal mischief in the third degree; and providing for an effective date."

- HEARD & HELD

HOUSE BILL NO. 107

"An Act relating to criminal law definitions."

- HEARD & HELD

HOUSE BILL NO. 265

"An Act changing the term 'child pornography' to 'child sexual abuse material.'"

- BILL HEARING CANCELED

PREVIOUS COMMITTEE ACTION

BILL: HB 238

SHORT TITLE: CRIMINAL MISCHIEF 3RD DEGREE

SPONSOR(S): REPRESENTATIVE(S) JOSEPHSON

01/16/24	(H)	PREFILE RELEASED 1/8/24
01/16/24	(H)	READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
01/16/24	(H)	JUD
02/26/24	(H)	JUD AT 1:30 PM GRUENBERG 120

BILL: HB 107

SHORT TITLE: CRIMINAL LAW DEFINITIONS PERSON/LIFE

SPONSOR(S): REPRESENTATIVE(S) MCCABE

03/13/23	(H)	READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
03/13/23	(H)	HSS, JUD
04/12/23	(H)	HSS REFERRAL REMOVED
04/12/23	(H)	BILL REPRINTED
02/21/24	(H)	JUD AT 1:00 PM GRUENBERG 120
02/21/24	(H)	-- MEETING CANCELED --
02/23/24	(H)	JUD AT 1:30 PM GRUENBERG 120
02/23/24	(H)	Heard & Held
02/23/24	(H)	MINUTE(JUD)
02/26/24	(H)	JUD AT 1:30 PM GRUENBERG 120

WITNESS REGISTER

REPRESENTATIVE ANDY JOSEPHSON

Alaska State Legislature

Juneau, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: As prime sponsor, presented HB 238.

ALEXANDER SCHROEDER, Staff

Representative Andy Josephson

Alaska State Legislature

Juneau, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Presented a PowerPoint, titled "HB 238: Criminal Mischief in the Third Degree," on behalf of Representative Josephson, prime sponsor.

DONNA BELL, representing self

Juneau, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified during the hearing on HB 107.

STARLA MILLER, representing self

Juneau, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified during the hearing on HB 107.

SALIM HOUCK, representing self

Juneau, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in opposition to HB 107.

NOAH WILLIAMS, representing self

Juneau, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in opposition to HB 107.

CRYSTAL JOHNSON, representing self
Juneau, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in opposition to HB 107.

MUKHYA KHALSA, representing self
Juneau, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in opposition to HB 107.

MEGAN BYRNE, representing self
Anchorage, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in opposition to HB 107.

VICTORIA ROSEN, representing self
Anchorage, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in opposition to HB 107.

AARON ROSEN, representing self
Anchorage, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in opposition to HB 107.

COLIN ROSEN, representing self
Anchorage, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in opposition to HB 107.

KC CASORT, representing self
Palmer, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in opposition to HB 107.

LAURA GUDSCHINSKY, representing self
North Pole, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in opposition to HB 207.

LILY OVERLAND, representing self
Palmer, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in opposition to HB 107.

EMMA WILSON, representing self
Anchorage, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in opposition to HB 107.

ANN DOUGHERTY, representing self
Anchorage, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in opposition to HB 107.

AMBER SOUDERS, representing self
Kenai, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in opposition to HB 107.

BENJAMIN PRESTON, representing self
Anchorage, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in opposition to HB 107.

JESSICA VAN AUSDAL, representing self
Palmer, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in opposition to HB 107.

DEZARAE ARROWSUN, representing self
Juneau, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in opposition to HB 107.

MARGO REVEIL, representing self
Homer, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in opposition to HB 107.

MICHAEL GARVEY
American Civil Liberties Union, Alaska
Anchorage, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in opposition to HB 107.

JAMIE TRAPP, representing self
Anchorage, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in opposition to HB 107.

ANNIE HUGHHEY, representing self
Girdwood, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in opposition to HB 107.

HANNAH HOLDER, representing self
Wasilla, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in opposition to HB 107.

JUSTIN PRESLEER, representing self
Anchorage, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in opposition to HB 107.

LAURIE WALTON, representing self
Fairbanks, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in opposition to HB 107.

DAVID FREY, representing self
Fairbanks, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in opposition to HB 107.

JACLYN RANDALL, representing self

Palmer, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in opposition to HB 107.

SUE STEINACHER, representing self

Nome, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in opposition to HB 107.

SERENE O'HARA-JOLLEY

Planned Parenthood Alliance Advocates

Anchorage, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in opposition to HB 107.

JOSH SMITH, representing self

Anchorage, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in opposition to HB 107.

SUSANNE BOLIN, representing self

Anchorage, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in favor of HB 107.

DENISE MILLER, representing self

Eagle River, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in opposition to HB 107.

REGAN BERRY, representing self

Fairbanks, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in opposition to HB 107.

ROBIN SMITH, representing self

Anchorage, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in opposition to HB 107.

TERRA BURNS

Advocate, Community United for Safety and Protection

Fairbanks, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in opposition to HB 107.

MAXINE DOOGAN

President, Community United for Safety and Protection

Fairbanks, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in opposition to HB 107.

ADRIAN WILBER, representing self

Sitka, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in opposition to HB 107.

DAVID POPPE, representing self

Nenana, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in opposition to HB 107.

KIMBERLY RAMOS, representing self

Juneau, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in opposition to HB 107.

CAROLINE IMIOLEK, representing self

Anchorage, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in opposition to HB 107.

CHANCE DONOVAN, representing self

Anchorage, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in opposition to HB 107.

SHANTI TREVELYAN, representing self

Eagle River, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in opposition to HB 107.

MIKAYLA RICHARDSON, representing self

Anchorage, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in opposition to HB 107.

MARIAH BENNETT, representing self

Anchorage, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in opposition to HB 107.

HEIDI FROST, representing self

Anchorage, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in opposition to HB 107.

TERRI LYONS, representing self

Wasilla, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in support of HB 107.

ASHLEY FRANKLIN, MD, representing self

Fairbanks, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in opposition to HB 107.

JOAN FRANZ, representing self

Fairbanks, Arizona

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in opposition to HB 107.

EPHRAIM FROEHLICH, representing self

Juneau, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in opposition to HB 107.

WILL MULDOON, representing self
Juneau, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in opposition to HB 107.

CARLY JENSEN, representing self
Eagle River, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in opposition to HB 107.

MICHAEL PATTERSON
Party for Socialism and Liberation
Anchorage, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in opposition to HB 107.

ACTION NARRATIVE

[1:33:51 PM](#)

CHAIR VANCE called the House Judiciary Standing Committee meeting to order at 1:33 p.m. Representatives Carpenter, C. Johnson, Gray, Groh, Allard, and Vance were present at the call to order.

HB 238-CRIMINAL MISCHIEF 3RD DEGREE

[1:35:09 PM](#)

CHAIR VANCE announced that the first order of business would be HOUSE BILL NO. 238, "An Act relating to criminal mischief in the third degree; and providing for an effective date."

[1:35:22 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE ANDY JOSEPHSON, Alaska State Legislature, prime sponsor of HB 238, introduced himself for the record.

[1:35:45 PM](#)

The committee took a brief at-ease.

[1:36:13 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE JOSEPHSON paraphrased the sponsor statement [included in the committee packet], which read as follows [original punctuation provided]:

The Anti-Defamation League reports that recent years have seen the most antisemitic vandalism since they started reporting in 1979. The Municipality of Anchorage saw at least two notable incidences of vandalism on churches: a nazi symbol of the lawn of Mountain City Church and spray-painted phallic symbols on St. Andrew Catholic church. Instances such as these show that 1) targeted vandalism based on religious worship can affect anybody, and 2) we should not treat these types of crime as simple property damage.

HB 238 amends AS 11.46.482: Criminal Mischief in the 3rd Degree to include a common criminal law known as "Institutional Vandalism." Forty-two states and the District of Columbia have passed laws which emphasize and punish criminal behavior related to the destruction of property used for, or owned by, a place of worship or the site of burial or cemetery.

Alaska already makes it a C felony to deface, desecrate, or destroy a cemetery or place of burial under AS 11.46.482. Without that specific language, desecrating a cemetery would fall under typical destruction of property. Typical destruction of property is punished based on the value of the property:

- C felony if the property value was \$750 or more (AS 11.46.482);
- A misdemeanor if the property value was between \$250 and \$750 (AS 11.46.484);
- B misdemeanor if the property value was less than \$250 (AS 11.46.486)

Destruction of religious property or place of worship is treated like any other property crime; Therefore, it falls under the above measures. HB 238 would make any intentional desecration of religious property or place of worship a C felony just like vandalism to a place of burial.

[1:41:35 PM](#)

CHAIR VANCE sought questions from committee members.

[1:41:42 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE GRAY asked whether mosques, Buddhist temples, and other places of worship would be included in the bill.

REPRESENTATIVE JOSEPHSON answered in the affirmative.

[1:42:36 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE JOSEPHSON read an excerpt from a book by Phyllis Gerstenfeld, titled "The ADL Perspective on Hate Crimes." He noted that in the aggravating section of Alaska Statutes, there is no inclusion of religion. Consequently, if someone were targeted for their religious belief, the Alaska courts would not enhance the punishment.

[1:45:40 PM](#)

ALEXANDER SCHROEDER, Staff, Representative Andy Josephson, Alaska State Legislature, on behalf of Representative Josephson, prime sponsor of HB 238, explained that there are five criminal mischief statutes with the first degree being a class A felony and the fifth degree being a class B misdemeanor. The intent of the bill, he explained, is to reclassify what would fall between the third and fifth degrees - or "institutional vandalism" - under the third degree. He directed attention to a PowerPoint, titled "HB 238: Criminal Mischief in the Third Degree" [hard copy included in the committee packet].

[1:46:54 PM](#)

MR. SCHROEDER began on slide 2, "Institutional Vandalism," which read as follows [original punctuation provided]:

- Intentional defacement, damage, or desecration of a building of worship.
- 42 states and D.C. make this a distinct crime from property damage.
- US Department of Justice and FBI report an increase in recent years of crimes to property motivated by religious bias.

[1:48:17 PM](#)

MR. SCHROEDER continued to slide 3, which exhibited the states with institutional vandalism laws/statutes. He proceeded to

slide 4, "Why Do we Need This Bill?" Slide 4 read as follows [original punctuation provided]:

- Vandalism to a place of worship is currently treated as a typical property crime.
- National and global events have a lead to an increase in these types of crimes, both nationally and locally.
- In 2022 (most recent data), crimes against property and religion as a bias motivating factor accounted for 80% of all hate crimes.*

[1:50:30 PM](#)

MR. SCHROEDER proceeded to slide 5, titled "Hate Crime Incidents in 2022 (Alaska)," which broke down the bias motivation categories for hate crimes. He indicated that in 2022, 80 percent of hate crimes fell under the religion category.

[1:50:58 PM](#)

MR. SCHROEDER moved to slide 6, which featured images showing local examples of religious desecration. He reiterated that the intent of the bill is to cover such instances within criminal mischief in the third degree.

REPRESENTATIVE ALLARD said she appreciated Representative Josephson for bringing the bill forward and felt that the issue was "near and dear" to his heart.

[1:52:26 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE C. JOHNSON, referencing the photo on the right of slide 6, asked whether the Nazi symbol burned into the ground would be covered by the bill.

REPRESENTATIVE JOSEPHSON theorized that that it may not be covered because, although it is real property used for a religious purpose, the bill provides for the defacement damage or desecration of a "building, structure, or personal property" used for worship or any other religious purpose.

[1:53:42 PM](#)

MR. SCHROEDER said he would follow up with the requested information. He concluded on slide 7, "What Does HB 238 Do?" Slide 7 read as follows [original punctuation provided]:

1. Elevates any intentional vandalism to a religious institution to a C Felony.
2. Exempts authorized intentional damage by an employee of the institution.
3. Provides for an immediate effective date.

This ensures that no matter the value of property damaged, vandalism of a place of worship is treated the same:

- There is no dollar value that can be placed on psychological and/or spiritual harm.
- The bill's language will house places of worship and places of burial in Criminal Mischief in the Third Degree.

MR. SCHROEDER added that the value of property should not be the measure for punishment. He pointed out that the free exercise of religion is a First Amendment right for a reason and opined that these types of crimes encroach on that right by causing spiritual and psychological harm.

[1:56:05 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE JOSEPHSON said it strikes him as inconsistent that the building next door deserves less protection than a place of burial or cemetery, which when desiccated or defaced, is provided for under current law.

CHAIR VANCE sought questions from committee members.

[1:56:40 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE GRAY highlighted the 182 percent increase in violence against Muslims between the three weeks following October 7. He sought to confirm that the purpose of the affirmative defense outlined in Section 2 of the bill is to protect someone who might tear down a wall in a church as part of his/her job.

REPRESENTATIVE JOSEPHSON answered in the affirmative.

CHAIR VANCE announced that HB 238 would be held over.

[1:58:12 PM](#)

The committee took an at-ease from 1:58 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

HB 107-CRIMINAL LAW DEFINITIONS PERSON/LIFE

[2:00:20 PM](#)

CHAIR VANCE announced that the final order of business would be HOUSE BILL NO. 107, "An Act relating to criminal law definitions."

CHAIR VANCE opened public testimony on HB 107.

[2:01:41 PM](#)

DONNA BELL, representing self, testified during the hearing on HB 107. She shared that she was sexually assaulted and physically abused by the father of her child while pregnant. Her abuser eventually gained joint custody of her child. She said abortion is a choice for women to make and emphasized that women should not be forced to have a child "that they cannot have."

[2:04:22 PM](#)

STARLA MILLER, representing self, testified during the hearing on HB 107. She shared that she had an abortion for health reasons because of placenta attachment. She said she believed in "my body, my choice" and that [abortion] should be allowed whether it be for a medical emergency, a rape, or simply a choice.

[2:06:01 PM](#)

SALIM HOUCK, representing self, testified in opposition to HB 107. She pointed out that the Alaska Constitution protects the right to abortion, and that bills, such as 107, are expensive. She reported that the state had paid \$4.1 million in legal fees defending unconstitutional, anti-abortion legislation, which is repeatedly overturned. She commented on optics, opining that spending millions on anti-abortion bans would make it clear that the legislature cares more about what women do with their bodies than the children who live and learn in Alaska.

[2:07:18 PM](#)

NOAH WILLIAMS, representing self, testified in opposition to HB 107. He shared the following statement from a friend who had left Alaska, "If I had gotten pregnant from my rape and didn't have access to abortion, I one hundred percent would have taken twelve gauge to my head." He said Alaska's youth are leaving the state because of intrusions on their bodies. He urged a "no" vote on HB 107.

[2:08:34 PM](#)

CRYSTAL JOHNSON, representing self, testified in opposition to HB 107. She pointed out that even now, women die in childbirth. She opined that the proposed legislation would force people to go "back alley" where they can die too. She stressed that the legislature should not take away a woman's right to choose.

[2:09:49 PM](#)

MUKHYA KHALSA, representing self, testified in opposition to HB 107. She opined that voting for an anti-abortion bill and against helping people out of the womb is not convincingly "pro-life." She said she believes in choice and opposed the bill.

[2:11:13 PM](#)

MEGAN BYRNE, representing self, testified in opposition to HB 107. She shared her belief that should the bill pass, Alaskan women would suffer, and deaths would occur because physicians would be afraid of the legal repercussions for performing life saving measures. Further she believed that it would prevent many physicians from moving to Alaska to practice.

[2:12:09 PM](#)

VICTORIA ROSEN, representing self, testified in opposition to HB 107.

[2:12:34 PM](#)

AARON ROSEN, representing self, testified in opposition to HB 107. He opined that it would have far-reaching consequences in the areas of in vitro fertilization (IVF), abortion, and contraception - matters that should remain in the domain of health professionals, not legislators pushing their political ideologies. In addition, he shared his belief that it is inappropriate for male legislators to propose the restriction of healthcare rights for their female constituents.

[2:13:49 PM](#)

COLIN ROSEN, representing self, testified in opposition to HB 107. He stressed that [abortion] should be a woman's choice.

[2:14:56 PM](#)

KC CASORT, representing self, testified in opposition to HB 107. She characterized the bill as blatantly unconstitutional and a waste of the legislature and public's time. She urged the body not to give the bill any more of its time.

[2:15:47 PM](#)

LAURA GUDSCHINSKY, representing self, testified in opposition to HB 107. She shared her belief that the bill was put forward to criminalize doctors for performing an abortion. The bill, she said, challenges her personal beliefs as well as the Alaska Constitution. She said abortion had been protected in the state for 27 years and that she would continue to show up to assure that her children would have the freedom to make decisions about their bodies and reproductive choices.

[2:17:16 PM](#)

LILY OVERLAND, representing self, testified in opposition to HB 107. She pointed out that the bill quotes Christian ideology that is over one hundred years old. She opined that the rights of an egg or fetus are not worth more than a woman's life. She added that abortion is a constitutional right and opined that woman would not get pregnant if they are afraid of becoming a criminal.

[2:18:33 PM](#)

EMMA WILSON, representing self, testified in opposition to HB 107. She said the bill is unconstitutional and in direct opposition to Alaskan voters. She characterized the bill as anti-science, ambiguous, and dangerous. She opined that the bill threatens her liberty, her life, and makes her want to leave Alaska.

[2:19:46 PM](#)

ANN DOUGHERTY, representing self, testified in opposition to HB 107. She characterized bills like HB 107 as a "smack in the

face" to Alaskan voters and an attempt at appealing to future donors.

[2:20:37 PM](#)

AMBER SOUDERS, representing self, testified in opposition to HB 107. She shared that she tried to perform an abortion on herself at the age of 14. She said the bill would endanger the life of every Alaskan and the children that it claims it's trying to protect. She opined that the bill was trying to control women and characterized it as "disgusting."

[2:22:20 PM](#)

BENJAMIN PRESTON, representing self, testified in opposition to HB 107. He said HB 107 contradicts the Alaska Constitution and is needlessly confusing and complicated. He expressed concern that the bill would endanger Alaskans and their protected access to reproductive healthcare and fertility care.

[2:23:12 PM](#)

JESSICA VAN AUSDAL, representing self, testified in opposition to HB 107. She stated that the bill is not scientific, explaining that an embryo having unique DNA does not equate to personhood. She pointed out that the level of brain development necessary for consciousness is not present in a fetus until 24 to 28 weeks of gestations and without consciousness, one cannot participate in self-determination. She recalled that the bill sponsor had described the role of a woman's body in pregnancy as "passive," which she disputed. She said the bill could lead to criminal charges being filed in cases of abortion, adding that doctors and pregnant people should never fear criminal charges while providing or receiving healthcare.

[2:24:39 PM](#)

DEZARAE ARROWSUN, representing self, testified in opposition to HB 107. She shared her belief that the bill is a clear attempt to criminalize doctors for performing abortions. She characterized HB 107 as a back door attempt at overturning the constitutional right to obtain a legal abortion. In addition, she argued that the bill would violate Article 1, Section 4 of the Alaska Constitution.

[2:25:56 PM](#)

MARGO REVEIL, representing self, testified in opposition to HB 107. She pointed out that not every sperm to egg contact is viable, nor does every division of cell support life. She said she does not trust politicians with strong religious convictions to create appropriate and effective reproductive laws that prioritize individual health and liberty. She highlighted the doctor shortage crisis, specifically in Alaska, noting that states with abortion bans were losing doctors.

[2:27:26 PM](#)

MICHAEL GARVEY, American Civil Liberties Union, Alaska, testified in opposition to HB 107. He shared his belief that the bill is unconstitutional because it would add broad definitions to criminal code, which would put providers and people seeking a range of reproductive healthcare behind bars and deter the provision of care. Further, he opined that the vague definitions would create tremendous confusion with existing statute.

[2:28:51 PM](#)

JAMIE TRAPP, representing self, testified in opposition to HB 107. She shared her belief that the bill would not honor Alaska's women and healthcare providers, and that the state's people should be prioritized.

[2:29:25 PM](#)

ANNIE HUGHHEY, representing self, testified in opposition to HB 107. She said studies have shown that denying women free access to abortion does not reduce the number of abortions; however, it increases the number of unsafe abortions. She characterized the bill as a death sentence to Alaskan women.

[2:30:00 PM](#)

HANNAH HOLDER, representing self, testified in opposition to HB 107. She voiced her opinion that the bill would threaten the right of privacy for Alaskan citizens. She opined that the proposed definitions of life were written in purposely vague language, which would lead to a large degree of litigation.

[2:31:23 PM](#)

JUSTIN PRESLER, representing self, testified in opposition to HB 107. He characterized the bill as blatantly undermining the

rights of Alaskans and a backdoor method to imposing religious beliefs upon constituents.

[2:32:02 PM](#)

LAURIE WALTON, representing self, testified in opposition to HB 107. She said the bill is out of line with "mainstream Alaskans" and unconstitutional. She opined that legislators should not be interfering with the healthcare decisions of Alaskan women.

[2:32:42 PM](#)

DAVID FREY, representing self, testified in opposition to HB 107. He opined that the bill was designed to intimidate doctors from performing lifesaving abortions. He shared that his wife underwent a lifesaving abortion and emphasized the importance of not allowing HB 107 to pass.

[2:33:56 PM](#)

JACLYN RANDALL, representing self, testified in opposition to HB 107. She shared that for someone hoping to have children, the bill is terrifying. She urged the committee to support the right to privacy and oppose the legislation.

[2:34:40 PM](#)

SUE STEINACHER, representing self, testified in opposition to HB 107. She stressed that in the U.S. there is no consensus of people's religious beliefs regarding the stage at which human life should be protected. For that reason, she argued that every woman should have the right to choose without government intervention.

[2:35:52 PM](#)

SERENE O'HARA-JOLLEY, Planned Parenthood Alliance Advocates, testified in opposition to HB 107. She said the bill could criminalize doctors for providing any abortion care and blatantly violates the Alaska Constitution. She reported that personhood bills create confusion and chaos in the legal system and often result in the surveillance and criminalization of pregnant people. HB 107 could also have ramifications for those attempting to use assisted reproductive technologies, including IVF, she said.

[2:37:18 PM](#)

JOSH SMITH, representing self, testified in opposition to HB 107. He pointed out that courts have repeatedly upheld the reproductive freedom under the right to privacy in the Alaska Constitution. He characterized the attempt to circumvent that as problematic. He believed that in a free society, it is imperative that reproductive freedom remains a personal choice.

[2:38:42 PM](#)

SUSANNE BOLIN, representing self, testified in favor of HB 107. She reported that the Latin definition of "fetus" is small child and stated that the use of abortion as birth control is terrible.

[2:40:05 PM](#)

DENISE MILLER, representing self, testified in opposition to HB 107. She pointed out that a fertilized egg requires a womb to develop a baby and said the bill would put a nonviable organism on the same footing as a human being. It would adversely impact healthcare and access to contraceptives, she opined. She stated that the bill would be disastrous to women and families in Alaska.

[2:41:28 PM](#)

REGAN BERRY, representing self, testified in opposition to HB 107. She said the bill is unconstitutional and that she moved to Alaska to escape this type of legislation. She opined that the bill threatened Alaskans' privacy rights and stressed her opposition to HB 107.

[2:42:34 PM](#)

ROBIN SMITH, representing self, testified in opposition to HB 107. She reminded the committee that Alaska has the highest rate of rape in the country, arguing that women and children should not be forced to carry a child when raped. In addition, she opined that the bill is poorly written.

[2:43:55 PM](#)

TERRA BURNS, Advocate, Community United for Safety and Protection, testified in opposition to HB 107. She characterized the redefinitions as part of an agenda to

criminalize Alaskans and control women's bodies, which is dangerous for Alaska, public safety, and women.

[2:44:39 PM](#)

MAXINE DOOGAN, President, Community United for Safety and Protection, testified in opposition to HB 107. She said the attempts to redefine terms are part of the Christian fascist movement whose real agenda is to impose their world view at any cost. She urged the committee to oppose HB 107 because it would strip the right to bodily autonomy from all women and children and is against Alaskan values.

[2:46:03 PM](#)

ADRIAN WILBER, representing self, testified in opposition to HB 107 for the reasons stated by many of the previous testifiers.

[2:46:27 PM](#)

DAVID POPPE, representing self, testified in opposition to HB 107. He shared his experience as an EMT and how the bill would negatively impact his profession. Further, he said anything that can be frozen and brought back to vitality is not a person.

[2:48:10 PM](#)

KIMBERLY RAMOS, representing self, testified in opposition to HB 107. She said it's estimated that up to 20 percent of all pregnancies end in miscarriage, for which medical or surgical abortion is often the only safe and compassionate option for treatment. She said her four-month-old baby exists today because she had a medical abortion after her miscarriage. The bill is unconstitutional, she said, and threatens fertility treatments like IVF and forms of contraception. She said religious beliefs should not determine access to healthcare.

[2:49:22 PM](#)

CAROLINE IMIOLEK, representing self, testified in opposition to HB 107. She stated that abortions will continue whether legal or not and highlighted the dangers of omitting women's access to medical care. She urged the legislature to prioritize Alaskans and women's rights.

[2:50:22 PM](#)

CHANCE DONOVAN, representing self, testified in opposition to HB 107. He pointed out that the bill would deny pregnant children as young as 12 the medical care they need.

[2:51:26 PM](#)

SHANTI TREVELYAN, representing self, testified in opposition to HB 107. She said she does not support any law that restricts a woman's' right to decide any and all healthcare matters. She reasoned that a baby cannot be frozen, and therefore, an embryo is not a baby. She characterized HB 107 as religious ideology that would violate established Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) laws.

[2:52:32 PM](#)

MIKAYLA RICHARDSON, representing self, testified in opposition to HB 107. She shared that she was four years old when she was raped by her pro-life foster dad. She opined that "taking care of the children" should start with the corrupt foster care system.

[2:53:21 PM](#)

MARIAH BENNETT, representing self, testified in opposition to HB 107. She shared her belief that the government has no business being involved in women's personal healthcare decisions.

[2:53:58 PM](#)

HEIDI FROST, representing self, testified in opposition to HB 107. She stated that the bill is against women's health and autonomy and that poor results have been demonstrated by other states.

[2:54:31 PM](#)

TERRI LYONS, representing self, testified in support of HB 107. She asked how one could deny that a fetus is a separate life and reiterated her support for HB 107.

[2:55:18 PM](#)

ASHLEY FRANKLIN, MD, representing self, testified in opposition to HB 107. She shared her belief that the bill would have unintended consequences, such as the loss of physicians and other providers. She said that as an obstetrics provider in

Alaska, she would be afraid to help provide care to women in Anchorage with an active fetal heartrate if the bill were to pass.

[2:56:07 PM](#)

JOAN FRANZ, representing self, testified in opposition to HB 107. She opined that the bill was unconstitutional and a waste of time. She believed that reproductive care decisions belong to women and their doctors, not legislators.

[2:56:57 PM](#)

EPHRAIM FROEHLICH, representing self, testified in opposition to HB 107. He characterized the bill as poorly drafted, ill-conceived, regressive, counter to science, and harmful, in addition to unconstitutional. He said that he went to law school and the bill would not pass a Constitutional Law 101 class. Further, he said it is startling to have to continue to re-explain the state's core value of privacy, which was baked into Alaska's founding documents by its forefathers.

[2:57:58 PM](#)

WILL MULDOON, representing self, testified in opposition to HB 107. He shared his belief that the bill is poorly written and urged the legislature to do better.

[2:59:23 PM](#)

CARLY JENSEN, representing self, testified in opposition to HB 107. She said the bill is unconstitutional and goes against the right to privacy. She added that if the bill were to pass, she could not in good conscious, start family planning. She shared her belief that HB 107 would result in an exodus of working professionals and young couples.

[3:00:43 PM](#)

MICHAEL PATTERSON, Party for Socialism and Liberation, testified in opposition to HB 107, which he characterized as an attack on Alaskans, the Alaska Constitution, children, and families. He urged legislators to stop wasting people's time by inserting religion into state law and attacking women and the constitution.

[3:02:09 PM](#)

CHAIR VANCE announced that HB 107 would be held over.

3:02:40 PM

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the committee, the House Judiciary Standing Committee meeting was adjourned at 3:02 p.m.