

SJR

42

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COMMENTS**

FOR

SJR 42



PEOPLE FOR THE AMERICAN WAY

Your Voice Against Intolerance

March 11, 1998

Senator Bert Sharp
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Re: Senate Joint Resolution No. 42

Dear Senator Sharp:

I am writing on behalf of People For the American Way and our more than 700 Alaska members in opposition to Senate Joint Resolution No. 42, a mean-spirited and harmful piece of legislation that would, if passed by the legislature and approved by the electorate, amend the state Constitution by defining valid marriages as only those between persons of the opposite sex, and by prohibiting any other provision of the Constitution from being construed to require the state to recognize same-sex marriages. SJR-42 is unwise, unfair, and divisive. It violates the federal Constitution's requirement that all persons be guaranteed the equal protection of the laws, and it is completely contrary to Alaska's long tradition of individual liberty and its spirit of "live and let live." We strongly urge you to vote against it.

As you know, SJR-42 was hurriedly introduced following the recent decision by a state Superior Court Judge in Brause v. Bureau of Vital Statistics that the right to choose one's marital partner is a fundamental right, and that, in the absence of a compelling interest, the state may not discriminate against gay men and lesbians by prohibiting them from exercising their right to marry the person of their choice. The court did not hold that the state must recognize same-sex marriages, but has given the state the opportunity to prove whether a compelling interest exists to prohibit same-sex marriages. SJR-42 would pre-empt the judicial process. Moreover, it would place a matter of fundamental civil rights -- the right to choose one's partner -- up to a statewide vote, an unseemly and expensive undertaking that is certain to create needless divisiveness within the state. All of these are reasons why SJR-42 should be rejected.

In addition, there is no legitimate reason for the proposed amendment. Some opponents of equal marriage rights for gay men and lesbians cite procreation and parenting as "reasons" for their position. These individuals completely ignore the fact that many gay and lesbian couples have children and are raising them successfully, while many heterosexual couples do not have children, and are not required to promise to do so in order to obtain a marriage license. And as a court in Hawaii recently found, based on the testimony of expert witnesses,

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the single most important factor in the development of a happy, healthy and well-adjusted child is the nurturing relationship between parent and child. . . . The sexual orientation of parents is not in and of itself an indicator of parental fitness . . . [nor] does [it] automatically disqualify them from being good, fit, loving or successful parents. The sexual orientation of parents is not in and of itself an indicator of the overall adjustment and development of children. Gay and lesbian parents and same-sex couples have the potential to raise children that are happy, healthy and well-adjusted.

Baehr v. Miike, 1996 WL 694235, *16 (Hawaii Cir. Court, Dec. 3, 1996).

Some opponents of same-sex marriage have also urged passage of anti-gay-marriage legislation such as SJR-42 on religious grounds, invoking their views of God and the Bible to deny equal marriage rights to gay men and lesbians. But the only issue here is the institution of civil marriage, i.e., whether the state will deny legal recognition to the marriage of two men or two women. The separate institution of religious marriage is simply not involved. And just as the First Amendment of the federal Constitution prohibits the government from compelling any religious group to perform a marriage ceremony between any two people, it prohibits the government from using the religious beliefs of some to deny equal rights to gay men and lesbians.

We have been appalled at the efforts that some people in this country have undertaken to deny gay men and lesbians the equal right to participate in civil marriage, and at the vehemence of their rhetoric. Committed, long-term, loving relationships are a good thing; most of us hope for them and work toward them, and try to keep them once we have them. If a gay or lesbian couple seeks to take on the responsibilities and obligations of civil marriage, the state should not prevent them from doing so. Certainly the state of Alaska has no quota on love or on marriage licenses. Giving legal recognition to the marriages of gay and lesbian couples will not in any way prevent other couples from marrying or affect those marriages. Indeed, the notion that it is necessary to prohibit same-sex marriages in order to "defend" the institution of marriage is absurd.

SJR-42 has not been proposed in a vacuum. It is part and parcel of a concerted effort to deny equal marriage rights to gay men and lesbians across this country, an unwise and unlawful goal that Alaska should not assist in bringing about. Throughout this state, thousands of gay men and lesbians have formed loving and committed relationships. They work, they pay taxes, they contribute to their communities, and many are raising children, just like heterosexual couples. Nonetheless, all of these families are denied the legal rights, benefits, and protections that accompany civil marriage. This is not only

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unfair and unconstitutional, it is significantly harmful to the families involved. For example, if one partner becomes critically ill, or is taken to the hospital following an accident, the other partner may be prohibited from making urgent and necessary medical decisions, or even from visiting his or her partner in the hospital in the first place. Gay and lesbian couples generally lack access to "spousal" or "family" health insurance coverage. They may be denied bereavement or sick leave to care for a partner or child. They cannot inherit automatically from each other in the absence of a will. The list goes on and on.

In addition, denying legal recognition to same-sex marriages deprives the children of gay and lesbian couples of a legal relationship with their non-biological parent. This situation is harmful to the interests of such children, since the non-biological parent may often find himself or herself prohibited by third parties (such as teachers, doctors, and hospitals) from making decisions critical to his or her child's health, education or welfare, a particularly dangerous situation when the other parent is unavailable. It cannot be denied that the legal rights and protections that accompany civil marriage in this country are many and significant.

Indeed, the United States Supreme Court has made it clear that marriage is a fundamental federal right, and that a state may not deprive any individual of the right to marry in the absence of a compelling state interest. See, e.g., Zablocki v. Redhall, 434 U.S. 374 (1978); Loving v. Virginia, 388 U.S. 1 (1967). As the Court stated in Loving, "[t]he freedom to marry has long been recognized as one of the vital personal rights essential to the orderly pursuit of happiness by free men." 388 U.S. at 12. The proponents of SJR-42 have failed to demonstrate any legitimate governmental interest that would be served by the proposed amendment, let alone a compelling one.

SJR-42 is also unconstitutional because it violates the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment of the federal Constitution, which prohibits a state from denying the equal protection of the laws to any person. This provision prohibits a state from enacting legislation based on animus toward gay men and lesbians, Romer v. Evans, 116 S. Ct. 1620 (1996), clearly the true impetus for SJR-42. Like the anti-gay measure struck down in Romer, SJR-42 "seems inexplicable by anything but animus toward the class that it affects...." 116 S. Ct. at 1627. Indeed, the fact that the proposal singles out one specific set of marriages for the discriminatory treatment of non-recognition, as well as its quick introduction following the court's preliminary decision in Brause, underscore its impermissible intent.

Finally, we urge you to keep in mind that, not long ago, interracial marriage was prohibited in many states. In defending Virginia's "anti-miscegenation" law, which made

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interracial marriage a felony punishable by five years in prison, a state judge declared that:

"Almighty God created the races white, black, yellow, malay and red, and he placed them on separate continents. And but for the interference with his arrangement there would be no cause for such marriages. The fact that he separated the races shows that he did not intend for the races to mix."

Loving v. Virginia, 388 U.S. 1, 3 (1967) (quoting a Virginia trial judge).

Our society today considers this argument as clearly intolerable, only several decades after it was made by a state court judge. The arguments now being offered in opposition to same-sex marriage are equally so, born out of the same type of intolerance, fear and prejudice toward those "different" from the majority. Our society must aspire to be better than that, and should not repeat the mistakes of the past. For all these reasons, we urge you to reject SJR-42.

Thank you for your consideration of this letter.

Sincerely,

Carole Shields

Carole Shields
President

cc: All state legislators

FORUM / LETTERS

Hawaii's step toward gay marriage too far for U.S.

By LISA SCHIFFREN

As study after study and victim after victim testify to the social devastation of the sexual revolution, easy divorce and out-of-wedlock motherhood, marriage is fashionable again.

And parenthood has transformed many baby boomers into advocates of bourgeois norms.

Indeed, we have come so far that the surprise issue of the political season is whether homosexual "marriage" should be legalized. The Hawaii courts will likely rule that gay marriage is legal, and other states will be required to accept those marriages as valid.

Considering what a momentous change this would be — a radical redefinition of society's most fundamental institution — there has been almost no real debate. This is because the premise is unimaginable to many, and the forces of political correctness have descended on the discussion, raising the cost of opposition.

But one may feel the same

affection for one's homosexual friends and relatives as for any other, and be genuinely pleased for the happiness they derive from relationships, while opposing gay marriage for principled reasons.

"Same-sex marriage" is inherently incompatible with our culture's understanding of the institution. Marriage is essentially a lifelong compact between a man and a woman committed to sexual exclusivity and the creation and nurture of offspring.

For most Americans, the marital union — as distinguished from other sexual relationships and legal and economic partnerships — is imbued with an aspect of holiness. Though many of us are uncomfortable using religious language to discuss social and political issues, Judeo-Christian morality informs our view of family life.

Though it is not polite to mention it, what the Judeo-Christian tradition has to say about homosexual unions could not be clearer. In a diverse,

open society such as ours, tolerance of homosexuality is a necessity.

But for many, its practice depends on a trick of cognitive dissonance that allows people to believe in the Judeo-Christian moral order while accepting, often with genuine regard, the different lives of homosexual acquaintances. That is why, though homosexuals may believe that they are merely seeking a small expansion of the definition of marriage, the majority of Americans perceive this change as a radical deconstruction of the institution.

Some make the conservative argument that making marriage a civil right will bring stability, an end to promiscuity and a sense of fairness to gay men and women. But they miss the point.

Society cares about stability in heterosexual unions because it is critical for raising healthy children and transmitting the values that are the basis of our culture.

Whether homosexual relationships endure is of little concern

to society. That is also true of most childless marriages, harsh as it is to say. Society has wisely chosen not to differentiate between marriages, because it would require meddling into the motives and desires of everyone who applies for a license.

In traditional marriage, the tie that really binds for life is shared responsibility for the children.

A small fraction of gay couples may choose to raise children together, but such children are offspring of one partner and an outside contributor. What will keep gay marriages together when individuals tire of each other?

Similarly, the argument that legal marriage will check promiscuity by gay males raises the question of how a "piece of paper" will do what the threat of AIDS has not. Lesbians seem to have little problem with monogamy, or the rest of what constitutes "domestication," despite the absence of official status.

Finally, there is the so-called

fairness argument. The government gives tax benefits, inheritance rights and employee benefits only to the married. Again, these financial benefits exist to help couples raise children. Tax reform is an effective way to remove distinctions among earners.

If the American people are interested in a radical experiment with same-sex marriages, then subjecting it to the political process is the right route. For a court in Hawaii to assume that it has the power to radically redefine marriage is a stunning abuse of power.

To present homosexual marriage as a fait accompli, without national debate, is a serious political error. A society struggling to recover from 30 years of weakened norms and broken families is not likely to respond gently to having an institution central to most people's lives altered.

□ Lisa Schiffren was a speechwriter for Vice President Dan Quayle.

To The Senators of Alaska,

I urge you to support SJR 42. Please consider all the effects of honoring homosexual marriage. Do you really want a homosexual couple to be able to adopt? To teach a poor parentless child about love, life, family, home, sex, devotion, reality. It was not so long ago that the thought of having to remind society that boys + girls went to the prom + men + women have sex, that mom + dad were male + female would have seemed ridiculous. I cannot believe I have lived to see the day when such a letter became necessary. Please come back to common sense + stability of doing what's right, support SJR 42.

Sincerely

Glen Cotton

FAX MEMO

TUTKA BAY WILDERNESS LODGE
P.O. BOX 960
HOMER, ALASKA 99603
FAX 907/235-3909
VOICE 907/235-3905 or 800/606-3909



TO: FINANCE COMMITTEE
AK ST LEGISLATURE

DATE: 3/23/98
FROM: NELDA OSGOOD

COMMENTS: I HAVE LIVED IN ALASKA SINCE 1946
AND CANNOT BELIEVE THAT I MUST NOW
SIT DOWN AND WRITE A MEMO SUCH AS THIS.
MARRIAGE OTHER THAN BETWEEN ONE MAN
AND ONE WOMAN IS WRONG. HOMOSEXUAL
ACTIVITY MUST NOT BE LEGALLY ELEVATED
TO THE STATUS OF NORMAL, ACCEPTABLE
BEHAVIOR. IF GOD HAD WANTED IT SO,
HE WOULD HAVE PLUMBED US DIFFERENTLY.
DO THE 'RIGHT THING. PROMOTE STRONG,
HEALTHY ALASKAN FAMILIES. SUPPORT STR 42.

THANK YOU !

To: Senator Leman *cc: Sen Sharp* Date: March 21, 1998 Total Pages 3
 cc: Senate Finance & all Alaska Legislators
 re: Vote *NO* on SJR-42: Your vote for SCR-25 was all you had to do, to let the courts decide.
 (And an article on "Usury"—loaning money at interest -- for your reflection)

Senator Leman:

Bottom line, I'm requesting that since the Senate unanimously passed SCR-25, (asking for a speedy appeal of the lower court decision regarding same-sex marriage) that that's all the Senate needs to do with the marriage issue. Please stop SJR-42 in committee and let the courts do their work. Putting as emotionally charges an issue as SJR-42 to the ballot is unnecessary at this time, and you'll cause too many people too much pain by doing so.

One of the reasons it's so painful to go through anti-gay campaigns is that the Bible is so (mis)-used against us. My branch of the Christian faith doesn't condemn me for who I am (? lesbian), but others still do. That's a given in religious freedom: religious understandings always vary greatly within any given time and across generations of time. Personal religious freedom is a strength of this country. But when politics wields religion as a weapon, people get hurt.

I want to remind you -- a state finance-minded person -- that, in literal text, the Bible condemns "usury:" the loaning of money at (any) interest. In the Bible, usurers are condemned to death -- no ifs, ands or buts about it. Where would capitalism be today, where would the Permanent Fund be, the stock market, etc., if the Bible were still followed regarding usury? Mr. Leman, if the Bible were truly your literal guide, you'd be amending the constitution to attack bankers, brokers, investors, etc., in addition to people currently under your fire.

I've attached an article that explores how biblical understanding of usury has been reevaluated over time, because it's an enlightening, thought-provoking way to evaluate the changing understanding of homosexuality today.

Try to walk in my shoes a moment. Think: what if usurers -- you yourself -- were about to face an 8-month long religiously charged angry campaign? Think about hearing yourself condemned daily for loaning money or participating in the biblically condemned sin of usury. Think about having to listen over and over again to the literalist-driven religious proponents repeat quotes that show you, a usurer, "deserve death." Think how awful that would feel. Imagine yourself wanting such a charged issue left in the courts instead of reverberating in public debates that vilify you in every venue of public and private life. Can you imagine? And imagine, too, knowing that at the end of the campaign you'll risk losing your private financial rights because the population voted to change the constitution and make you the constitutional outcast. Imagine the constitution reading that you, personally, are hereafter to be viewed both biblically -- and civilly -- as the evil one.

... With that feeling in your gut, please vote "no" on SJR-42. You can come out strong against same-sex marriage even as you vote if you must -- but you could do so saying something like "I vote against SJR-42 at this time because the courts have not yet completed their review of the issue; and I've done my part for now by sending it to the courts with my vote on SCR-25." This would save so many of us and our family and friends so much grief. You have no idea.

Please, vote "no" on SJR-42, because your vote on SCR-25 was all that needed to be done.

Sara L. Boesser

Sara Boesser, 9365 View Drive, Juneau, 99801

Attachment: Harvard article: "The Bible Condemned Usurers, Too" by John Corvino, Univ. of Texas Philosophy Dept.

ESSAY

The Bible Condemned Usurers, Too

JOHN CORVINO

GAY rights advocates sometimes suggest that, if the Bible condemns homosexuality, so much the worse for the Bible. Yet that position hardly works for everyone. Many people maintain that the Bible is the true word of God, and not all who do are die-hard homophobes. Some are social liberals who feel torn between their political and their religious convictions. Others are gay and lesbian youths who feel forced to choose between being gay and following God. To tell such people "so much the worse for the Bible" seems counterproductive, even cruel.

But what is the alternative? Is it possible to affirm the truth of the Bible yet deny the anti-gay conclusions the Church has drawn from it for centuries? To answer that question, I want to explore another case where the Church has re-interpreted Scripture: usury. For centuries the Church used the Bible to condemn the lending of money for interest—for any interest, not just excessive interest. Today it has more money in the bank than many major corporations. And its explanation for this shift—that cultural changes render the Biblical prohibitions inapplicable—works just as well for homosexuality as for interest banking.

The Bible condemns usury in no uncertain terms. In the Book of Exodus, God says that "if you lend money to my people, to the poor among you ... you shall not exact interest from them" (Exodus 22:25). Psalm 15 says that those who lend at interest may not abide in the Lord's tent or dwell on his holy hill (1-5). Ezekiel compares usury to adultery, robbery, idolatry, and bribery, and asks whether he who "takes advanced or ac-

rued interest; shall he then live? He shall not. His ... shall surely die; his blood shall be upon him." (Ezek. 18:10-13; see also Deut. 23:19, Lev. 25:35-37, Neh. 5:7-10, Jer. 15:10, Ezek. 22:12, and Luke 6:35.)

The Biblical case against usury does not stand alone. Plato and Aristotle condemned the practice, as did Aristophanes, Cato, Seneca, and Plutarch. So did Saints Anselm, Augustine, Bonaventure, Thomas Aquinas, Jerome, and Ambrose, citing both Scripture and natural law. Numerous Church councils and synods forbade usury: for instance, at the Third Council of Lateran (1179 CE), Pope Alexander III declared that both the Old and New Testaments condemned it and that violators

should be excommunicated. Subsequent popes repeated these sanctions. In 1745, in the encyclical *Vix Perverit*, Benedict XIV pronounced that "any gain which exceeds the amount the creditor gave is illicit and usurious." Protestant opponents of usury included Martin Luther, Philipp Melancthon, and Ulrich Zwingli. Nor is this condemnation unique to the Judeo-Christian tradition: the Koran condemns usury as well (2:275, 3:130). In short, the case against usury, like the case against homosexuality, appears to

Using the Bible's condemnations of homosexuality against contemporary homosexuality is like using its condemnations of usury against contemporary banking.

have strong biblical, philosophical, patristic, ecclesiastical, and theological grounds.

So what happened? Did the Church suddenly realize that it was missing out on something lucrative, and rescind its earlier prohibition? Not surprisingly, Church leaders offer quite a different explanation. According to them, economic conditions have changed substantially since biblical times, such that usury no longer has the same consequences as it did when the prohibitions were issued. Thus, the prohibitions no longer apply. As Father Richard McBrien, former chair of the University of Notre Dame theology department, writes,

John Corvino, who teaches philosophy at the University of Texas at Austin, is currently editing a general anthology on homosexuality.

The teaching on usury changed because certain theologians in the sixteenth century concluded that economic conditions had changed, making the old condemnations obsolete, and that the experience of lay Christians had to be listened to. Thus, Navarrus (d. 1586), a professor at Salamanca in Spain and author of a *Manual for Confessors*, argued that an "infinite number of decent Christians" were engaged in exchange-banking, and he objected to any analysis which would "damn the whole world."

McBrien's example of Navarrus is helpful here, for it shows how the Church's pastoral experience influenced its understanding of Scripture. Faced with otherwise "decent Christians" engaging in a traditionally forbidden practice, the Church re-examined the earlier prohibitions and found that they depended on conditions that no longer held.

Today, are we not in a similar position regarding homosexuality? Even Christian traditionalists have begun to recognize that the stereotype of gays as corrupt, hedonistic, sex-crazed heathens is insupportable. On the contrary, many gay and lesbian relationships appear loving, nurturing, and fulfilling. As Richard B. Hays, a Methodist professor of New Testament at Duke, points out, "There are numerous homosexual Christians whose lives show signs of the presence of God, whose work in ministry is genuine and effective. How is such experiential evidence to be assessed?"

Hays is appealing to a familiar Biblical principle here: "By their fruits ye shall know them" (Matt. 7:20). Surprisingly, however, he ultimately concludes that homosexual relationships are immoral. I suggest that Hays, and countless other theologians like him, have dropped the ball. They notice that many gay and lesbian relationships manifest themselves as good, but cannot reconcile this experiential evidence with the scriptural prohibitions that they've been taught. What they fail to notice is that the Church's history on usury provides a way out of this apparent dilemma.

Consider the first chapter of Paul's letter to the Romans, perhaps the most problematic text for gay and lesbian advocates. Paul writes of Gentiles who have given themselves up to "dishonorable passions. Their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural, and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameful acts with men and receiving in their own persons due penalty for their error" (1:26-7).

It seems fairly clear that Paul viewed such acts as a sign and consequence of the Fall. (Some, like John Boswell and William Countryman, have argued that Paul's use of "unnatural"—*para physin*—carries no moral force. My argument does not require this conclusion, but if it is true, so much the better.) Granting that Paul morally condemned such relationships, must contemporary Christians condemn homosexual relationships as well? Not necessarily. Suppose that in Paul's time homosexual relationships were typically exploitative, paganistic, or pederastic—which they were, according to most scholars. If Paul condemned homosexuality because it had such features, but such features are no longer typical, then Paul's condemnation no longer applies. Substantial changes in cultural context have altered the meaning and consequences—and thus the moral value—of homosexual relationships.

In short, using the Bible's condemnations of homosexuality against contemporary homosexuality is like using its condemnations of usury against contemporary banking. This context-

sensitive approach preserves not only the inerrancy of the Bible but also the authenticity of experience. For the religious believer, both are important: surely the Creator of all things reveals himself in lived experience as well as ancient texts.

But does this approach leave any room for mystery or for faith? If we need only consult experiential evidence to determine God's will, of what use is the Bible? I have not suggested that we need *only* consult experiential evidence; I have merely suggested that we need experiential evidence, like Biblical evidence, is an important source of revelation. Nor have I denied that biblical evidence may contradict experiential evidence and thus result in mystery. In this case, however, the contradiction is merely apparent. There is still room for mysteries of faith; this just happens not to be one of them.

The usury analogy also provides a better model for re-interpretation than do the more commonly cited issues of divorce and slavery. The Biblical case against divorce is at least as strong as that against homosexuality; indeed, Jesus forcefully condemns divorce (Matt. 5: 31-32) but never mentions homosexuality. This fact is startling when one considers how many advocates of "traditional Christian values"—Newt Gingrich, Bob Dole, and Phil Gramm, for instance—are divorced. Perhaps they consider divorce a one-time failure as opposed to an inveterate sin (though Jesus, who likened divorce to adultery, apparently disagrees). Or perhaps they accept an argument similar in strategy to the usury argument: divorce during Jesus's time had disastrous social consequences for women that it no longer has; thus, the Biblical condemnations are obsolete. (Fundamentalists might accept the analogy between homosexuality and divorce and then use it against homosexuality, citing both issues as examples of a lax attitude toward God's word.)

Virtually no one wants to uphold the Bible's approval of slavery. Still, the Bible's position appears clear: Leviticus states, "You may acquire slaves from the pagan nations that are around you" (25: 44). St. Paul writes, "Slaves, be obedient to those who are your earthly masters, with fear and trembling, in singleness of heart, as to Christ" (Eph. 6: 5). Are such pronouncements (and many more like them) context-specific in a way that renders them inapplicable today?

Many believers think so. They argue that during biblical times slavery was significantly different from its ante-bellum American form; specifically, Biblical masters were much kinder to their slaves. This argument concedes that cultural context is relevant to interpretation, and thus buttresses the case in favor of homosexuality. But it also concedes that under some certain circumstances human beings may own one another—a repugnant conclusion. Some believers try to avoid this conclusion by noting that according to St. Paul, "there is no longer slave or free" (Gal. 3:28). Yet this response also buttresses the pro-gay case, for the same passage says, "there is no longer male and female." Erase that distinction, and homosexuality becomes a non-issue.

Perhaps the slavery example shows that the revisionist approach—or, at least, the assumption that the Bible is inerrant—inevitably leads to absurdity. Perhaps it is time for gay rights advocates to bite the bullet and say, "Look, the Bible is just wrong sometimes." For those unprepared to make that concession, the Church's stance on usury suggests a useful and coherent alternative.

Dear Senator,

My wife Stacey and I would like to take your time and let you know how deeply we feel about two resolutions that are before you this week.

The first is SJR 37. We fully support SJR 37. Without taking your time in the details we wanted to let you know that we support parental consent before their child has an abortion. We would like to urge you to vote **YES**.

The second is SJR 42. We support this bill stating that marriage as a union that can be entered into only by "one man and one woman". Again we urge you to support this resolution.

Thank you for your hard work in serving us the people of Alaska, and thank you for your time listening to us.

Sincerely,
Steven & Stacey Veldstra
PO Box 251
Homer, AK 99603

**Robert M. and Angela H. Holt
8921 Tempest Circle
Anchorage, Alaska 99507**

March 22, 1998

Re: Senate Joint Resolution 42

Dear Senator,

It is with great urgency that we ask that you support SJR 42.

You can make a difference.

Sincerely,

Bob and Angel Holt

March 22, 1998

To the senators of Alaska,

I'm sorry to be so late to weigh in on an issue that I feel is very important. I fully & wholeheartedly support SJR 42.

One woman, one man marriage is the most basic unit that builds our society. To honor a homosexual union with same status as a one woman, one man union is an act of reprobate.

As a country, as a state & as a society we must reject homosexual marriage, and remember that it is a perversion that goes against common sense, nature & God Himself.

Please support SJR 42 and uphold marriage as an honorable institution one man united with one woman.

Thank you

Most sincerely

Mrs. Kathy Cotton

Mrs. Kathy Cotton

P.O. Box 907

Delta Junction AK 99737

Phone 907 895-1033

Fax 907 895-4219

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March 22, 1998

Dear Senator,

Please vote for Senate Joint Resolution 42. Marriage has been honored throughout history as the union of one man and one woman and should remain that way. Let Alaska stand up as a state who cares about the future of her children and the future of her society by defining marriage in this way! Let us not make the family unit fuzzy by allowing it to be defined by the whim of the court at the time. Please don't allow yourself to be swayed by what may seem politically correct at the time, but instead vote for the traditional values that are the foundation of our thriving society. Please don't lead us down the path of so many societies that have gone before us, ancient Greece and ancient Rome as examples, that condoned homosexual unions on their way to their collapse. Thank you for the sacrifices you make for the good of Alaska and for the thoughtfulness you bring to these weighty matters. I know you have what's best for Alaska and our country in your heart as you serve, therefore, you must vote in favor of S.J.R. 42!

Thank you,

Mrs. Carol A. Simpson
448 Klondike Ave.
Homer, AK 99603

18 March 1998

3118 Chinoak Dr
Fairbanks, AK
99709

Honorable Bert Sharp
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Senator Sharp,

I write to ask you to withhold your support from Senate Joint Resolution No. 42, which is under review by the Senate Finance Committee. Given the political and financial struggles Alaska faces, why is the Senate wasting time and money on attacking the rights of Alaskans? No person should be prevented from marrying the one she or he loves.

As a married woman, I applaud any two people who form a loving, committed, long-term relationship, regardless of their partner's gender. The freedom to marry has long been recognized by the U.S. as one of the vital rights of any individual. The Constitution of Alaska promises that all people are "entitled to equal rights, opportunities, and protection under the law." SJR 42 would gut that promise. Sincerely, Sandra Burtwright

March 18, 1998

Box 83683

Tainbanks

AK 99708

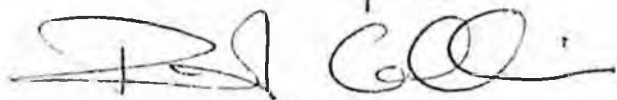
Honorable Bert Sharp
State Capitol
Juneau
AK 99701-1182

Dear Senator Sharp

I am writing to express my concern about senate joint resolution no. 42 which is under review by the senate finance committee. SJR042B is a misguided and divisive venture that attempts to raise one section of Alaskan society up while implicitly putting another section down. Furthermore, it compromises the privacy rights of all citizens. The fact that this section will appear in the Declaration of Rights, which opens with Jefferson's promise of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, only adds insult to injury.

I respectfully request that you do not pass this joint resolution forward for a senate vote.

Sincerely yours



Richard Collins

March 18, 1998

Box 83683

Fairbanks, AK
99708

Honorable Bert M. Sharp

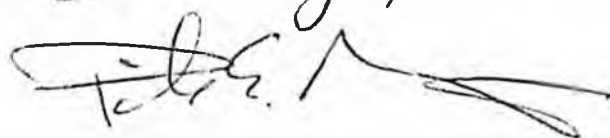
Senate

State Capitol

Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Sir,

I am writing to protest Senate Joint Resolution No. 42. As a voter I am appalled that the Finance Committee has to waste time with a pointless attempt at regulating peoples private lives when so much important business is waiting. Stop wasting the citizens' time and the States money and let this resolution die in committee.

Sincerely,


Patrick E. Marlow

March 23, 1998

Dear Senator Sharp,

This letter regards SJR 42 which proposes an amendment to the constitution to define marriage as a union that can be entered into only by "one man and one woman."

We urge you to support this important bill. Passage of this bill would allow the people of the State of Alaska to decide whether or not they want marriage defined as a union of one man and one woman. Last year, as you are well aware, legislators -- with the general support of their constituents -- passed a bill that would have given marriage just this definition. This bill was passed into law, and now a handful of judges have nullified it.

From both a biblical and historical perspective, we strongly support marriage as the legal union between **one man and one woman**. However, regardless of our views on the subject, we see no reason why the people of Alaska shouldn't be able to vote on a possible amendment to the constitution -- if we are truly living in a democracy and not a governmental system run by a handful of judges!

Again, we urge your support for SJR 42. Thank you for your time and consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

Alan and Chris Schuler
4066 Deborah Drive
Juneau, AK 99801
aecrsas@ptialaska.net

20718 Melody Ln
Eagle River AK 99577
March 23, 1998

Dear Senator,

We are faxing to inform you of our
desire to see the AK constitution amended
to define marriage as outlined in SJR 42.

It is obviously the people's desire to
oppose homosexual marriages as indicated in the
veto override of the past. Unfortunately, some
judges seem to have no concern for the
people's desires, which makes the amendment
necessary.

Ralph & Donna Ray

696 8484

696 7474 (fax)

RayFamily2@aol.com

3/23/97

Dear Senator,

My wife, Michelle
Blanchard, and myself are
wholeheartedly and enthusiastically
behind SJR 42. We hope
you will support this as
well.

Sincerely,
Brian Blanchard

Ph. 1-907-983-2250
Fax. 1-907-983-2691

Jason Nelson
909 1st Street
Douglas, AK 99824
March 20, 1998

Senator Loren Lemar
State Capitol, Room 115
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Senator Lemar,

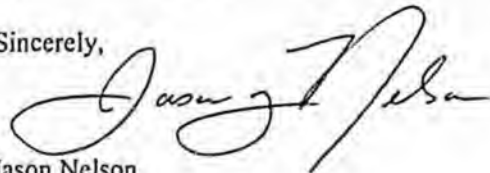
I am currently attending the University of Alaska Southeast here in Juneau. I have lived in Alaska my entire life, and plan to make this state my home when I graduate from college. I have always appreciated the individual freedom we each have as citizens of Alaska, and the way in which we mind our own business and leave our neighbors alone. On a national level, we all enjoy a certain amount of freedom, but Alaska is unique in that it truly respects our choices as individuals. This is reflected in the privacy clause of our constitution.

As an Alaskan Senator, I would expect that you would try and uphold these cherished principles of individuality and privacy that we all enjoy. However, you have clearly demonstrated that you do not value these traditions, and have let the citizens of Alaska know that you are not representing their best interests, but are instead pushing your own moral agenda. This is clearly evident in your continued support of SJR-42. You are attempting to tamper with the constitution of Alaska not to grant equal rights to Alaskan citizens, but to favor one group over another just because you fail to understand the concept of diversity in society. I am curious as to what your intentions are for SJR-42 since the Senate has already unanimously passed SCR-25. I would appreciate a response on this issue as I believe this issue belongs in the courts.

You justify your actions by saying that your limited definition of marriage is necessary in order to protect a breakdown of the family. Well Mr. Lemar, when people want to form families, they generally get married. Constitutionally denying some of Alaskan citizens the right to get married, in a way that is healthy and beneficial to them as individuals and to society as a whole, is a first step in causing a breakdown of the family. You have sent a message to Alaskans that if their family is not like yours, then it is not good enough. You are just an individual among many, and your personal beliefs do not apply to the rest of the population. Everyone is different. That is why we have a constitution to protect those differences.

Up until this issue arose, I was never very politically active. Your tyranny has brought me forth not only to speak out for gay and lesbian rights, but for the rights of all Alaskan citizens. I would like to thank you for making same-sex marriage a controversial public issue. In the 1960's, African-Americans had nothing to lose by standing up for their rights as citizens. Their minority status was obvious to everyone around them, all the time, and they were treated accordingly. Homosexual citizens, however, are not obvious in the public eye. They must publicly announce their sexual orientation. This issue has brought a number of gays and lesbians forth, those who up until now kept their homosexuality a secret. They will oppose you at every step of the way Mr. Lemar, and in doing so they will let their friends and family know their true selves. You cannot keep the public ignorant about homosexuality any longer. Making same-sex marriage a public issue has made this possible. Once again, for this, I thank you.

Sincerely,



Jason Nelson

cc: All Alaska State Legislators

Box 22686
Juneau, AK 99802
3/19/98

Senator Loren Leman
State Capitol, Room 115
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

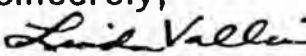
Dear Senator Leman,

As a teacher of young children I occasionally overhear my students justifying their words and actions with the phrase "Its a free country". I used that phrase on the playground, too, when I was a child. As I grew older, I came to understand just how important Freedom is to Americans, and why our founding fathers worked so hard to guarantee certain freedoms for everyone in this country. Likewise, the Alaska state constitution was written to guarantee certain rights and freedoms to all Alaskans.

In these present times, however, it seems that there are increasing attacks on individual rights and freedoms. More and more laws are passed restricting, limiting, and forbidding people from making their own choices on matters ranging from when they can turn on their car's headlights to how they choose to die; from how many trees they can cut on their own property, to whether they have to go through with an unwanted pregnancy.

Alaskans in general have a reputation for being fiercely protective of individual rights and freedoms. So I can't help but wonder why you, a representative of Alaskans, continue to push for SJR-42, a bill which clearly denies individuals rights to both privacy and equality. It seems especially difficult to understand your fervor in rushing this proposed limit to individual rights in light of the fact that the Senate has approved SCR-25, requesting the courts to resolve matters pertaining to whether persons of the same sex can marry.

I am opposed to SJR-42. I am opposed to changes in our constitution which will deny basic rights to certain Alaskans. Leave this matter to the courts, Senator Leman.

Sincerely,

Linda Vallie

cc: all Alaska legislators

JDH

DYNAMIC PROPERTIES

3111 C Street ~ Suite 100 ~ Anchorage, AK 99503 ~ U.S.A.
Phone 907-261-7663 ~ Fax 907-261-7670

March 16, 1998

Senator Loren Leman
State Capitol, Room 115
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

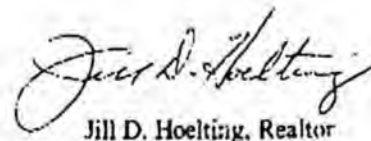
Dear Senator Leman,

As I will be unable to attend the Senate Finance Committee Hearing scheduled for Tuesday, March 24th in Juneau, I want you to be fully aware of my opposition to SJR 42. Same-sex marriages cannot be denied as outlined by the Alaska Constitution. Please check your religion at the door and do your job, which should be the promotion of individual freedom for all.

Senator Leman, I would like your written response to the following:

1. What purpose do you believe SJR 42 serves now that the Senate has unanimously approved SCR 25?
2. What do you think will be gained from legislative action on this issue at this time, since the Senate already has requested the courts to resolve this matter?
3. Why do you support SJR 42, as it only serves to violate both the privacy rights and the inherent equal rights of all citizens of the state of Alaska?

Sincerely,



Jill D. Hoelting, Realtor

cc: All Alaska Legislators

Susan Warner
411 7th St.
Juneau AK 99801

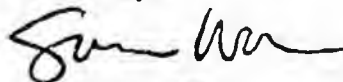
Senator Loren Leman
State Capitol, Room 115
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

March 16, 1998

Dear Senator Leman:

I am writing in response to SJR 42. I am happily married to the man that I love. We have a beautiful young daughter. I would like to tell her, when she grows up, that she will be able to marry the person she loves and not the person the government tells her to marry. The privacy of adult relationships should not be intruded on by an oppressive government. Why are you trying to tell my daughter who she can and cannot marry? Please respond to this question. Thank you very much for answering my letter and considering my opinion.

Sincerely,



Susan Warner

c: Alaska State Legislators

Ellen P. Twiname
5306 Caribou Ave.
Anchorage, AK 99508

March 16, 1998

Senator Loran Leman
State Capitol, Room 115
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Senator Lemman:

I am very opposed to SJR 42, and cannot understand what you are trying to accomplish with it. It appears to me to be a hateful and divisive piece of legislation. I would appreciate it if you could answer the following questions:

What purpose do you believe SJR 42 serves, now that the Senate has unanimously approved SCR 25, which urges a speedy appeal of the Brause-Doogan case? Since the Senate has already requested the courts to resolve this matter, what do you think will be gained from legislative action on this issue at this time?

Why do you support and push for SJR 42, as it only serves to violate both the privacy rights and inherent equal rights of all citizens of the State of Alaska?

Given the urgency of this matter, I look forward to your speedy response. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,



cc: All Alaska Legislators



Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays

P. O. Box 32245

Juneau, Alaska 99803

March 18, 1998

Senator Loren Leman
Capital Building, Room 115
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Senator Leman,

We live during times that are filled with change. I can understand that change is disturbing to you and other legislators. I can understand that you might be afraid of what your life would be like if things were different than they are now. I also know that throughout history a group of people has been set aside to serve as the scapegoat for the fears and confusion of others, and that right now gays, lesbians, and bisexuals are the people who serve as social scapegoats when our fears increase as change increases.

What I do not understand, however, is how you as a leader in Alaska can even consider that proposing to reduce the most basic rights to privacy for Alaska citizens can be an appropriate response to the changes that are with us all in the late 20th century. Yes, I do understand that you are under a great deal of pressure from national groups who want to keep gays, lesbians, and bisexuals in the scapegoat position they now occupy, and that they put that pressure on you by using moral and religious arguments. But you are an Alaskan who can think for yourself about what is best for Alaskans. Following the national agenda that supports decreased privacy rights and increased discussion that has gays, lesbians, and bisexuals at the center of the discussion makes you seem like a hate-filled person, Senator, and perhaps that is not the case.

I sincerely request that you stop the pressure on your colleagues to move SJR 42 forward on the fast track. If it is not possible for you to do that, please respond and let me know why you can not do that. Why can't you just let it die in committee?

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marsha Buck".

Marsha Buck, Co-chair

CC: All Alaska Legislators

P.O. Box 310
Haines, AK 99827
19 March 1998

Senator Loren Leman
State Capitol, Room 115
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Mr. Leman:

I am writing in strong opposition to SJR 42, the proposed constitutional amendment related to marriage. I tried to testify via telephone last week at the Judiciary Committee hearing, but was not given the opportunity. I am a 26-year resident of Alaska, married 26 years to the same man, the mother of four children born and raised in Alaska, a former two-term school board member and borough assemblywoman in Haines, and a Christian.

Regarding this proposed constitutional amendment, I sense a bidden agenda. Just what is the purpose of the state regulating marriage? If it is to protect our children, to help ensure that they are raised in stable families, I see no need to legislate against same-sex relationships. If it is addressing the benefits available to those in mutually-contracted long-term relationships such as marriage, again I see no need to discriminate against anyone based on their choice of partner. Surely we would all be enriched by a greater diversity of relationships pledging mutual fidelity, rather than a more limited version, such as proposed here. Promiscuous sexual behavior, with its attendant social problems, would undoubtedly lessen if a greater range of committed relationships existed, and was supported, and if we all made clear how much value to society such relationships have.

But if the underlying driver behind this proposed amendment is the discomfort of some people with the thought of same-sex unions, let's be very clear that's what we're talking about. Let's be perfectly clear that some of us wish to change the state constitution to reflect our personal intolerance. I see no need or reason for such a constitutional change. Thank you.

Very truly yours,

Nancy Nash

Nancy Nash

cc: All Alaska Legislators

Jim Asper and Bridget Smith
137 Sixth Street
Juneau, Alaska 99801

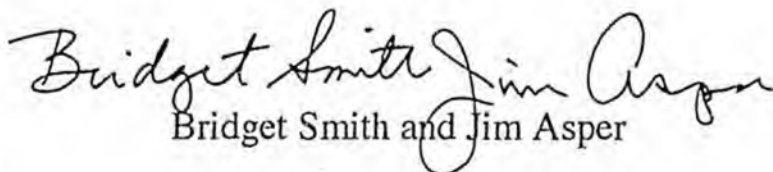
March 23, 1998

Senator Loren Leman
State Capitol
Room 115
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Senator Leman:

We are strongly opposed to SJR 42. We believe that it not only undermines the authority of the court, but it also erodes our individual rights as set forth in the Alaska constitution. We are puzzled as to why you, as an elected official in a democracy, do not consider it a violation of our constitutional freedoms. We would appreciate the favor of a reply.

Sincerely yours,


Bridget Smith and Jim Asper

cc: All Alaska Legislators

March 19, 1998

Senator Loren Leman
State Capitol Room 115
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1162

Dear Senator Leman,

I am writing about Senate Joint Resolution 42 which would amend the Constitution of our state to codify discrimination. Now that SCR 25 has passed, I fail to see why you would continue to pursue this avenue. Why do you seem so afraid of letting the state prove a compelling reason to disallow same sex marriage? During the testimony at the Senate Judicial Committee, there certainly seemed to be those who had plenty to say about why heterosexual unions are better. Why not let them testify to the court if you are so confident of the common good provided by these unions? How can sanctifying any union between two consenting adults be bad for society? The speakers at the Judiciary Committee who spoke for SJR 42, went on and on about how enhancing heterosexual marriages were and how damaging homosexual marriages would be yet they never said WHY. Why? Tell me. Don't just say they are, say WHY. Is this inability to say why the reason you are so unwilling to let the court decide? I think it is because you know in your heart there is no real reason. Your stated reasons are based on stereotypes, a particular morality (yours) and fear. I don't know if you read the paper, but there certainly has been plenty of coverage about different clergy blessing same sex marriages. It would seem that for some churches, same sex marriages are becoming appropriate. It's a happening thing Senator Leman, why send Alaska into the past when we could be forging on into the future, a future of promise for ALL of us.

Please respond, I would like to understand your justifications for this resolution since it affects me, my friends and my family so personally. Thank you.

Jennine Williamson
Jennine Williamson
2454 Killarney Way
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709

P.S. I have both lived in Alaska for 20 years, been with another woman for 11 years. We built our own home, were foster parents, pay taxes, get along with many straight people, etc.

"cc: ALL ALASKAN LEGISLATURES"

Shelley K. Owens

Attorney at Law

175 E. Franklin St.
Suite 312
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Phone: (907) 463-4166
FAX: (907) 463-4122

March 20, 1998

Senator Loren Leman
State Capitol, Room 115
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

RE: SJR 42

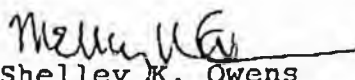
Dear Senator Leman,

I wish to express my opposition to SJR 42. I am greatly concerned at the attack against and erosion of our personal freedoms in Alaska and do not see how increased governmental intervention in the lives of private citizens can be to our benefit.

While the issue has yet to be decided whether the state has a compelling interest to prohibit people of the same gender from marrying, as a family law practitioner, I believe the state would benefit from an expansion of the marital privilege. The family unit has a powerful impact on societal stability and we have witnessed the effects of its decline in recent decades. Society also, however, needs an orderly and equitable process for dividing the assets and allocating the debts of a non-marital partnership. Currently, the law has no consistent and uniform rules for the breakup of non-married partners. Further, the trend in the law is towards increasing recognition of the importance of third parties in a child's life. I believe it is only fair to require that the custodial arrangements of same-gender parents be subjected to judicial scrutiny under the "best interests of the child" test to the same extent as the custodial arrangements as opposite-gender parents.

Alaska has a fine and well-deserved reputation for protecting the personal independence of its citizenry. Passage of SJR 42 would result in a serious erosion of our liberties without any perceptible mitigating benefits.

Sincerely,


Shelley K. Owens

cc: All Alaska Legislators

SUPREME COURT REPORT

Combustible Cases

Will a car crash ruling lead to recognition of gay marriage?

BY DAVID G. SAVAGE

A Supreme Court ruling in a fiery auto accident case that makes it more difficult for companies to silence corporate whistleblowers also could affect the future of the gay rights movement.

Proponents of nationwide recognition of gay marriages were delighted when the justices in *Baker v. General Motors*, No. 96-653, rejected the notion there is a "public policy exception" to the Constitution's full faith and credit clause.

Instead, the Court's January opinion relied on other grounds in holding that a Michigan court injunction did not bar a General Motors whistleblower named Ronald Elwell from testifying in Missouri.

It Ends Well for Elwell

Elwell worked for the General Motors Corp. for nearly 30 years and developed an expertise in fuel lines and fuel pumps. He served as an in-house expert who defended the company from lawsuits. But Elwell's relationship with GM soured in the late 1980s, and disagreements surfaced over terms of his retirement.

Subsequently, he testified about problems in the company's pickup trucks in a Georgia case that resulted in a whopping \$105 million verdict against GM.

Following that testimony, he sued GM for wrongful discharge and other work-related claims. The automaker countersued, alleging Elwell had breached his fiduciary duty by disclosing confidential information.

The two sides agreed on a settlement in 1992 that included an unspecified payment to Elwell and an injunction barring his future testimony "as a witness of any kind ... in any litigation" involving GM.

Was that judgment binding elsewhere under the full faith and credit clause? The 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in St. Louis said yes. It threw out an \$11.3 million

verdict against GM handed down by a federal jury in Kansas City, Mo. In that case, lawyers for two boys whose 29-year-old mother died in the fiery crash of a Chevy S-10 Blazer had subpoenaed Elwell to testify at the trial. Citing the full faith and credit clause, the appeals court said Elwell's testimo-

other states regarding the time, manner and mechanisms for enforcing judgments," she wrote.

As a practical matter, this may not have great significance since Congress and the states have adopted laws that give interstate recognition to money judgments.

In a concurring opinion, Jus-



Jan Stafford and Maxine Kincora hold a same-sex ceremony in San Francisco in 1996.

ny in Missouri violated the order in Michigan.

The Supreme Court disagreed. "Michigan's power does not reach into a Missouri courtroom," wrote Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg for a unanimous Court.

"Michigan's judgment cannot reach beyond the Elwell-GM controversy to control proceedings against GM brought in other states, by other parties, asserting claims the merits of which Michigan has not considered."

Ginsburg reasoned that while final judgments are binding on the parties, "enforcement measures do not travel" across state lines. "Full faith and credit does not mean that states must adopt the practices of

Justice Anthony M. Kennedy worried the Court's analysis was not clear and had "a potential for disrupting judgments" in the future.

Congress says states need not sanction gay unions.

The ruling's immediate impact is very clear. Corporations may not use gag orders from one state to block whistleblow-

ers from being called to testify in other states. Had the Court ruled for GM, other companies surely would have followed suit by forcing disgruntled workers to sign nondisclosure agreements in exchange for severance pay.

"The Court has told GM and other companies they're just not going to be able to buy the silence of people who have evidence in important cases," says Jeffrey White of

MOVE FROM ME 7871

Date	3-20-98	# of pages	2
From	Shelley Owens		
Co.			
Phone #			
Fax #	463-4226		
Phone #			
Fax #	586-4226		

SUPREME COURT REPORT

the Association of Trial Lawyers of America. Public Citizen, the Ralph Nader organization, hails the GM ruling as a "landmark for consumers." Companies "can no longer gag its whistleblowers or smother their revelations," the group says.

Some gay rights advocates also see a long-term impact in the Court's refusal in *Baker* to find a "roving public policy exception" to the principle of full faith and credit.

The constitutional issue has been at the center of the looming debate over marriage between couples of the same sex. If, as expected, the Hawaii Supreme Court declares that such marriages are legal in the 50th state, the move at first glance could legalize gay marriages nationwide.

After all, if legal marriages and divorce decrees in one state are now honored in all others, why not then a legal marriage in Hawaii between two women, or two men?

In about half the states lawmakers have answered the question of "Why not?" by passing new laws that say a marriage consists of a union between one man and one woman. A marriage between persons of the same sex violates public policy, according to these laws. Congress added its voice in 1996 by passing the Defense of Marriage Act. It, too, says states need not sanction same-sex wedlock.

While the justices have not ruled squarely on the question of whether marriages are entitled to full faith and credit, *Baker* cheers Evan Wolfson, director of the marriage project for the Lambda Legal Defense Fund in New York.

"This augurs well for us," he says. "The Court makes clear we live in one country, not 50 separate kingdoms, and if marriage is akin to a judgment, it gets full faith and credit across the country."

But Edward Hartnett, a professor of civil procedure and constitutional law at Seton Hall's law school in Newark, N.J., says Wolfson's optimism may be misplaced. In Hartnett's view, Ginsburg's opinion "studiously avoids making any comment that affects one way or another the constitutionality of the Defense of Marriage Act."

Ginsburg states that courts may not create a public policy exception to full faith and credit, but she does not address whether Congress has the power to do it. That question would arise if the federal act is challenged, Hartnett says.

The Best Policy

Meanwhile, in two other January rulings, the Court endorsed honesty as the only policy for public employees and defendants who falsely deny wrongdoing to investigators.

The Constitution does not include "a right to make false state-

Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist said that when employees are asked about possible wrongdoing, they have two, and only two, legal choices: Tell the truth or say nothing.

The justices backed truth telling once again in *Brogan v. United States*, No. 96-1579, upholding a conviction against a union official for falsely denying to federal agents that he had taken bribes.

A federal statute makes it a crime to make a "false statement" about matters within the jurisdiction of federal agencies. Most lower courts had read an exception into the law under the "exculpatory no" doctrine, holding that a person could not be convicted for simply denying any criminal responsibility to federal agents.

But in a 7-2 decision written by Justice Antonin Scalia, the majority said the plain language of the law did not create such an exception.

"Courts may not create their own limitations on legislation, no matter how alluring the policy arguments for doing so," Scalia wrote.

The Court was equally unwilling to read an exception into the federal bribery statute in *Salinas v. United States*, No. 96-738. The law makes it illegal for an official to "corruptly accept ... anything of value" in connection with a program receiving federal funds.

A Texas county sheriff and his deputy took bribes to allow prostitutes into the jail. They contended they could not be convicted under this statute because the bribes did not affect the jail, which was supported by federal funds.

The justices unanimously rejected that claim, upholding convictions for both bribery and racketeering. Some lawyers thought the Court's fondness for federalism would prompt the justices to limit the law's impact on state and local officials, but the justices are not inclined to find hidden exceptions in criminal laws.



Beverly Garner, mother of two boys, died in this Chevy Blazer accident.

ments," even a mere denial of an accusation that is later proven true, the Court ruled unanimously in *LaChance v. Erickson*, No. 96-1395.

That case reinstated stiff sanctions against five federal employees who were disciplined for wrongdoing ranging from making harassing phone calls to pursuing an improper sexual relationship.

In all five instances, the agency increased the punishments because the workers had falsely denied the charges.

Five years ago, the Court made clear that a defendant who lies on the witness stand can be charged with perjury or face a stiffer sentence. The "right to testify does not include a right to commit perjury," the Court said in *United States v. Dunnigan*, 507 U.S. 87 (1993).

In the case of the five employees, the statements were not given under oath. The Justice Department had argued that allowing them to deny allegations would create a "right to lie."

The Court essentially agreed.

In Baker, Court finds no roving public policy exception to Constitution's full faith and credit clause.

Senator Loren Leman
State Capitol, Room 115
Juneau, AL 99801-1182

March 20, 1998

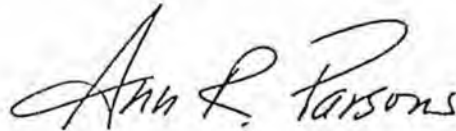
Dear Senator,

I am writing to you stating my opposition to SJR 42.

What purpose do you believe SJR 42 serves now that the Senate unanimously approved SCR 25, which urges a speedy appeal of the Brause-Doogan case? Since the Senate has already requested the courts to resolve this matter, what do you think will be gained from legislative action on this issue? And why do you support and push for SJR 42, as it only serves to violate both the privacy rights and the inherent equal rights of all citizens of Alaska.

Please stop SJR 42 and let the courts decide.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ann R. Parsons".

The Rev. Dn. Ann R. Parsons
Episcopal Churches of Juneau
PO Box 21453
Juneau, AK 99802-1453

cc: All Alaska Legislators

March 21, 1998

Senator Loren Leman
State Capitol, Room 115
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Senator Leman:

I am writing to express my opposition to Senate Joint Resolution 42, of which you are primary sponsor.

I am appalled that this Legislature is charging itself with the mission of defining what constitutes a marriage. I believe the constitutional right to privacy in Alaska should be broadened to include the right to marry a same-sex partner, as the courts are now in the midst of determining.

As an Alaskan, I am proud that we have a constitution that defends and protects our individual liberties. I believe that the independent Alaskan spirit prevails today as it did when the constitution was created.

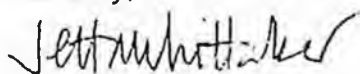
As a Unitarian Universalist, I believe in supporting the inherent dignity and worth of every person. The Unitarian Universalist religion sanctions same-sex marriages. My religion also compels me to speak out against discrimination and for equal rights for all. I cannot stand by and let the conservative few create an environment of hate and hurtful spirit if this amendment moves forward and the issue is put before voters.

As a parent, I observe that my children's best buddies happen to be children of loving same-sex parents. I want my children to live in a world where these children come from happily married parents, regardless of their gender. I cannot understand why you would want anything different.

I urge you to withdraw SJR 42 from further action and let SCR 25, which requests the courts to consider as quickly as possible the issue of same-sex marriages, move ahead.

I await your comments, and watch closely your actions.

Sincerely,



Jetta Whittaker
502 W. 10th St.
Juneau, AK 99801

Cc: All Alaska Legislators

March 22, 1998

Senator Loren Leman:

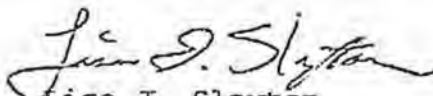
It is with grave concern for the state of Alaska that I write this letter. It has recently come to my attention that there currently over 40 amendments to the state constitution under consideration. I find that utterly mind boggling in light of the fact that there are so many day to day pressing concerns of state that need the direct attention of our legislators. I feel that the interests of the state would be better served if the legislature would direct time and energy toward solving our major problems rather than pursuing what is clearly individual or party agendas.

An amendment that comes to mind immediately as being an absurd waste of time, and more importantly, a threat to individual civil rights, is the amendment stipulating that legal marriage in Alaska shall be between one male and one female, with the option to add changes to the amendment at a later date...here we go again, on that slippery slope of questioning the separation of church and state. I am opposed to our state legislators becoming involved in a fruitless, inevitably damaging controversy such as this. This amendment, while clearly aimed at gays and lesbians, effects EVERYONE. Can "changes" be added at a later date to include the words, "Only one male christian with blond hair and one female christian with blond hair shall be legally married"? That sounds absurd to most thinking people...so does presenting an amendment that denies the legal recognition of a gay or lesbian couple that have been in a committed relationship for 20 years...but, THAT is happening. This amendment is yet another "swipe" at democratic pluralism. It is clearly a threat to individual rights.

If the amendment is pursued and comes up for public vote in the fall, you must know that it will not do so without considerable opposition. I do not want to see the state of Alaska (or it's economy) go through the national scandal that Oregon went through when it's conservative factions tried to pass anti-gay measures..and failed. Please use your time more wisely Mr. Leman. Our state can ill-afford personal or party dictates (government mandated) on individual civil rights and freedom. The public is fed up with the government telling them how their private lives can be lived Mr. Leman. There are more pressing state concerns that effect us all. Move on.

cc: ALL LEGISLATORS

Sincerely,


Lisa J. Slayton

Box 85315

FBX, AK 99708

March 19, 1998

Senator Loren Leman
State Capitol Room 115
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

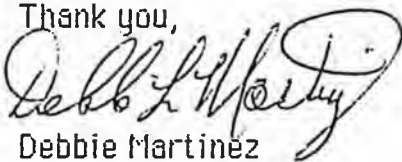
Dear Senator Leman,

I took time out of my day to go testify before the Senate Judiciary Committee regarding SJR 42. I babysit the child of a heterosexual couple, who I brought with me. Along with the 20 or so others waiting to testify, I was dumbfounded when we were not allowed to read our testimony yet 2 people FROM OUT OF STATE were allowed to call in and take up most of the allotted time (which was greatly shortened after we arrived) to testify for your resolution. Only ONE person in Fairbanks, who was supposed to speak for all of us, was allowed to testify. Senator Taylor, when asked why he did not want to allow the rest of us to speak said something to the effect that he's already heard enough, it was getting redundant, we would all say the same thing.

How insulting. How dare he? You people don't want to hear us because WE ARE YOUR FAMILY, YOUR SISTERS, BROTHERS, FATHERS, MOTHERS, CHILDREN, AUNTS, UNCLES, GRANDPARENTS. WE ARE. WE ARE CITIZENS TOO. WE HAVE THE RIGHT TO SPEAK. YOUR JOB IS TO LISTEN. It makes it harder to justify what you are doing when we are seen as the humans we are, just like you.

Senator Leman. Why are you doing this? I don't understand. Come to my house. Have dinner with me and my family. Meet me. Talk with me. Don't assume you know me and make such profound decisions based on your ignorance of who I am, who we are. Please respond to my plea for understanding.

Thank you,



Debbie Martinez
2454 Killarney Way
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709

cc: "ALL ALASKA LEGISLATURES"

Robin Walz
4367 Taku Blvd
Juneau, AK 99801

March 21, 1998

Senator Loren Leman
State Capitol
Room 115
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Senator Leman,


I am writing to you in relation to SJR 42. Specifically, I am asking you, as author of the resolution, to withdraw it from consideration this legislative session. Your promotion of this resolution seems to me premature at best and most likely altogether unnecessary, as my comments below will explain.

First, I fail to understand why you have introduced this resolution calling for a constitutional amendment to define marriage at this time. The Brause-Doogan case continues to be reviewed within the court system, and no final decision has been rendered. Your premature action may, in fact, contribute to an even further jammed up court system, as potentially SJR 42 will have to be reconciled with issues of the right to privacy at the Alaska state level and civil rights at the federal level. All of this could be avoided by simply postponing SJR 42 until we find out what the courts have to say. Please explain to me, why this resolution, and why now?

For me, the larger issue is that your attempt to define marriage, while simple in articulation, in fact will make nothing simple in practice. It will only make matters more complicated. Myself, I fit your definition of a marriage, without any SJR 42 to say so. My problem is that I know of many other couples and families, in long-lasting, committed, and financially supportive relationships, who do not fit your definition. With life's uncertainties and high cost of living, I don't think we need legislators telling people how to live their lives, which the legal implications of your resolution imply. Ultimately, your resolution won't change anything, it will just make life more difficult for those whose relationships vary from your narrow definition of marriage. Couples already enter into mutually binding legal and financial contracts without official marriage status. And increasingly, successful American corporations -- such as ATT, Disney, Levi-Straus, Starbuck's -- extend employment benefits to all partners and dependents of their employees. This is why SJR 42 changes nothing; a few simple words will not change reality. But you will very likely be making life more difficult for certain minorities, which is the basic meaning of social prejudice.

Therefore, I urge you to withdraw your support for SJR 42, and further I urge you to ask your colleagues to do the same. In case the message does not come to you from them, I have taken the liberty of having copies of this letter sent to them.

Sincerely,



Robin Walz

cc: All Alaska Legislators

March 23, 1998

Senator Loren Leman
State Capitol, Room 115
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Senator Leman:

I am dismayed at your introduction of **SJR 42** and I am **OPPOSED** to it.

Keep the matter in the courts where it belongs, as indicated by support of SCR 25. Don't waste the valuable time of our already busy legislature, who has important work to address like subsistence, etc that already requires much attention.

Are you aware of the **lack of popularity of the stance** you have taken? Shortly after Judge Michalski's decision, Alaska's Superstation ABC's News ran a poll asking viewers "**Should Alaska recognize same sex marriage?**" **62% of the responders voted "Yes"** and only 38% "No". In a national survey also done earlier this month, a clear majority of American voters opposed repealing state nondiscrimination laws that include sexual orientation. 59% U.S. voters oppose repealing these laws, and 35% of these strongly opposed repealing them. So you can see, Senator, that Alaska is not unique in wanting to preserve rights of all Americans. Please answer then, Senator, why you wish to take legislative time and energy in the mean spirit of violating fundamental human rights when Alaskans and Americans do not support you?

Finally, as a physician and former psychologist, I must include the fact that discrimination produces dis-ease, psychological undermining, and destruction of our basic social framework. Finally gays and lesbians are coming to the table, as the last group in our country still left out of the fundamental right and social recognition of marriage. Granting same gender marriage provides an opportunity to heal a group that has been unjustly persecuted for too many years. Let us be part of the solution, not another layer of the problem. What's being asked for here does nothing to undermine or effect the legitimacy of heterosexual marriage. What is being asked for is equal access to a government institution through which couples obtain legal rights that help them care for each other and their families. Some of these nitty-gritty matters include: inheritance rights, health benefits, medical-decision making, hospital visitation, burial rights, bereavement leave, immigration, joint tax returns (which in most situations, with two-working adults, benefits the U.S. funds, not the individuals), pension and survivors' benefits, divorce protection, and crime victims' recovery benefits.

I am counting on you, as I do all our legislators, to represent the interest of *all* Alaskans. With my questions raised above, I expect you to be accountable to your actions, and I request answers to my questions directed to my address below.

Sincerely,



Maureen P. Longworth, M.D.
3099 Nowell Avenue
Juneau, AK 99801
cc: to all Alaskan legislators

Senator Loren Lemman
State Capitol, Room 115
Juneau, Alaska, 99801-1182

March 22, 1998

Dear Senator Loren Lemman:

I am clearly opposed to SJR 42. Let the Courts decide. Please honor our American system of judicial review for questions of privacy rights and fundamental equal rights.

I have two questions and would appreciate an answer from you:

1) Since the Senate unanimously approved SCR25, what purpose does SJR42 serve?

2) Since SJR42 would violate the privacy rights and basic equal rights of all citizens of the state of Alaska, why are you pursuing this unconstitutional stance?

If you look at the history of marriage laws in Western Civilization, you can see that they have been used to condemn certain groups to second class citizenship. I urge not to be an instrument of that kind of Unamerican thinking.

As Americans, we pride ourselves on being part of a larger American family. The institution of marriage is a conservative one. It is now very interesting that Gay Americans are asking to participate in a very conservative framework which will help protect family units and create social, moral and emotional support systems that benefit the entire society.

All Americans deserve the right to partake of these support systems. All Americans deserve the right to choose participation in the very conservative institution of marriage. Let American history be our lesson, and let's remember that up until the 1960's African Americans were

deprived, in some states, of the basic right of being able to marry a non-African American. Now we regard that kind of "local" thinking as barbaric.

Dear Senator Leman, let's scrap SJR-42; let the courts decide this issue; listen to your colleagues and their unanimous decision on SCR 25.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lin G. Davis MA". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Lin G. Davis, MA
3099 Nowell Ave
Juneau, AK 99801

cc all Alaskan legislators

Committee For Equality

Juneau, Anchorage, Fairbanks

March 21, 1998

Senator Loren Leman
State Capitol, Room 115
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

VIA FAX: 907-465-3810

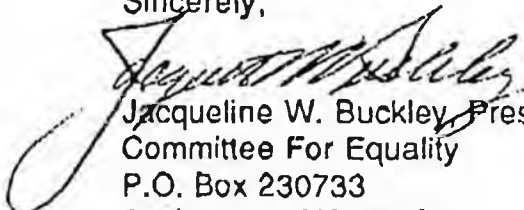
Dear Senator Leman,

As the President of a Statewide organization who's mission is dedicated to the full civil rights of Alaskans, regardless of sexual orientation, I must ask you to explain and to reconsider your sponsorship of SJR-42. It is clear from past civil rights struggles that many groups have suffered at the hands of the majority on the grounds of baseless fears. People of color would never have escaped bondage, indentured service, and slavery had it not been for the unpopular abolitionist movement of the last century. Women would never have attained the right to vote if not for the determined suffragists earlier this century. Early in your own childhood people of color finally gained their legal rights through civil rights acts that took courageous leadership in the face of bigotry. Less than thirty years ago the rights of persons with disabilities to access their world were finally recognized. At that time whole and special human beings were released from institutions that amounted to warehouses of human waste to see the light of day. I worked with mentally challenged persons in the '70's to secure meaningful employment, decent housing and basic skills they would need to become self supporting and productive citizens. This episode of my life taught me the depths of prejudice, and the pain that biases against differences cause.

You are leading a ridiculous charge against a largely productive, tremendously skilled, and mostly invisible component of our citizenship. The Senate has overwhelmingly encouraged a speedy appeal of the Brause case by passage of SJR-25. The courts need time to make their decision. Speed in taking action on SJR-42 serves no purpose other than to encourage targeting of an already oppressed minority. Allowing the courts to do their job before you brandish a constitutional amendment, one which promises a mean-spirited, statewide debate, is putting the cart before the horse. No purpose can be served by circumventing the process and strong arming the legislature with SJR-42.

Our organization requests an explanation from you regarding your reasoning for forcing such a bill through committees when this issue is clearly in the realm of the courts.

Sincerely,



Jacqueline W. Buckley, President and Board Member
Committee For Equality
P.O. Box 230733
Anchorage, AK 99523

cc: All Alaska Legislators



DATE-LINE COPIES, INC.

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FAX COVER SHEET

TO: Loren Leman

ATTENTION: all legislators

PHONE #: 586-4226

FAX #: 586-4226

FROM: Patty Kearon

PHONE #: ~~451~~ 451-8132

DATE: 3/23/98 NO. PAGES: 1 (Including this sheet)

COMMENTS:

I am opposing bill S JR 42 which will say that marriage is only recognized as a union between a man and a woman. The reason I am opposed to this bill is because if this passes, then the govt. can regulate who is considered eligible to be married, not just against gays and lesbians but possibly only Christians, whites with whites, no black & white intermarriage etc. where are you going to draw the line then?

c.c. All legislators

Date-Line Copies Fax Is On 24 Hours A Day • If there is difficulty with this transmission Please Call (907) 479-3831

Michael J. Jones
P.O. Box 6185
Sitka, Alaska 99835

The Honorable Bert Sharp
The Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801

March 12, 1998

Dear Mr. Sharp:

I am writing to express my disappointment in the speed at which SJR-42 was passed on to the Senate Finance Committee on Monday, March 9, 1998, and I hope the Finance Committee will take a more democratic approach to the measure.

SJR-42 -- a proposed amendment to the state constitution defining marriage -- is unprecedented, unwarranted, and unconstitutional. The primary effect of this proposal would be to divide and exclude a segment of the population of the State of Alaska in a manner unparalleled within the constitutions of any of the other 49 states.

Not only does this measure serve to divide and exclude one Alaska minority group, it will also invade the privacy rights of ALL Alaskans. The language of this proposed constitutional amendment paves the way for lawmakers to further regulate Alaskans' personal relationships and personal lives.

It is the responsibility of the members of the Alaska Legislature to guard the state's constitution and to preserve the Bill of Rights described there in. It is not the responsibility of Alaska legislators to alter those rights, and it is irresponsible lawmaking to approve public policy and legislation based on personal views with disregard to public opinion.

Please take notice in the words of the majority of Alaskans who have spoken out in opposition of SJR-42. All Alaskans want the rights of privacy preserved for all Alaskans.

Sincerely -
Michael Jones

Michael J. Jones
P.O. Box 6185
Sitka, Alaska 99835

The Honorable Bert Sharp
The Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801

March 17, 1998

Dear Mr. Sharp:

I'm finding it difficult to locate any place in the state or federal constitutions where the content of SJR-42 -- a proposed amendment defining marriage -- is welcome. In fact, such a proposal runs exactly counter to both constitutions.

Article 14 of the U.S. Constitution reads: "... No state shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States"

Article 1 Section 1 of the Constitution of the State of Alaska reads: "This constitution is dedicated to the principles ... that all persons are equal and entitled to equal rights, opportunities, and protection under the law"

If tradition is to be the primary defense used by those who support SJR-42, we all need to be reminded that if we continued to follow tradition inter-racial marriage would still be illegal; women, Natives, and people of color would not be permitted to vote; and only white men would be given the privilege of full citizenship in the United States. Those were the established traditions during the time of the Revolutionary War. These traditions have evolved.

Those who argue the point that same-sex marriage is divisive and anti-family are choosing to overlook the obvious: the act of marriage promotes family. Instead of encouraging the promotion of social stability, SJR-42 serves to scorn same-sex couples who seek legal recognition of their unions. It seems odd that in this day, within a society that is growing more violent and increasingly loveless, that two people who seek commitment to each other in a loving relationship are prohibited to do so.

I urge you to consider these points and to oppose SJR-42.

Sincerely,
Michael Jones

ALASKA CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION

An Affiliate of the American Civil Liberties Union

P.O. Box 201844

Anchorage, AK 99520-1844

Phone: 907-258-0044 Fax: 907-258-0288

March 23, 1998

HAND DELIVERED

Senator Bert Sharp
Alaska State Senate
Capitol Building
Juneau, Alaska

Senator Drue Pearce
Alaska State Senate
Capitol Building
Juneau, Alaska

Re: March 24th Hearing on Constitutional Amendment SJR 42

Dear Senators Sharp and Pearce:

Yesterday, the Alaska Civil Liberties Union received word that tomorrow's hearing in the Senate Finance Committee, on SJR 42 (the proposed constitutional amendment restricting marriage) is scheduled for "listen only" teleconference around the state. We are writing to request that you allow testimony via teleconference from any Alaskan community where there are people wishing to speak out on this important measure, or, in the alternative, that SJR 42 be removed from active consideration in the 20th Legislature.

As you are aware, only limited testimony was taken in the Senate Judiciary Committee hearing on SJR 42, the only hearing held to date on this measure. Chairman Taylor indicated at the outset of that hearing that the committee planned to move the bill out that day and that there were other matters on the calendar to which the committee needed to turn its immediate attention. As a result, of the over one hundred and fifteen people who showed up statewide to speak in opposition to the amendment, less than ten were heard. Of approximately five people who showed up statewide to support the constitutional amendment, three (two out-of-state witnesses and the head of the Alaska Christian Coalition) spoke for over 40 minutes of the hour-and-a-half hearing. In response to Senator Ellis' and others' objections to the "artificial limit" set on testimony at the Senate Judiciary hearing, committee member Miller explained the committee's rationale for not hearing the measure fully: "the voters will ultimately decide the issue." We believe the effort to treat a constitutional amendment as not worthy of full hearing in the legislature, simply because the voters of the state will have a chance to rule on it, sets a dangerous precedent.

Alaska is not a state where the constitution can be amended by simple referendum, as Senator Miller's comments would tend to suggest. As we all know, in Alaska, under Article XIII, Section 1, amendments to the constitution must receive a two-thirds vote of the Legislature, before going to the people. Unlike a referendum-only situation, Alaska's Constitution mandates careful consideration of proposed amendments before they are placed

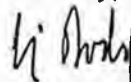
before the voters. Legislative review provides an important check on the "tyranny of the majority" over individual rights that would ensue if amendments could be done solely through public referendum. The two-thirds rule reflects the importance the framers placed on legislative review of constitutional amendments. Because of the two-thirds requirement, each legislator's vote is critical to both those opposing and supporting any amendment. It is therefore imperative that committee members hear the complete arguments of both sides of such a measure before advancing it, and that the floor debates on constitutional amendments be comprehensive and fully informed. As past legislatures have understood, only in this way, can the mandate of the founders, as expressed in Article XIII, Section 1, be honored.

In fairness to the two of you, we realize your committee currently faces deliberations on many other important matters, including subsistence proposals and the state budget. Given the current demands on your committee, perhaps it simply is impossible, during the current session, for you to hear all the people who have important testimony to deliver on SJR 42. If these time pressures are, in fact, the major limiting factor on your committee's ability to teleconference in statewide testimony, there is a better solution. Rather than short-circuiting public input and proper legislative deliberation on this proposed constitutional amendment, you could remove SJR 42 from consideration until the courts have issued a final ruling in the Brause litigation.

The Brause decision is far from becoming law in Alaska. At present, the state has asked the Alaska Supreme Court to review Judge Michalski's Superior Court decision. If the Supreme Court accepts review, it probably will be several months before they have finished deliberations and issued a decision. If the court overturns the Superior Court decision, the matter is closed and there will be no need for SJR 42. If the Supreme Court declines to review Judge Michalski's decision, or accepts it for review and affirms it, the case will be returned to the Superior Court for the hearing on "compelling state interest," the result of which no doubt also will be appealed back up to the Supreme Court, for further briefing and prolonged deliberation. As has been acknowledged by the state's attorney on the case, there is no way the court will be done with the case before the 21st Legislature convenes next January. There simply is no need to hear SJR 42 in the next two months, during which your committee will have no other choice but to short-circuit its consideration in favor of other equally important, but more time-sensitive, measures.

Please consider carefully the above statements and either allot adequate time for Alaskans, statewide, to testify on SJR 42, or pull it from active review in the 20th Legislature. If you have questions about any of the points raised in th... letter, please give me a call at 463-2601. Thank you for your kind consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Liz Dodd, President
Board of Directors
Alaska Civil Liberties Union

cc: Senator Taylor
Senator Miller

Rick Hoegberg
PO Box 18/1410 Sattley Dr
Fairbanks AK 99710-0018

Monday, March 23rd 1998

Senator Bert M Sharp
Co-Chair, Senate Finance Committee
District P Senator for Fairbanks
FAX 907-465-2070

re SJR-42

Dear Sir.

I understand from friends that SJR-42, in part, purports to advance a State Constitutional Amendment to explicitly forbid homosexual marriage, now that a court has ruled gays are equal before the law.

As one of your constituents, I wish to convey to you my alarm at what I perceive to be a blatant counter-attack on certain members of my community.

While I am not gay, I value the rights of gay people just as dearly as my own. *If* the State is to be involved in sanctioning heterosexual unions, then no logical case can be made against State sanctioned homosexual unions without recourse to religion or bigotry.

Since we have a Republic, not a theocracy or a tyranny, I remind and appeal to your oath to uphold and defend the principles of our Republic. One principle is to maintain a separation between political & religious mores. Another principle is equal treatment before the law for *all* individuals.

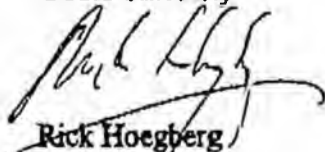
SJR-42 does the opposite: It unites religion with politics, while separating individuals in their treatment before the law. This is how a Republic is subverted into tyranny.

A notorious parallel can be found in the Nazi Third Reich which sponsored legislation that singled out homosexuals for treatment different than that of other individuals. You must know where that led.

SJR-42 embarks on the same path. I am sure not by design, nevertheless it is *the first step on the same path*. This should send a shiver of revulsion down your or my spine far in excess of any personal feelings about homosexuality per se. In the end, all of our rights are only as safe as the rights of those least popular among us.

I hope you will take my letter under due and serious consideration.

Yours Sincerely



Rick Hoegberg

Dear Senator

I am strongly supportive of Senate Joint Resolution 42. Two Points to consider are:-

POINT ONE:-

I am persuaded that Knowles, in his bid for reelection, either perpetrated or condoned the Judge's action approving homosexual marriage to solicit the vote of those of the homosexual aversion.

Both executives, Knowles and Clinton are of the same party, highly motivated to gain the favor of some constituency. Judges are appointed. What better circumstance than to have an appointee take the heat for a controversial issue from which Knowles stands to gain. But talk of low vulgar ethics by any leader!? Using support for a life style that destroys the very constituency from whom Knowles and Clinton seek votes shows nothing but hate and contempt for the very people they would presume to lead!

POINT TWO:-

Constrained by love for both the homosexuals and their lifestyle's many dead victims, I would jump at the opportunity to vote for execution of unrepentant homosexuals. I think homosexuality ought to be recognized for what it is, murder.

The homosexual lifestyle has killed so many loved ones, innocent and otherwise that the resident principle of their execution should be reactivated. Sixty percent of HIV infections come from the homosexual lifestyle.

A Society expects it's leaders to lead, carrying out the responsibilities of government. Many so called hate crimes are not; rather they are manifestations of pent-up frustration at a government failing to carry out it's assigned responsibilities. We have no problem killing babies! Them, we have explicit instructions to bring to someone who's resurrection we will shortly celebrate. Conversely, we have explicit instructions to execute the unrepentant homosexual by the same love for the preservation of his soul, the saving of the lives of innocent victims and the avoidance of regressive taxation of the poor to fund the consequences of an unnecessary, destructive life style.

You are being asked by stopping this bill, to stop a principle assigned to government by the Authority who Fathered the principles upon which both the State and National Constitution were based. At the time my Grandfather, a few greats back, signed the Declaration of Independence; most of those about him recognized that a nation could remain indivisible only as long as it chose to remain 'under God'.

The cost in lives, families and dollars is way out of proportion to any other illness and this a chosen lifestyle. An important principle to remember is that no taxed culture on this planet has ever nor can long survive the economic cost of sin.

School funding is shockingly tied to this issue as well! To think that the teachers' union is also in support of the homosexual lifestyle and teach it's support is a travesty to our children worthy of a cessation of funding. It is both my personal vote and my recommendation that all school funding be rescinded until such teachers and teacher union support for homosexuality be removed in person and in principle.

Sincerely,

Stanley W. Welles

fax: (907) 235-7517

March 23, 1998

Senate

State Capitol

Juneau, Alaska 99801

Ref: Senate Joint Resolution 37

Dear Senator:

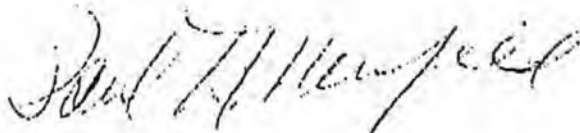
I URGE you to SUPPORT SJR 37 and SJR 42

Paul D. Merrifield
1556 Dogwood Street
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709-4265

Phone: 907-451-0657 work phone: 907-479-8330

email: sfrpaul@mosquitonet.com

Fax: 907-479-0578



Kathy Polk
P.O. Box 32677
Juneau, Alaska 99803
Telephone:(907) 789-0438
Fax (907) 789-6504

Senators Al Adams, Dave Donley, Jim Duncan, Johnny Ellis, Lyda Green, Rick Halford, Lyman Hoffman, Tim Kelly, Loren Leman, Georgianna Lincoln, Jerry Mackie, Mike Miller, Sean Parnell, Drue Pearce, Randy Phillips, Bert Sharp, Robin Taylor, John Togerson, Jerry Ward, Gary Wilken
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska

RE: SJR 37 AND SJR 42

I am writing to express my opinion on SJR 37 the proposed constitutional amendment to protect Alaska's law requiring parental consent before a minor's abortion. As a mother of 16 year old twin daughters, I support this bill. I encourage you to support this bill.

I try to be the best parent that I can be to look after the interest of my children to protect them from all evil and danger and I do my best to always be there for them. This bill would encourage them to not seek my advice and help and it could damage them both mentally and physically. The state is not willing to help them after the fact of abortion if they had to get one. They would come back to me and I would have to help them. If they got into trouble by getting pregnant I would hope to continue my role as a mother to help them. I would not want them to get a abortion in secret which is what this bill is encouraging. When you vote on this issue I pray that God will soften your heart towards the parents who try to make a difference in their children's lives and that you not make another puddle that the parents must walk through. It is not your responsibility to have my children kill my grandchildren. Again I encourage you to support SJR 37.

I encourage you to support SJR 42. God did not intend for women to marry women and men to marry men, but rather to marry man and woman. We already have too many gays and lesbians in our state and if SJR 42 does not pass then we will become infested with gays from all over the United States. As a result the jobs will become harder to get because of our overpopulated state. Don't forget welfare reform that you want to put into action in this state. If we get all of the gays and lesbians from other states then we will have less jobs to go around. PLEASE SUPPORT SJR 42.

Sincerely


Kathy Polk

March 23, 1998

Dear Senators,

MORALITY IS IMPORTANT! From the under thirty generation who feels every thread of society being ripped apart, leaving only threads of despair and depression, I ask you to vote **FOR Senate Joint Resolution 42.**

"The welfare and prosperity of all countries, communities and I may add individuals depend upon their morals."(Abigail Adams, June 1778). I challenge you to be a true patriot and secure our state in goodness and truth.

Sincerely,

Noël Maxwell, Homer.

Noël Maxwell
3/23/98

to: the Honorable Senators;
Sharp, Pearce, Donley,
Farnell, Phillips,
Torgerson & Adams

Carol Habeger
4942 Steeplehead St
Juneau, AK 99801

Mar. 23, 1998

Dear Senators,

Tomorrow morning you will take up the issue addressed by SJR 42, that of the proposed constitutional amendment defining marriage. I urge you to vote in favor of this amendment defining marriage as a union that can be entered into by "one man and one woman." This issue affects the moral fiber of our future.

History ~~and~~ proves that any society where other unions were openly recognized - that civilization soon ceased to exist. Please support SJR 42.

I want Alaska to continue to thrive & prosper.

Sincerely,
Carol Habeger

SJR 42

Dear Senator Sharp,

Why would we tear down 200 years of foundation? Why would we, in response to the demands of a few extremist, destroy the family institution on which our society is nurtured? Doesn't it seem that to allow marriage to be represented by anything other than the union of one man and one woman would be to mock the heritage on which this nation was made great? Why would we do such a self destructive thing? We have been apathetical about this because it seems so ludicrous. You may assume the testimony you heard against this proposal was the total opposition. The rest of us strongly support it.

Respectfully,

Ruth Abbott

P.O. Box 1434

Delta Junction, Alaska 99737

(907) 895-1909

page 1

This is Monday 3/23/98
att: Senator Bert Sharp
As part of the Senate Finance
Committee. I ask you to support
S.J. Resolution 42 - defining marriage
as a union that can be entered
into by one man and one woman only!

Respectfully Submitted,
Curtis Homme & Naomi A. Homme (Mrs. Curtis)
907-563-6259 - phone #
907-562-3322 - fax #

356 Louise Lane
Fairbanks, AK 99709
907-479-3779

Dear Senator:

We support SJR 42.

Homosexuality is not about mutual love. Homosexuality is about degrading sexual behaviors that often result in the spread of serious venereal diseases and death through AIDS. The homosexual community would have us believe that theirs is simply a relationship of mutual "love" for one another. This is a desensitizing tactic to obscure the real issue: the act of homosexual sex. A loving relationship between two people of the same sex does not become a homosexual relationship until and unless homosexual sex is desired and /or practiced. This is not minority civil rights that are being protected, but a particular sexual behavior.

A primary objective of a domestic partners or homosexual marriage ordinance is for the homosexuals to obtain the same medical, legal, and social benefits that our society provides for the traditional family. This is especially important since homosexuals in general have a disease ridden lifestyle:

According to Roger Magnuson in "Are Gay Rights Right", The Berean League, January 1988,

"San Francisco alone has seen a venereal disease rate 22 times the national average since gay rights laws were passed in our city. There's been a 100% increase in the spread of infectious hepatitis A; a 300% increase in hepatitis B; amoebic colon infections increased 2500%; venereal disease clinics see 75,000 patients every year, of whom 80% are homosexual males; 20% of them carried rectal gonorrhoea" (p. 17).

Figures from the San Francisco Health Department dismayed the doctors, showing the rate for syphilis was "more than twenty times the national average."

"Medical researcher, Dr. J. Gordon Muir, ... went on to describe what is known as the 'Gay Bowel Syndrome,' the name of a group of rare bowel diseases spreading through urban gay communities. They include:

- amebiasis: a parasitic colon disease which causes dysentery and sometimes liver abscesses
- Giardiasis: a parasitic bowel disease which causes diarrhea
- Shigellosis: a bacterial bowel disease which can cause severe dysentery
- Hepatitis A: a viral liver disease spread by fecal contamination."

"It is self evident, that gay sexual practices are an assault upon the ecology of the human body, that the gay communities of America's cities are polluted with disease."
(Dr. Muir)

Our country was founded upon the "laws of Nature and of Nature's God"
(Declaration of Independence).

Nature's God clearly states His condemnation of homosexuality:

"Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it [is] abomination. (Leviticus 18:22)

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; ... Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen. For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompense of their error which was meet. (Romans:1;18,19,21,24-27)

Homosexuality perverts the obvious way that God created mankind to have sexual relationships within the context of holy matrimony. The family is the basic unit of our society for the reproduction of responsible citizens. A homosexual "family" cannot reproduce, but must recruit new members. How better to recruit than to confuse young people that homosexuality is valid by allowing homosexual "marriage".

Furthermore, the act of homosexual sex is as unnatural a process as someone deciding to eat food only through his nose. Where has simple common sense gone in those who have believed the rhetoric of a small percentage (actually only 3% of the population) who are pushing their unnatural lifestyle.

Please support Senate Joint Resolution 42.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Leslie Paul Zerbe
Jane S. Zerbe
Carol J. Zerbe

P.S. I am also forwarding a fax with information on this topic.




FAMILY
RESEARCH
COUNCIL

GRY L. BEWER
President

700
Third St. NW
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Order Line
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Internet Site
<http://www.frc.org>

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ABOUT THE DEFENSE OF MARRIAGE

by
Robert H. Knight

Q: In restricting marriage to one man and one woman, aren't you imposing your beliefs on others?

A: Marriage has been the foundation of civilization for thousands of years in cultures around the world. It is the single most important social institution, and it is the basis for the procreation of children and the heart of family life. Those who are trying to radically redefine it for their own purposes are the ones who are trying to impose their values on the rest of the population. Ordinary people did not pick this fight. They are not the aggressors. They are merely defending the basic morality that has sustained the culture for everyone against a radical attack.

Q: Oh, come on. Whom does it really hurt if a same-sex couple want to get married?

A: When homosexual couples seek state approval and all the benefits that the state reserves for married couples, they impose the law on everyone. According non-marital relationships the same status as marriage would mean that millions of people would be disenfranchised by their own governments. The state would be telling them that their beliefs are no longer valid, and would turn the civil rights laws into a battering ram against them:

- Business men and women would be required to provide "family" health benefits to homosexual couples.
- Children would be taught in schools that homosexual sex is the moral equivalent of marital love.
- Same-sex "marriage" would facilitate the adoption of children by homosexual couples.
- Sex-based distinctions in the law would be removed (as was proposed in the rejected Equal Rights Amendment).

IS96C2HS

Law is not a suggestion, but, as George Washington observed, it is force. Official state sanction of same-sex relationships as "marriage" would bring the full apparatus of the state against those who believe that marriage is between one man and one woman. Traditional morality would, in effect, be outlawed.

Q: But if two people -- any two people -- love each other, why not let them marry?

A: Marriage is not just a matter of feelings. It is the specifically defined legal, social, economic and spiritual union of a man and a woman. The two sexes must be present for it to be marriage. If that definition is radically altered based on the "feelings" of those in other relationships, then the sky is the limit. There is no logical reason for not letting several people marry, or for gutting other requirements, such as minimum age, blood relative status or even the limitation of the relationship to human beings.

Q: Don't morals change? Haven't we heard all these tired phrases used in defense of not letting women vote or even in defense of slavery?

A: Various social movements have succeeded because they were in accord with natural law and the basic precepts of the moral code. Homosexuality has never been considered morally good, and it is a quantum leap from ending slavery to saying that homosexuality must now be considered good, healthy and worthy of state-protected benefits. Homosexuals enjoy all the rights every other citizen already has -- they can vote, own property, etc. -- but they cannot claim special treatment beyond those rights. Anytime they achieve that, they threaten the civil rights of those who disagree with them.

Q: For years, in some Southern states, blacks and whites were prevented from marrying by anti-miscegenation laws. Eventually, the courts overturned these laws. Aren't same-sex couples being similarly discriminated against? Isn't it only a matter of time before these repressive laws are also overturned?

A: As Colin Powell has observed, skin color and sexual behavior are entirely different. The first is a benign, inborn characteristic that has no bearing on conduct or character; the second is behaviorally-based and has everything to do with character, morality and society's basic rules of conduct. If the civil rights laws begin deviating into behavior and away from race, ethnic origin, place of birth or other immutable characteristics, there is no stopping point. New laws would have to be coined almost daily to accommodate the flood of claims based on behavior (smokers, compulsive gamblers, pornography fanatics, sex addicts and pedophiles could all claim new "rights" to protection against discrimination). One non-immutable characteristic that does get protection is religion, because that is enshrined in the Constitution. But there is no constitutional right to engage in sodomy (see *Bowers v. Hardwick*)¹ and demand that the state elevate it into protected status.

Q: But studies show that homosexuals are born that way. How then can you blame them for their condition?

A: Nobody is "blaming" anyone for having homosexual desires. The "genetic" studies that have been publicized have been conducted by self-styled homosexual activists or have been misrepresented in the media. The studies themselves typically have tiny sample sizes, biased selection, and other major methodological flaws, and are not replicated by reputable scientists.² By contrast, 70 years of therapeutic counseling and case studies show a remarkable consistency concerning the origins of the homosexual impulse as an uncompleted gender identity seeking after its own sex to replace what was not fully developed.³ Do homosexuals choose to be gay? Mostly, no, but they can choose their behavior, and they can change their orientation,⁴ as researchers Masters and Johnson showed in their landmark studies⁵ and as numerous examples of successful personal transformation testify.⁶

Q: Isn't the traditional view of marriage religious in nature? And if so, doesn't the restriction of marriage to one man and one woman violate the religious beliefs of those who disagree?

A: Although marriage does indeed arise from religious traditions, most notably the Bible, it is an independently quantifiable good for society. Hence, the state has an interest in preserving and protecting the special status of marriage, regardless of religious beliefs. A society can get along just fine without any homosexuality, but no society can get along without marriage. That is why the state encourages marriage. In 1885, the Supreme Court felt so strongly that marriage was to be protected that it declared it as a requirement for admission of new states to the Union. Any prospective state, the court said, had to have law resting "on the basis of the idea of the family, as consisting in and springing from the union for life of one man and one woman in the holy estate of matrimony; the sure foundation of all that is stable and noble in our civilization, the best guaranty of that reverent morality which is the source of all beneficent progress in social and political improvement."⁷

Q: What about childless couples? Since you say that marriage must be protected partly because of its importance in forming families, does this mean that heterosexual couples who do not have children shouldn't get marriage licenses?

A: Of course not. Although most people marry with the intention of someday starting families, the married couples who do not have children still have the potential for becoming mothers and fathers, either biologically or through adoption. Marriage is a societal good even without children, as husbands and wives serve as role models for children in their neighborhoods. Procreation is an important aspect of society's high regard for marriage, but it is not the only reason marriage is protected. Children do not benefit when homosexuality is presented as a neutral or positive lifestyle choice.

Q: But with the threat of AIDS and other diseases among promiscuous, homosexual men, wouldn't it be a societal good to encourage homosexual monogamy?

A: In cities where homosexual monogamy is already being encouraged, AIDS and other sexually-transmitted diseases are skyrocketing.⁸ It is not "homophobia" that is causing this, but the behavior itself, which is destructive emotionally, physically and morally to individuals, families and societies. That is why it has been discouraged in all successful cultures. Socrates and Plato wrote that homosexuality was harmful to individuals and society and should be discouraged. Even in "steady" homosexual relationships, dangerous sex occurs, since the defining homosexual sex act is patently unhealthy by any standard. State sanction of homosexuality in any form is an invitation to the young to experiment with something that may prove deadly. Any public health benefits available by discouraging promiscuous homosexual activity can be achieved without redefining traditional marriage, which is per se a profoundly important public health measure.

Besides, homosexual literature acknowledges that homosexual "monogamy" is largely fictional. Most homosexual relationships are fleeting. Those that endure more than a few years do so because of an agreement to have outside partners. As *New Republic* editor Andrew Sullivan, a homosexual, writes in his book *Virtually Normal*, "the openness of the contract" of homosexual "marriage" reflects "greater understanding of the need for extramarital outlets between two men than between a man and a woman." In other words, the homosexual concept of "monogamy" is non-monogamous. Homosexual activist Michelangelo Signorile frankly admits that the goal of homosexual activists is to "fight for same-sex marriage and its benefits and then, once granted, redefine the institution of marriage completely, to demand the right to marry not as a way of adhering to society's moral codes but rather to debunk a myth and radically alter an archaic institution...."

Q: Don't most people want homosexuals to be treated fairly?

A: Yes. Most people have no ill will toward homosexuals, but this does not mean that a tiny segment of the population (less than 2 percent) should be allowed to radically redefine society's moral code. Even in liberal Hawaii, recent polls show that more than 70 percent of residents oppose same-sex "marriage," and national polls show that about two-thirds of respondents oppose same-sex "marriage." This is not about tolerance, but about a tiny group seeking to use the law to impose its version of morality on everyone else.

Q: Still, don't homosexuals suffer discrimination when they can't marry?

A: No. Homosexuals have precisely the same right to marry as anyone else. Marriage is the bringing together of the two sexes. That is the whole point. To enter marriage, you must meet its qualifications. Any attempt to get around the rules that everyone else plays by is an attempt to have special rights, not equal rights. Eliminating an entire sex from

the picture and then calling it "marriage" is not a mere expansion of an institution, but rather the destruction of a principle.

Q: What about domestic partnerships? If you won't go along with same-sex "marriage," why not at least allow committed same-sex couples to get some benefits?

A: The state should never be in the business of encouraging unhealthy behavior by granting special benefits for it. A homosexual life does not offer the richness of the complementary relationship that men and women find in marriage and family life. People should not be written off as if they can do no better than be mired in an unhealthy, unnatural behavior. The more that homosexuality is encouraged, the more damage will be wrought among individuals, families and society. This is not compassion but its opposite: a ruthless social Darwinism that devalues people as impulse-driven incorrigibles. Each human soul is of inestimable worth, and homosexuals are no different from anyone else. They deserve the truth, not an officially sanctioned lie.

3/22/96

Robert H. Knight is director of cultural studies at the Family Research Council, a Washington, D.C.-based research and educational organization.

ENDNOTES

¹ *Bowers v. Hardwick* 478 U.S. 186, 190 (1986). In rejecting the claim, the Court said, "Nor are we inclined to take a more expansive view of our authority to discover new fundamental rights imbedded in the Due Process Clause. The Court is most vulnerable and comes nearest to illegitimacy when it deals with judge-made constitutional law having little or no cognizable roots in the language or design of the Constitution.... There should be, therefore, great resistance to expand the substantive reach of those Clauses, particularly if it requires redefining the category of rights deemed to be fundamental."

² See, for instance, William Byne and Bruce Parsons, "Human Sexual Orientation: The Biological Theories Reappraised," *Archives of General Psychiatry*, Vol. 50, March 1993, pp. 228-239.

³ See Elizabeth R. Moberly, *Psychoanalysis: The Early Development of Gender Identity* (London: Routledge & Kegan Paul Limited, 1983); Joseph Nicolosi, Ph.D., *Reparative Therapy of Male Homosexuality* (Northvale, New Jersey: Jason Aronson Inc., 1991); and Charles W. Socarides, M.D., *Homosexuality: A Freedom Too Far* (Phoenix: Adam Margrave Books, 1995).

⁴ E. Mansell Partison, M.D., and Myrna Loy Partison, "Ex-Gays: Religiously Mediated Change in Homosexuals," *American Journal of Psychiatry*, 137:12, December 1980. "All subjects manifested major before-after changes. Corollary evidence suggests that the phenomenon of substantiated change in sexual orientation without explicit treatment and/or long-term psychotherapy may be much more common than previously thought." (P. 1553.)

⁵ Mark F. Schwartz and William H. Masters, "The Masters and Johnson Treatment Program for Dissatisfied Homosexual Men," *American Journal of Psychiatry*, 141, 1984, pp. 173-181.

⁶ For example, Stella Allen, "Uncovering the Real Me," *Exodus International Update*, February 1996, Richard A. Cohen, M.A., "TCM Testimony of the Month," *Transformation Press*, No. 19, February 1996, p. 3.

⁷ *Murphy v. Ramsay* 114 U.S. 15, 45 (1885).

* Survey from the Centers for Disease Control reported by Associated Press, "HIV Found in 7 Percent of Gay Young Men; Education Falls to Halt Spread," *The Washington Times*, February 11, 1996, p. A-3;
Michael Warner, "Why Gay Men Are Having Risky Sex," *Village Voice*, New York, January 31, 1995, Vol. XL, No. 5.
* Quoted in *Our* magazine, December/January 1994, p. 161.

To - JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

FAX # 907-465-2187

FROM - GIL + MILDRED MERONEY
SKAGWAY, ALASKA

3/24/98

MESSAGE -

WE ARE IN TOTAL SUPPORT OF
SJR #2 DEFINING MARRIAGE AS A UNION
BETWEEN 1 MAN AND 1 WOMAN. WE URGE
YOUR SUPPORT. THANK YOU.

To:

Members:

Al Adams

Dave Donley

Jim Linnell

Johnny Ellis

Lynn Carson

Steve Halford

Lynn Hoffman

Tom Kelly

John Linnell

Marguerite Jacobs

Denny Mackin

Mike Miller

Lee Samell

Diana Pearce

Larry Phillips

Bert Sharp

Bob Taylor

John Ferguson

Jimmy Ward

Carly Wilke

3-23-98

I support S.J.R. 42 and believe that the only valid marriage should be between one man and one woman.

Sincerely,
Chausse Meltz

I support S.J.R. 37 and believe a child needs to have consent of their parents in order to have an abortion. I am totally against abortion for any reason. Perhaps this resolution would cause the parents to have the child go to term with the baby and then if necessary, the child could be given up for adoption. There is not enough babies to adopt out anymore because of abortion. There is a lot of great people out there that would make wonderful parents if they could only adopt in this country!

Sincerely,
Chausse Meltz

TO - THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

SJR 42

FROM - GIL + MILDRED MERONEY
SKAGWAY, ALASKA

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: -

WE URGE YOUR SUPPORT OF SJR
42 REGARDING MARRIAGE AS A UNION
OF 1 MAN + 1 WOMAN. PLEASE DO NOT
LET PRESSURE AFFECT OUR WAY OF
LIFE AND CONDUCT.

SINCERELY YOURS

Gil + Mildred Meroney

Susi Gregg Fowler
603 West 12th Street
Juneau, Alaska 99801
907-586-3279

March 24, 1998

Senate Finance Committee Members
Capitol Building
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Re: SJR 42


Dear Senate Finance Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I'm here today in solidarity with those who are lesbians and gays and whose relationships, whose loves, whose families, matter to me, are important to me. You don't even know all the people you know who are gay or lesbian, but I guarantee you know some whether you're aware of it or not. Alas for all of us, we still live in a climate in which many people are afraid to be open about their sexual orientation, are afraid of harrassment at work, afraid of ridicule and hate. And it is my grave fear that if SJR 42 is passed, that climate is going to get worse.

I'm lucky enough to be in a marriage of 23 years. I say luck for a couple reasons. First, I fell in love in a socially acceptable way. Society celebrates the commitment and affection my partner and I have for each other. Second, even with the approval of society, commitment and love are sometimes just plain, hard work — I've been lucky we've made it thus far. I know plenty of people as loving and hopeful about their relationships as I whose marriages have ended. I stand in awe of the gay and lesbian couples I know who have nurtured and strengthened their commitments to each other in the absence of a wider community of caring and support. They have much to teach me, to teach us, about love in the face of adversity. And what I know is that their relationships are as important, as sacred, as mine.

I don't want to see these brave and loving souls paraded in the press, demonized on talk shows and campaign trails. That's what I see happening if SJR 42 is passed. These are our friends, co-workers, teachers. What happens to them affects all of us. Alaska must not become known as a place where fear and misunderstanding reign. My grandparents were proud to be part of a place where there was room for all kinds of people. That's the Alaska I hope we'll be passing on to my children. Please reject SJR 42. Thank you.

Sincerely,


Susi Gregg Fowler

When my Presbyterian son married his partner, the service was held in a Quaker church. The Catholic Priest presiding began the service by answering the question, "Why am I performing this ceremony?". In a world increasingly filled with violence, bitterness, control, mean-spiritedness and cruelty, it is inherent on all of us to do everything we can to promote love. I hope none of you, in the name of protecting the family, would reject a son or daughter upon learning that, in addition to all their other wonderful qualities, he or she is gay. Families come in all colors, sizes, ethnic configurations. To define families as only mothers, fathers, and children excludes. It tells our school children in single parent families, remarried multi-parent families, adopted, widowed, divorced, multi-racial, mixed religion, that there is something "*wrong*" with them. It hurts families.

Acceptance and inclusion do not mandate agreement. They allow individual freedom and choice -- beliefs Americans have always prized. I cannot see how the state has any compelling interest to discourage caring, kindness, commitment and love. I hope and pray you will not pass this resolution that defines families so narrowly, and hurts the many families of this state.

Pamela Northrip
2810 Fritz Cove Rd.
Juneau, Ak 99801

P.O. Box 936
Haines Ak 99827
March 24 1998

Senate Finance Committee
Fax 907-465-3617 Or 2187

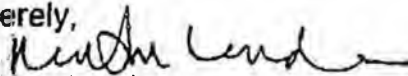
Dear Committee Members,

I tried to testify via teleconference this morning but discovered testimony on SJR-42 was by invitation only.

I am strongly opposed to the proposed constitutional amendment to define marriage. I hope that one senator's vindictiveness towards a group of people won't be sanctioned by the rest of you. It's wrong, and the motivation is not what is good for Alaskans, rather it seeks to punish and further alienate people who otherwise would contribute to the strength of our families, communities and state.

As a happily married heterosexual and mother of four I support the institution of marriage as a building block for a tolerant and strong society, something Alaskans have always valued. This Lenten season I am reminded that as a Christian it is my duty is to love my neighbor as myself. SJR-42 doesn't meet that standard. Please don't change the Constitution to shut good people out.

Sincerely,


Heather Lende

907-766-2852

**Southeast Alaska Gay and Lesbian Alliance
PO Box 21542
Juneau, AK**

Friday, March 20, 1998

Senator Loren Leman
Alaska State Capital
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Leman:

As Chairperson of the Southeast Alaska Gay and Lesbian Alliance (SEAGLA), I wish to express my opposition, and that of all SEAGLA members, to Senate Joint Resolution 42. This resolution provides for a constitutional amendment limiting a marriage contract to one man and one woman. As such, the amendment effectively refuses state recognition to the marriages of gays and lesbians.

SEAGLA feels the proposed amendment will ignite a vicious public debate similar to those in other states whose citizens have voted on gay/lesbian ballot propositions. Too often, the hateful rhetoric sounded in these debates has led to numerous hate crimes, including murder.

The Senate recently passed SCR 25 which encourages the Alaska Supreme Court to swiftly resolve the lawsuit which recognizes the right of gay marriage. Please respond to the following question: why adopt SJR 42 when the Senate, with the passage of SCR 25, recognizes that the matter of gay marriage should rightfully be settled by the courts.

Sincerely,



Daniel Collison, Chairperson
Southeast Alaska Gay and Lesbian Alliance

cc: all Alaska legislators

FROM; RICHARD & WANDA CLINE

TO; SENATOR BERT SHARP

I WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS MY SUPPORT FOR SJR 42, I BELIEVE WE NEED A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT DEFINING MARRIAGE AS A UNION THAT CAN BE ENTERED INTO BY ONLY "ONLY ONE MAN AND ONE WOMAN".

PLEASE SUPPORT SJR 42

THANK YOU,

Wanda Cline
Richard A Cline



Fax # 405-2070

FROM; RICHARD & WANDA CLINE

TO; AL ADAMS

I WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS MY SUPPORT FOR SJR 42, I BELIEVE WE NEED A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT DEFINING MARRIAGE AS A UNION THAT CAN BE ENTERED INTO BY ONLY "ONE MAN AND ONE WOMAN".

PLEASE SUPPORT SJR 42

THANK YOU,

Wanda Cline
Richard A Cline



FAX # 465-2070

March 23, 1998

Dear Senator:

Please support SJR 42.

Traditional definitions of marriage as the union of one man and one woman is important to the very fiber of our society as a whole and specifically to the State of Alaska.

Please do not allow a vocal minority to sway your opinion on this issue.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Marlin Bricker". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name and address.

Marlin and Ann Bricker
4231 Ptarmigan
Juneau, Alaska 99801

MAR-24-98 TUE 11:52 AM ANC LEGIS INFO OFC

FAX NO. 907 258 1261

P. 01



TELECOPY COVER SHEET

Anchorage Legislative Information Office

Office - (907) 561-7007

Fax - (907) 562-4376

TO: Sen Finance Cmte / Sen Pearce

ATTN: _____ FAX: 465-3872 PHONE: _____

FROM: Anch TC PHONE: _____

INSTRUCTIONS: Written (7) on SJR 42 from TC on
3/24

SENT: Date 3/24 Time _____

DISPOSAL OF ORIGINAL: Discard _____ Hold for Pickup _____

NUMBER OF PAGES: 15 (counting cover sheet)

TRANSMITTED BY: Jean



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE
committee name

committee on SJR-42 CONSTITUTIONAL, dated 3-24-98

bill/subject
AMENDMENT RE: MARRIAGE

I AM EXTREMELY OPPOSED TO SJR-42. I BELIEVE IT IS NOT THE BUSINESS OF OUR GOVERNMENT TO RESTRICT THE RIGHTS OF CERTAIN GROUPS OF PEOPLE, BUT TO PROTECT THOSE RIGHTS SO THAT EVERYONE IS PROTECTED EQUALLY. OUR CONSTITUTION IS FINE THE WAY IT IS, DON'T MESS WITH IT. LET THE JUDICIAL PROCESS TAKE ITS COURSE,

Signed: [Signature]

Testifier

MYSELF

Representing (Optional)

5306 CARIBOU AVE ANCHORAGE AK 99508

Address

907-338-5343

Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the SENATE FINANCE
 committee name
 committee on SJR 42, dated 3/24/98
 bill/subject

I STRONGLY URGE THE MEMBERS OF THIS COMMITTEE TO REJECT SJR 42, THE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT RE: MARRIAGE. THIS RESOLUTION PROMOTES SEPARATE, AND, ULTIMATELY, UNFAIR TREATMENT OF A MINORITY GROUP OF CITIZENS. ONE TESTIFIER SAID, "THE RIGHTS OF THE MINORITY ARE AS IMPORTANT AS THE OPINIONS OF THE MAJORITY." IF WE WERE TO ONLY LISTEN TO THE MAJORITY, THEN I'M SURE THAT SEGREGATION WOULD BE LEGAL TODAY. THERE WAS MUCH RESISTANCE TO DESEGREGATION WHEN THE SUPREME COURT (U.S.) PASSED DOWN ITS DECISION, YET TODAY WE VIEW IT AS FAIR, EVEN AS A GIVEN. THE CONSTITUTION'S PURPOSE IS TO ENSURE OUR RIGHTS AS ALASKANS AND AS U.S. CITIZENS. THEREFORE, DO NOT VIOLATE (OR CONDONE SUCH TREATMENT) THE RIGHTS OF THIS MINORITY GROUP OF CITIZENS.

Signed: Trang Duong (TRANG DUONG) THANK YOU
 Testifier

Representing (Optional)

P.O. BOX 202710, ANCHORAGE, AK 99520
 Address

907 / 263-2055
 Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Finance
 committee name
 committee on SJR 42, dated 3/24/98
 bill/subject

The legis. comm. has no business
 interfering into people's private lives by try to
 amend the state constitution. Leave the
 constitution alone. It is just fine. The right
 to privacy should be protected.

Signed: Norman J. Schlittler

Testifier

PFLAG / Anchorage
 Representing (Optional)

2521 Benbow Dr Anch, AK 99504
 Address

333-0116
 Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Finance
 committee name
 committee on STR 4.2, dated 3/24/98
 bill/subject

I am writing to urge you to vote against STR 4.2 changing
 the Constitution to make it harder to pass a law legalizing
 marriage for all Alaskans. I feel people should not
 be discriminated against because of their sexual orientation.
 From the states perspective, marriage is a legal contract that
 includes many benefits such as Tax breaks, insurance coverage for spouses +
 "family" status in times of medical need. The state has no right to
 take a moral stand on this. Gays + lesbians are
 law abiding citizens who contribute to their communities +
 should not be treated like they are outlaws or a lesser
 class citizens. The Constitution protects All citizens
 to equal rights - lets keep it that way.

Signed: [Signature]
 Testifier

Representing (Optional)

7240 Duval Circle Anchorage AK 99507
 Address

907-522-3953
 Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Finance Committee
 committee name
 committee on SSR42, dated 3/24/98
 bill/subject

I want to testify in opposition to this bill which would change our constitution in a negative manner. I would like to see our legislators concentrate their attention on matters to do with the good of our state rather than trying to inflict their personal religious beliefs on us all. People who have been sharing their lives, accepting responsibility for each other financially & socially should be given ~~the~~ the same benefits as any legally married couple.

Signed: Deborah Vanduff
 Testifier

Representing (Optional)

1014 W. 10th #4 Anch AK 99501

Address

(907) 278-1182

Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Finance Committee
committee name
 commi'tee on SJR 42, dated 3/24/98
bill/subject

Dear Senator Pearce and committee members,

I have lived in Alaska most of my adult life. I am a business owner and employ over 20 Alaskans. The reason I am writing today is to voice my opposition to SJR 42.

I believe it is wrong to amend the Constitution and limit the freedoms of my Alaskans. On behalf of myself and my family I urge you to drop SJR 42.

Signed: Amy Young
Testifier

Sincerely,
Amy Young

Representing (Optional)
218 E. 10th Ave, ANCHORAGE, AK 99501
Address
907.258.9925
Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the SENATE FINANCE (4e)
committee name
 committee on SJR-42, dated 24 March 98
bill/subject

I Am opposed To The proposed Constitutional Amendment To Define MARRIAGE IN ALASKA AS A Commitment Between 1 MAN + 1 WOMAN.

My PARTNER & I HAVE LIVED IN ALASKA FOR 22 YEARS & HAVE BEEN TOGETHER 29 YEARS (3/21/69). WE ARE ECONOMICALLY & SPIRITUALLY INVOLVED IN OUR Community.

WE ARE BOTH MEMBERS OF OUR CHURCH & I SERVE ON MY CHURCH BOARD AS WELL AS BEING CHURCH TREASURER. THOSE OF YOU WHO CONTINUE ATTEMPTS TO STEREOTYPE & DEMEAN THOSE WHO ARE DIFFERENT WILL ONLY CREATE DIVISIVENESS WITHIN OUR STATE.

Signed: Dan Carter
Testifier

Self
Representing (Optional)
P.O. Box 210072 Anchorage AK 99521
Address
274-9226
Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate ~~Justice~~ Finance Committee
 committee name
 committee on SJR 42, dated March 24, 1998
 bill/subject

I oppose the bill SJR 42 recommending an admendment to Alaska's constitution be placed on the ballot. There are broad issues involved with this action when a majority can vote to change such a fundamental document. I personally believe gay relationships are as deserving of recognition in our civil law as heterosexual relationships. Each religion can chuse to support or oppose such marriages but the secular law of the land should provide equal treatment of all people, and civil recognition does not force anyone to alter their religious views. I wish our legislators would seek to find common ground, to understand the difficulties gay people face and work on legislation of mutual benefit to all our citizens.

Signed: Beit Mead
 Testifier

Representing (Optional)
9731 St. Lawrence Circle Eagle River, AK
 Address 99577
907-694-7528
 Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senat. Finance
 committee name
 committee on 5142, dated 3/24/98
 bill/subject

See Attached statement +

Also, I protest the fact that this committee has not allowed presentation of oral testimony. Rightly or wrongly, it feels like you do not have the courage to hear what I have to say in person.

Signed: *Ellen M. Dennis*
 Testifier

Self and as Past President of PFLAG S. Central
 Representing (Optional)

1010 W 10th Ave, Anchorage 99501
 Address

254-0133
 Phone No.

March 24, 1998

Testimony by Elliott T. Dennis, 1010 W 10th Ave., Anchorage 99501; 258-0133

Regarding amending constitution to outlaw gay marriages.

Good Morning:

Amending the constitution to outlaw gay marriages is a bad idea and I urge you to vote against this legislation. The reasons are simple.

1. The sole purpose of the legislation is to legalize discrimination against an unpopular minority in our society; gay and lesbian couples.
2. Our constitution was enacted to protect all of us, the popular and the unpopular. The constitution protects the minority from tyranny by the majority. It is, if you will, a safety net for our society.
3. This effort to amend the constitution, as well as the absence of laws protecting the individual rights of gays and lesbians, is reminiscent of the persecution of Christians by the Jews, Romans and others; the pilgrims would not have come to North America, if they had been protected from persecution by the majority.
4. Discrimination against gay couples is unconstitutional under our current constitution, unless the state can show a compelling reason for unequal treatment. This fact should cause each of you to question what is so wrong with a gay marriage if the state can not explain what compelling reason exists for discriminating.
5. Discrimination against individuals who are our family members, friends, neighbors and co-workers should cause us great pauses; these individuals hold down jobs, pay taxes, maintain loving relationships, contribute to our society and vote. Why should they be treated differently????
6. Discrimination, which harms an individual gay person, harms the family, friends and neighbors of each victim; their pain becomes the pain of all.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Finance Committee
committee name
 committee on SJR 42, dated 3/24/98.
bill/subject

I oppose. SJR 42. I also vigorously oppose your decision not to take testimony by teleconference. Only one person in Anchorage was permitted to testify in Judiciary, and NO ONE in Anchorage will be heard by your committee. Is this responsible review of such a weighty issue as a constitutional amendment? We need an opportunity to speak.

Signed: Allin Merdel
Testifier

Representing (Optional)
8530 BANNO Cir A/A 99507
Address
243-7826
Phone No.

ALASKA CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION

An Affiliate of the American Civil Liberties Union

P. O. Box 201844 Anchorage, AK 99520-1844

Phone: 907-258-0044 Fax: 907-258-0288 E-Mail: akclu@alaska.net

TESTIMONY

To: Senate Finance Committee
From: Jennifer Rudinger, Executive Director
Date: Tuesday, March 24, 1998
Re: SJR 42

Good morning, Co-Chairs and Members of the Committee:

My name is Jennifer Rudinger, and I am the Executive Director of the Alaska Civil Liberties Union. The AkCLU is a non-partisan organization dedicated to preserving and defending the principles of individual liberty guaranteed in the U.S. Bill of Rights and in our strong Alaska State Constitution. I have come here today on behalf of over 800 card-carrying members of the AkCLU to urge you *not* to pass SJR 42 out of this committee.

Putting this amendment on the ballot for a vote is a bad idea. This amendment takes the most intimate, personal, private decisions an individual makes in his or her lifetime -- the choice of to whom one publicly declares allegiance for life -- and subjects this right of personal choice to a majority vote. A recent TV poll indicated that 62% of Alaskans favor same-sex marriage, and we can argue about the accuracy of polls and what the majority believes, but all of this is besides the point. The point is that the role of government should be to carefully balance the rights of the majority with rights of the minority, and where, as in this case, allowing personal autonomy and individual liberty will not hurt or disadvantage the rights of the majority, the individual must be free to exercise his or her rights. There is simply no public interest at stake here for the legislature to protect. What this amendment really attempts to do is legislate morality and impose certain religious views on every citizen of Alaska. This is a frightening prospect indeed. It is antithetical to the spirit of freedom and individuality which lies at the foundation of America and of Alaska.

Our founding fathers fled religious persecution and warned of their fears of a tyranny of the majority when they were forming the United States of America. James Madison wrote that "...measures are too often decided, not according to the rules of justice and the rights of the minor party, but by the superior force of an interested and overbearing majority." The right to marry should not be subject to majority rule. In 1967, the Supreme Court declared

AkCLU Testimony on SJR 42
Page Two

that interracial marriages could not be lawfully banned under the Equal Protection Clause. An ugly debate fueled by hatred and ignorance surrounded this decision. This measure hasn't even gotten to the ballot yet, and we are already hearing the same hateful, ignorant rhetoric that we heard in 1967. Please don't open up Alaska to that same public intolerance and hatred that this country has struggled so hard to overcome since the *Loving* decision.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any further questions. Thank you for your careful consideration of this matter.

Volume 19, Number 4, April 1998

DRAFT

Panel Discussion

Tues., April 7

University of Alaska: How can it best serve the people of Alaska?

Commonwealth North welcomes University of Alaska Board of Regents members Michael P. Kelly, Chancy Croft and Joseph R. Henri (a CWN member) to our April FORUM. As the U of A faces a critical crossroad, we will ask each of them to share their vision for the university system. Budget cuts and organizational plans have dominated recent university debates. Our goal is to focus on the bigger picture - how the U of A fits into Alaska from an overall point of view. What should we, as Alaskans, expect from our university? How should it fit into our lives, our economy, and our future?

3
FVI

Mr. Kelly of Fairbanks, is Board president; Mr. Henri is from Anchorage; both were appointed in 1991 by Governor Hickel. Mr. Croft of Anchorage, is treasurer, and was appointed in 1995 by Governor Knowles.

This is your April FORUM and is scheduled for 7 a.m. at the Hotel Captain Cook Ballroom. The cost for guests, \$25.

General Larry D. Welch

Fri., April 24

**President & CEO, Institute for Defense Analyses
*Alaska & the future of national defense***

General Welch, President and CEO of The Institute for Defense Analyses (IDA), will join Commonwealth North to discuss the United States' defense plans, and how Alaska fits into the most likely defense scenarios over the next ten to twenty years.

IDA is a federally funded research and development center established to assist the Office of the Secretary of Defense, the Joint Staff, Unified Commands, and Defense Agencies in addressing national security issues. It is known by many as the Pentagon's "think tank."

In addition to his post at IDA, General Welch is Chair of the Security Policy Advisory Commission, to which he was appointed in 1996 by President Clinton. General Welch served four years as U.S. Air Force Chief of Staff and two years as Commander in Chief, Strategic Air Command. General Welch retired from active duty July, 1990 after serving in the military since 1951.

This is an EXTRA EVENT and is scheduled for 7 a.m. at the Anchorage Hilton Chart Room (upstairs). The cost for members, \$20; cost for guests, \$25.

**To RSVP for all events fax 276-6350 or phone 276-1414 ext. 1.
Absent 24-hour advance cancellation, you will be billed based on your RSVP.
NOTICE: The charge for guest meals is now \$25, effective 2/1/98.**

Post-It* Fax Note	7671	Date	3/24	# of pages	2
To	Kalbaring	From	Gilman		
Co/Dept.	St. Anne Hospital	Co.	(USA)		
Phone #		Phone #	2589522		
Fax #	4105-3872	Fax #			



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Finance
 Committee on Resolution No 42 Committee Name
 Dated 3/24/98
Bill / Subject

Very Opposed to this Resolution
 This is very much a pending issue and
 does not belong in the state statutes.

SIGNED: Michael J. Wandman
 Testifier

Self and all other people of this great state
 Representing

1440 Lacey Street Fairbanks AK 99701
 Address / Phone Number



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Finance Committee
 Committee on Senate Joint Resolution #42 Committee Name Dated 24 March '98
Bill / Subject

Legal requirements for marriage are not
 of sufficient importance to be included in
 the State Constitution.
 This resolution is nonsense,

SIGNED:

David A. Wells

Testifier

Self

Representing

Box 91937 Fairbanks Ak 99709 459-3423
 Address / Phone Number (490)-3423



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Finance Committee
Committee Name
 Committee on SJR 42 Dated 3/24/98
Bill / Subject

I strongly oppose SJR 42 and would like the Finance Committee to show how this bill would affect costs and benefits around the state before voting on this bill. If the costs of marriage between committed partners are higher than the benefits, then why do we have marriage between men and women?

All I have heard so far is that historical precedent is the primary reason why persons of the same sex should be denied the rights and benefits of marriage. Only 30 years ago, interracial couples could not legally marry. Today similar discriminatory arguments used then are being used to prevent gay and lesbian couples from marrying.

Marriage is a personal decision made between two people committed to one another and should be as free as possible from government interference.

I resent the fact that the Finance Committee is not taking oral testimony on this issue. It is very important to me since I have a gay daughter.

SIGNED: Stephen H. Kauling over
 Testifier

myself
 Representing

POB 84680, Fairbanks AK 99708-4680
 Address / Phone Number (907) 479-4944

At 9⁴³ AM, Sen Sharp agreed to set up
a subcommittee to receive oral testimony
on SJR 42. I am grateful to Sen Sharp for
allowing me to be heard publicly on this
issue.



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Finance
 Committee on SJR 42 Marriage Committee Name Dated March 24, 98
Bill / Subject

By being different in a way that is not valued by the world we live in, I've learned to compartmentalize. I find out where I'm safe, and where I'm not safe. Groups who experience being excluded count. ... When "we" become included we stop counting. We use to attend to whether Italian or Jews or ~~the~~ Catholics elected or appointed to high positions in our government. We rarely do that anymore. We still, however, count gay and lesbians. I want to be included. I want to be able to stop counting or being counted.

Good news to my self is, the recent show of support statewide, against SJR 42. Many people are now no longer sitting back, no longer willing to be excluded, whether for gender, race, disability or sexual orientation. I am no longer willing to let others make important life long decisions for me. Marriage is a personal choice not a public one.

SIGNED:

Kathleen E. Watt
 Testifier

KATHLEEN E. WATTUM
 Representing

Box 84397 Fof's AK 99708
 Address / Phone Number



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the FINAKE COMMITTEE
 Committee Name
 Committee on SJR 42 Dated 3/24/98
 Bill / Subject

THIS PIECE OF LEGISLATION IS AIMED AT A PARTICULAR PERCENT OF THE POPULATION IT SEEMS TO BE BASED ON UNREALISTIC FEARS AND MISUNDERSTANDINGS ABOUT THAT GROUP AND WHEN THE STATE'S ATTORNEY IN THE CASE NOW BEING CONSIDERED BY THE COURT IS ASKED WHAT THE STATE'S COMPELLING INTEREST IS IN BLOCKING MARRIAGE FOR THE TWO PLAINTIFFS, HE SAYS HE DOESN'T KNOW WHAT IS THE BASIS FOR CARRYING UNTIL THE FACTS ARE KNOWN? ARE ALL CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES BASED ON THIS FEAR?

WHY IS THIS LEGISLATION GOING ON WHEN THE LEGISLATURE HAS ASKED THE COURTS TO SETTLE THE QUESTION QUICKLY?

WHY IS THIS AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION GETTING RECORDS OF PASSING WHEN THERE IS STILL NO AMENDMENT FOR SUBSISTENCE ISSUES?

LEGISLATING AGAINST PEOPLE IN YOUR AREAS, PEOPLE THAT YOU REPRESENT, IS NOT A GOOD IDEA. YOU WILL BE SPENDING TAX DOLLARS ON MORALITY ISSUES WHILE SCHOOLS, POWER PROJECTS AND IMPORTANT INFRASTRUCTURE CONCERNS GO UNAIDED.

SIGNED:

Peter Penning
 Testifier

Representing

P.O. Box 82290 Fairbanks, AK 99708
 Address / Phone Number



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Finance Committee
 Committee on SJR 42 3-24-98
 Bill / Subject Committee Name Dated

I don't understand why the legislature is trying to legislate people's lives. When there are so many important issues facing the state — how to pay for education — what to do about subsistence — etc. What is the legislature wasting its time on trying to control people's personal lives! Leave this issue where it belongs — in the courts and in the bedrooms. Leave people's private lives PRIVATE and let this resolution die in committee.

SIGNED:  Patrick E. Marlow
 Testifier

Representing

P.O. Box 83683 Fairbanks, AK 99708
 Address / Phone Number



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the FINANCE
 Committee on STR 42 Committee Name
 Dated 24 MAR 98
 Bill / Subject

I OPPOSE STR 42 AND AM OPPOSED TO THE FACT THAT
 THE LEGISLATURE IS STILL PERSUADING THIS MATTER AFTER
 ASKING THE COURT SYSTEM TO DECIDE ON THE MATTER.

IT IS THE DUTY OF THE LEGISLATURE TO ENSURE
 FAIR AND EQUAL TREATMENT OF ALL RESIDENTS OF THIS STATE
 AND NOT TO FIND WAYS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST CERTAIN
 PEOPLE. OUR CONSTITUTION REQUIRES IN ART. I SEC. 1 UNDER
 VARIOUS ARTICLES THAT ALL PEOPLE ARE EQUAL AND ENTITLED TO
 EQUAL RIGHTS, OPPORTUNITIES AND SERVICES UNDER LAW.

SECTION 4 FURTHER STATES THAT IN LAW THERE IS NO DISTINCTION
 AND DISCRIMINATION OF RESIDENTS. THEREFORE IMPLEMENTING MEASURES THAT
 TREAT CERTAIN RESIDENTS DIFFERENTLY AND PRACTICE VARIANTS AND DISCRIMINATE
 STATE RESIDENTS.

I FURTHER OPPOSE THIS MEASURE TO BE CLOSED TO RESIDENTS OF
 THE STATE UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF OUR CONSTITUTION.

SIGNED:

Testifier

Representing

Address / Phone Number

TERRY FAUTH

76 SOUTH B ST 2-136 FAIRBANKS AK 99701
478 6115

• Ilena Lee Cramer

• 324 6th Ave. • Fairbanks, Alaska 99701 • (907) 479-2136 •

To:
Sen. Loren Leman
State Capitol, Room 115
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182
Fax: (907) 465-3810

Re: SJR 42

Dear Senator Leman

In this debate over the SJR 42 I continually heard you, and others who support this amendment stating the importance of marriage to society, and the fear that opening that institution to same sex couples would undermine one of the foundations of society. I agree that the institution of marriage is a foundation of our society. Marriage is at the roots of family, families are the foundations of communities, communities are the foundations of our country.

Let me tell you about family and myself: My mother and father moved to Alaska in the early 70's. My sister and I were raised here in Alaska. My sister is raising her family here in Alaska, and I hope someday to have a family here in Alaska. As for myself, I am 25. I received my BA from UAF. I am a social worker and an artist. I abide by the laws, pay my taxes and vote. I think I would make a fine wife, and a good mother. The only differences between my sister and I are a few inches in height and the fact that she can marry the one she loves, and I cannot. It seems that I am not worthy, not even for the simplest societal privilege of getting married and having a family. I take very personal offense when I hear you attack my future family as something that will undermine society.

Not allowing me to marry will not make me 'straight', it will not 'change my mind'. It will also not stop me from entering into a lifelong commitment with someone or raising my family here in Alaska. It will just make things more difficult for my family. Don't families today have enough things to worry about? I think that it is the government that is undermining American families by regulating our lives all over the place instead of concentrating on the issues that really make a difference to families, like education, the subsistence issues, safe roads, and money for the university.

I am opposed to SJR 42, and am personally offended by the things that you have said on the subject. Your lack of respect for me and my family will be reciprocated come re-election time.

I would like for you to respond to my letter and explain what is the states REAL compelling reason for denying my rights.

Sincerely
Ilena Lee Cramer

cc: All Alaska Legislators



Lisa Peñalver
1166 Skyllne Drive
Fairbanks, AK S3712,
(907) 457-1458
e-mail, pen-art@mosquitonet.com

Attn: all AK Senators

State Capitol, Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182.

3/24/98

Dear Senators,

I urge you to oppose SJR 42, which would amend the state constitution to narrowly define the marriage contract as only valid if between a man and a woman and which would invalidate commitments between people of the same gender.

As Alaskans, we believe strongly that the government should not be meddling in the very private and intimate realm of a person's choice of life partner. Surely the Legislaturo has better things to do than to try to tell us who we can love and live with? If you infringe the privacy rights of this group, you will undermine everyone's rights!

I understand that some of you have trouble with the very concept of homosexuality - and to those of you who do - please realize that you are overlooking the fact that a marriage is far MORE than mere sex!! A marriage is about commitment, about LOVE - about openly accepting responsibility for another person - in front of family, friends, the community, God and everyone. Surely, many of you are more comfortable among people of your same gender; and you can probably think of people of the same gender (including relatives) of whom you could say you feel fondness (perhaps love?). It may be cliché, but love knows no bounds... I fail to see how it is in the interests of the State to interfere with the acceptance of such personal responsibility. This resolution is a blatant attempt to discriminate against the committed gay couples in our communities.

In response to the argument that acceptance of same-gender couples is "undermining the integrity of the family" - you should really be looking at the refusal of heterosexual men to accept that very responsibility you are trying to impede with this bill. The breakdown of the family has far more to do with older men having sex with much younger girls, then abandoning their offspring - WITH NO NEGATIVE REPERCUSSIONS from society (heck, THAT's not illegal, is it!). Stop trying to shift the blame away from the truly culpable, and please stop trying to scapegoat those who are different from yourselves.

I worry that if such a resolution were to pass, we would soon be seeing bans on cross-religious marriages, and on interracial marriages - it will never end! If we allow discrimination against one group, we grant permission to restrict the freedoms of any other group who may fall out of political favor! We find this resolution highly offensive.

Please oppose this SJR #42! Alaska does NOT need a Gay Discrimination Amendment!

Please respond! - what purpose/benefit does this bill provide??

Sincerely,


Lisa Peñalver

CC: All Alaska Legislators

TO: Senator Bert Sharp
A. S. A.P.

3-24-98

To: Senate Finance Committee: Senators Drue Pearce, Bert Sharp, Dave Donley, Sean Parnell,
Randy Phillips, John Torgerson, Al Adams,

From: Jonathan and Ruth Ewig
2325-30th Avenue
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701
phone: 907-452-5538 (also a fax line)

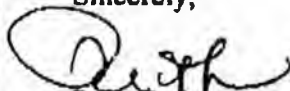
RE: **SUPPORT SJR42** A proposed constitutional amendment to define marriage as a union that can only be entered into only by "one man and one woman"

SUPPORT THIS AMENDMENT. Your decision should not be based on the number who contact you but rather on the principles of a Republic. The main purpose is to protect life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. By not defining marriage you are supporting pro-homosexual policies by omission. This does not protect life, liberty, or the pursuit of happiness. This lifestyle is unstable, unhealthy, anti-family, anti-Christian, and policies in support of it are very destructive.

Our Republic was established within the context of a traditional marriage as set forth by the Bible. Our Republic is a Christian Republic even though secular humanists today deny it. History supports and proves it. Decisions are NOT made in a Republic based on the number for or against but rather a higher standard. That which protects life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

We have a database of 300 people who opposed homosexuality, recruiting through the schools, trying to adopt children in order to further corrupt the culture, and the dangers of it. Although they cannot be activated within a few days, we are still here and expect you to do the right thing.

Sincerely,


Ruth Ewig

**REPUBLICAN PARTY OF ALASKA
DISTRICT 35**

Mrs. Debbie Joslin, Chairperson
PO Box 377, Delta Junction, AK 99737
(907) 895-4565 phone/fax
dijoslin@juno.com

March 22, 1998

To: Members of the Senate Finance Committee

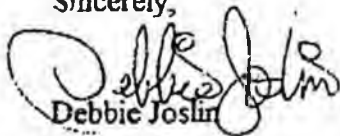
Dear Senator,

I urge you to pass SJR 42 immediately. Putting this amendment on the ballot and letting the people of Alaska decide is the **ONLY** reasonable course of action at this point. Passing SJR 42 is the more fiscally prudent thing to do. Lets not spend hundred of thousands of dollars to let a judge decide something that the people of Alaska have every right to decide. I am confident that this amendment would pass if put before the people. But if it does not I would be willing to live with that if it is the will of the people.

Please do not forget that the platform of the Republican Party of Alaska opposes same sex marriage.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

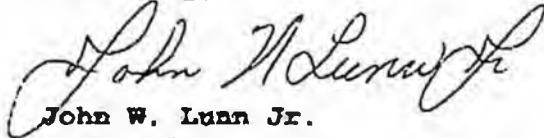

Debbie Joslin

March 22, 1998

Dear Senator:

I urge you to pass SJR 42 proposed constitutional amendment to define marriage as a union that can be enter into only by "one man and one woman". I believe that to allow anything else would further destroy the family unit in the State of Alaska and I strongly oppose allowing the marriage of homosexuals in the State of Alaska.

Sincerely,



John W. Lunn Jr.

PO Box 406

Delta Junction, AK 99737

Michael Pelto
Regina Pelto
P.O. Box 1024
Delta, AK 99737
(907) 895-4730
3-22-98

Dear Senate Members,

Both my husband and I would like
Senate Joint Resolution 42 passed into law. Our
country and its laws were formed and based
on biblical laws and customs. Homosexual
relationship & marriage go against what our
founding fathers had in mind for our country.
We, as partners in a traditional biblical
marriage, strongly believe in the traditional
one man-one woman marriage. Please, vote
to strengthen our state and our country;
vote yes for SJR 42 and our families.

2 votes for SJR 42

Earnestly,
Mike Pelto and
Regina Pelto
Regina C. Pelto

March 23, 1998
P.O. Box 779
Delta Jet, AK
99737

Dear Senator:

I would like to strongly
recommend you to vote to pass
SR 37 and also SR 42:

I have tried to voice my
opinion and concern every time
these issues are known to me
to be discussed.

Thank you!

Sincerely,
Jo E. McBrien

FAX - 465-2187

Kenwyn George
5935 Woods Street
Juneau, AK 99801

Subject: SR 42

March 23, 1998

To whom it may concern/ Senate Finance:

I would like to express my support for SRJ 42

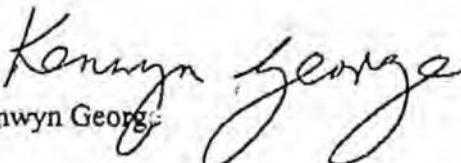
One reason I support this Bill is because I believe that the institution of marriage was to bond a man and a wife legally such that there would be security for the raising of any children from the union. This would save society from having to bear the burden of raising these children, and the problems and traumas that can result in children from not having the security of parents and a home. Unions of same sex partners do not produce children, and the institution of marriage was not created for this type of union.

Another reason is that it is the duty of the leaders in society, especially those who have been elected by members of the public, to steer the course that society is to take. Let us not have history repeat itself, did not Rome fall because of laxity in morals? We do not want to go the same way, but, sadly we are becoming more lax in morals each day. To me "marriage" of same sex partners is just another step down a spiral staircase. I really do not wish to know what is at the bottom of the staircase, but may have no choice in finding out - I have no choice but to follow the leaders, yourselves, when it comes to issues such as those we face with SRJ 42.

Gay people have been in society for a long time. Making a union between two gays a "marriage" with all the legal rights that goes with that, is not necessarily the correct way to deal with the situation. Perhaps gays could draw up legal unions, not called a marriage. This would take the focus off the gay rights issue, which I fear may be as detrimental to gays as they hope it will benefit their standing in society.

I have been one of the silent majority, up until now. I am writing this because I hear that the issue is being well attended by gays, but not the greater number of the populace who are heterosexual and believe only in marriage being a union between two people of the opposite sex. People like myself, the silent majority, are silent because the issue does not directly influence us as much as it does gays. Maybe there is some other mechanism required to really find out what the majority of the populace believes. Maybe a poll conducted through local newspapers would provide a better idea of the true feelings of people on this matter.

Sincerely,


Kenwyn George



TELECOPY COVER SHEET

Fairbanks Legislative Information Office

Office - (907) 452-4448

Fax - (907) 456-3346

TO: (S) FINANCE FAX: 465287 PHONE: _____

FROM: _____ PHONE: _____

INSTRUCTIONS: RE SJR 42

RECEIVED: Date 3/24/98 Time _____

SENT: Date 3/24/98 Time _____

DISPOSAL OF ORIGINAL: Discard _____ Hold (or Pickup) _____

NUMBER OF PAGES: 8 (Not counting cover sheet)

SENT BY: Wally



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Finance
Committee Name
 Committee on Resolution No 42 Dated 3/24/98
Bill / Subject

*Very Opposed to this Resolution
 This is very much a pending issue and
 does not belong in the state statutes.*

SIGNED: Michael J. Wardman
Testifier

Self and all other people of this great state
Representing

1440 Lacey Street Fairbanks AK 99701
Address / Phone Number



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Finance Committee
 Committee on Senate Joint Resolution #42 Committee Name Dated 24 March '98
Bill / Subject

*Legal requirements for marriage are not
 of sufficient importance to be included in
 the State Constitution.
 This resolution is nonsense,*

SIGNED:

David A. Wells

Testifier

Self

Representing

Box 81937 Fairbanks Ak 99709 459-3423
 Address / Phone Number *(496)-3423*



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Finance Comm. Hea
Committee Name
 Committee on SJR 42 Dated 3/24/98
Bill / Subject

I strongly oppose SJR 42 and would like the Finance Committee to show how this bill would affect costs and benefits around the state before voting on this bill. If the costs of marriage between committed partners are higher than the benefits, then why do we have marriage between men and women?

All I have heard so far is that historical precedent is the primary reason why persons of the same sex should be denied the rights and benefits of marriage. Only 30 years ago, interracial couples could not legally marry. Today similar discriminatory arguments used then are being used to prevent gay and lesbian couples from marrying.

Marriage is a personal decision made between two people committed to one another and should be as free as possible from government interference.

I resent the fact that the Finance Committee is not taking oral testimony on this issue. It is very important to me since I have a gay daughter.

SIGNED: Stephen H. Kauling over
 Testifier

myself
 Representing

POB 84680, Fairbanks AK 99708-4680
 Address / Phone Number (907) 479-4944



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Finance
 Committee on SJR 42 Marriage Committee Name
 Dated March 24, 98
 Bill / Subject

By being different in a way that is not valued by the world we live in, I've learned to compartmentalize. I find out where I'm safe, and where I'm not safe. Groups who experience being excluded count. ... When "we" become included we stop counting; we use to attend to whether Italian or Jews or ~~the~~ Catholics elected or appointed to high positions in our government. We rarely do that anymore. We still, however, count gay and lesbians. I want to be included. I want to be able to stop counting or being counted.

Good news to my self is, the recent show of support statewide, against SJR 42. Many people are now no longer sitting back, no longer willing to be excluded, whether for gender, race, disability or sexual orientation. I am no longer willing to let others make important life-long decisions for me. Marriage is a personal choice not a public one.

SIGNED:

Kathleen E. Watt

Testifier

KATHLEEN E. WATT

Representing

Box 84397 Fairbanks AK 99708

Address / Phone Number



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the FINALE COMMITTEE
 Committee on SJR 42 Committee Name
 Dated 3/24/98
 Bill / Subject

THIS PIECE OF LEGISLATION IS AIMED AT A PARTICULAR PERCENT OF THE POPULATION. IT SEEMS TO BE BASED ON UNREALISTIC FEARS AND MISUNDERSTANDINGS ABOUT THAT GROUP. AND WHEN THE STATE'S ATTORNEY IN THE CASE NOW BEING CONSIDERED BY THE COURT IS ASKED WHAT THE STATE'S COMPELLING INTEREST IS IN BLOCKING MARRIAGE FOR THE TWO PLAINTIFFS, HE SAYS HE DOESN'T KNOW. WHAT IS THE BASIS FOR CARRYING UNTIL THE FACTS ARE KNOWN? ARE ALL CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES BASED ON THIS FEAR?

WHY IS THIS LEGISLATION GOING ON WHEN THE LEGISLATURE HAS ASKED THE COURTS TO SETTLE THE QUESTION QUICKLY?

WHY IS THIS AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION GETTING REWARDS OF PASSING WHEN THERE IS STILL NO AMENDMENT FOR SUBSISTENCE ISSUES?

LEGISLATING AGAINST PEOPLE IN YOUR AREAS, PEOPLE THAT YOU REPRESENT, IS NOT A GOOD IDEA. YOU WILL BE SPENDING TAX DOLLARS ON MORALITY ISSUES WHILE SCHOOLS, POWER PROJECTS AND IMPORTANT INFRASTRUCTURE CONCERNS GO UNAIDED.

SIGNED:

Peter Pinn
 Testifier

Representing

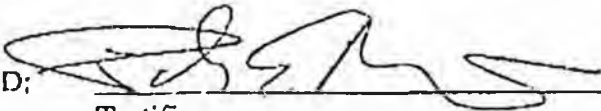
P.O. Box 82290 Fairbanks, AK 99708
 Address / Phone Number



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Finance Committee
Committee Name
 Committee on SJR 42 Dated 3-24-98
Bill / Subject

I don't understand why the legislature is trying to legislate people's lives. When there are so many important issues facing the state — how to pay for education — what to do about subsistence — etc. what is the legislature wasting its time on trying to control people's personal lives! Leave this issue where it belongs — in the courts and in the bedrooms. Leave people's private lives PRIVATE and let this resolution die in committee.

SIGNED:  Patrick E. Marlow
 Testifier

Representing
P.O. Box 83683 Fairbanks, AK 99708
 Address / Phone Number



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the FINANCE
 Committee on SJR 42 Committee Name Dated 24 MAR 98
Bill / Subject

I OPPOSE SJR 42 AND AM OPPOSED TO THE PROCT 7497
 THE LEGISLATURE IS STILL PERSUING THIS MATTER AFTER
 ASKING THE COURT SYSTEM TO DECIDE ON THIS MATTER.

IT IS THE DUTY OF THE LEGISLATURE TO ENSURE
 FAIR AND EQUAL TREATMENT OF ALL RESIDENTS OF THIS STATE
 AND NOT TO FIND WAYS OF DISCRIMINATING AGAINST CERTAIN
 PEOPLE. OUR CONSTITUTION DECLARES IN ART. 1 SEC 1 UNDER
 INHERENT RIGHTS THAT ALL PERSONS ARE EQUAL AND ENTITLED TO
 EQUAL RIGHTS, OPPORTUNITIES AND PROTECTION UNDER LAW.

SECTION 4 FURTHER STATES THAT NO LAW SHALL BE MADE RESPECTING
 AN ESTABLISHMENT OF RELIGION, THEREFORE IMPLEMENTING MARRIAGE LAWS
 BASED UPON RELIGIOUS VALUES AND PRACTICE VALIDATES AND ESTABLISHES
 STATE RELIGION.

I FURTHER OPPOSE THIS HEARING TO BE CLOSED TO RESIDENTS OF
 THE STATE WITH THE EXCEPTION OF JUNEAU.

SIGNED:

Testifier

Representing

36 COLLIER RD. STE 2-236 ; FAIRBANKS AK 99701
 Address / Phone Number 496-0115

[Handwritten Signature]
 TERRY FAULTY

• Ilena Lee Cramer

• 324 6th Ave. • Fairbanks, Alaska 99701 • (907) 479-2136 •

To:
Sen. Loren Leman
State Capitol, Room 115
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182
Fax: (907) 465-3810

Re: SJR 42

Dear Senator Leman

In this debate over the SJR 42 I continually heard you, and others who support this amendment stating the importance of marriage to society, and the fear that opening that institution to same sex couples would undermine one of the foundations of society. I agree that the institution of marriage is a foundation of our society. Marriage is at the roots of family, families are the foundations of communities, communities are the foundations of our country.

Let me tell you about family and myself: My mother and father moved to Alaska in the early 70's. My sister and I were raised here in Alaska. My sister is raising her family here in Alaska, and I hope someday to have a family here in Alaska. As for myself, I am 25. I received my BA from UAF. I am a social worker and an artist. I abide by the laws, pay my taxes and vote. I think I would make a fine wife, and a good mother. The only differences between my sister and I are a few inches in height and the fact that she can marry the one she loves, and I cannot. It seems that I am not worthy, not even for the simplest societal privilege of getting married and having a family. I take very personal offense when I hear you attack my future family as something that will undermine society.

Not allowing me to marry will not make me 'straight', it will not 'change my mind'. It will also not stop me from entering into a lifelong commitment with someone or raising my family here in Alaska. It will just make things more difficult for my family. Don't families today have enough things to worry about? I think that it is the government that is undermining American families by regulating our lives all over the place instead of concentrating on the issues that really make a difference to families, like education, the subsistence issues, safe roads, and money for the university.

I am opposed to SJR 42, and am personally offended by the things that you have said on the subject. Your lack of respect for me and my family will be reciprocated come re-election time.

I would like for you to respond to my letter and explain what is the states REAL compelling reason for denying my rights.

Sincerely
Ilena Lee Cramer

cc: All Alaska Legislators



To Whom it May Concern:

I would just like to share my opinion concerning SJR42 besides the fact that I adamantly opposed to it.

Last night when I went to sleep, this was still a free nation. Unless something has changed dramatically while I slept... I am assuming this still holds true. Freedom and justice is for ALL... every person in this country last I heard is entitled to those rights. Freedom, liberty and the pursuit of happiness is everyone's right... including homosexuals. I beg you to see clearly concerning this issue. Please DO NOT let Sen. Leman's personal agenda succeed in mixing church and state. Although Sen. Leman hides behind the "Natural Law" routine this clearly has a religious theme to it. Sen. Leman has a right to his beliefs as does EVERY American citizen. They do not however have the right to change these rights for ALL by public opinion. My grandmother, bless her soul, died last year. She was the most bigoted woman you ever met. In 1997, had a bill come up to vote on whether or not blacks should be enslaved again... she would have been the first to drag her 87 year old self to the polls to vote yes!!! If enough people are motivated by hatred and bigotry and allowed to vote against the minority... Lord help this country. Your job gentlemen is to make sure all of our rights are kept in tact... without bias.

Marriage is an institution. It is a union. A union created out of love. So let it be. Two people want to join out of love... I ask you.. what possible harm can come of this? Two FREE American citizens should be at LIBERTY to join in their PURSUIT of happiness if they choose in marriage. It is a right. This right cannot pick and choose...it MUST include all... including homosexuals. We cannot be blinded and let religion interfere with state. If we do, which religion will we allow that privilege? Who will decide? The majority? It is ludicrous.

There is room for all and for all beliefs. That's what this country was built upon. That's what our forefathers fought for. Please remember that we ALL have the same rights provided by the constitution. We cannot allow the majority to change that simply because they may not agree with the minority.

Sen. Leman and his group of religious followers hide behind their hatred by claiming to protect the sacred institution of marriage. The foundation of all civilization as they call it. This same group of people allow within their sacred group... murderers, rapists, and child molesters to marry. This great man/woman institution of theirs, the last time I checked, was failing 50% of the time. One of every 2 or 3 marriages now end in divorce. Doesn't seem to me that these people with this track record are much of an authority of how any institution should work... much less pass judgment. They did a fine job messing the institution of marriage all by themselves. They didn't need the help of homosexuals to mess that up. Funny that a lot of people who live in glass houses do an awful lot of rock throwing!!

Finally, these unions do exist. Whether you choose recognize them or not... They do exist throughout the United States...people from all walks of life. They are living and functioning as families. They are unfairly unprotected. The fact is we ALL have the same rights. This panel must remain true to that fact and protect the minority from the majority.

I would like to also add that I was in the Nome LIO office at 8:26am to testify. Public announcements stated that you would be taking testimony until 9:00am and you had already adjourned.

Thank you for your time

Andrea Petrifils

Andrea Petrifils
P.O. Box 2122
Nome, Alaska 99762
(907-443-4635)

Post-It™ brand fax transmittal memo 7671		# of pages	1
To	Senate Finance	From	NOME LIO
Co.	Committee	Co.	
Dept.	written testimony for	Phone #	SEN T/C
Fax #	RE: SJR 42	Fax #	



TELECOPY COVER SHEET

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INSTRUCTIONS: with testimony for SJR 42 telecopy forward
11/1/98

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DISPOSAL OF ORIGINAL: Discard _____ Hold for Pickup _____

NUMBER OF PAGES: 15 (Not counting cover sheet)

SENT BY: Fran

01 April 98

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to you in opposition of SJR42. I am completely baffled at the attention this bill is getting when I consider the other issues the legislature needs to bring closure on. I would like to see attention given to the funding of education, resolving the subsistence priority issue, and dealing with decreasing revenues on a state level.

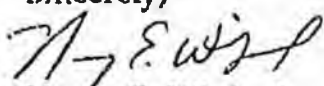
As difficult as it is at times, I try to trust the parameters that are set forth by our national and state constitutions. The judicial branch of our state government determined that it was unconstitutional on a state level to not allow to people of the same sex to marry. The state has been asked to present a compelling reason why it is in the states best interest to disallow same sex marriages. I would ask that you continue to let the courts do their job. The solution isn't creating legislation that allows discrimination, it's that constitutional laws that treat everyone fairly need to be written.

The arguments for this bill are for the most part religious arguments. Religions are in the business of dictating and defining morality. The government's business is administering justice under the law, and protecting the rights of minorities against tyranny.

In addition to my comments above, I would like to add that SJR 42 is just one more piece of legislation that will cause a division between the people of Alaska. The proposed legislation on education funding and resolving the issue of subsistence are just 2 issues that create a division.

I would ask that you oppose SJR 42 and put it to rest so that the more pressing issues and concerns can be dealt with and let the courts do their job.

Sincerely,



Nancy E. Winford
P.O. Box 80202
Fairbanks, Alaska 99708

P.S. I appreciate the opportunity to be able to give my input on this bill and am thankful that people are provided the opportunity to testify. Thank you, Bert Sharp!

31 March, 1998

To Whom It May Concern:

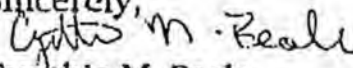
I am writing to urge you to vote against SJR42. I have many concerns about this bill.

There are many issues that I might support as amendments to our state constitution, but a "marriage" issue is not one of them. There are many issues that require the attention of our legislature, and this bill seems only to detract from these. As I see it, SJR42 will allow our legislature to pass any law that they see fit to apply to marriage. Will it stop at only preventing marriage between two individuals who love each other if they are the same sex? Perhaps they will soon see fit to allow marriage only between a man and a woman if they will have children. Perhaps they will make marriage legal only if the couple is Christian, and belong to a church that they agree with. The underlying message of this bill is that the church and the state should not be separated, for it is the "church" that has the mandate that marriage should exist only between a man and a woman.

SJR42 is a bill that will support discrimination against individuals who are gay or lesbian. This bill will divide communities where laws should work to unite individuals. Any bill that sets up state-supported discrimination is wrong. I see this leading only to an increase in hate crimes.

Further, I don't see who this bill will benefit in the state of Alaska. Married people pay taxes, hold jobs, build families, and support the communities in Alaska. What harm will come if some of those marriages are between two women or two men?

Please vote against SJR42!

Sincerely,

Cynthia M. Beale
P.O. Box 80202
Fairbanks, Alaska 99708

Please direct this to the Senate Finance Committee.

Hello,

I am opposed to SJR-42 for several reasons.

I am a Unitarian Universalist and our first three principles affirm and promote:

1. the inherent worth and dignity of every person
2. justice, equity and compassion in human relations
3. acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations

We have a long tradition of welcoming homosexuals within our churches and ministry. Our local fellowship has and will continue to perform gay marriages as requested by those from the gay community. It is unfortunate that these marriages are not legally binding.

The Alaska Constitution does not need to be amended to further restrict the civil rights of homosexuals. At the very least, I would urge our legislators to allow the courts to test the legality of this amendment before it is submitted to the ballot.

I am tired of seeing legislation passed which will not survive court challenges. It is a waste of our tax monies to continue to allow this to happen.

Respectfully,

Richard Kernnitz
P.O.Box 84734
Fairbanks, AK 99708
457-9009



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the SENATE FINANCE
 Committee on SJR 42 Committee Name
Bill / Subject Dated 1 APR 98

I OPPOSE SJR 42.

I STRONGLY FEEL THAT IT IS THE OBLIGATION OF OUR LEGISLATURE TO UPHOLD THE RIGHTS OF ALL ALASKANS AS IS WRITTEN IN OUR CONSTITUTION RATHER THAN FINDING WAYS TO DISCRIMINATE AGAINST SOME.

I AM ALSO NOT HAPPY WITH THE WAY OUR LEGISLATURE HAS BEEN HOLDING HEARINGS ON THIS SUBJECT, DENYING TESTIMONY FROM THOSE PRESENT AND HOLDING HEARINGS AT TIMES THAT PROHIBIT THOSE THAT ARE WORKING FROM PARTICIPATING.

THE LEGISLATURE ASKED FOR THE COURT SYSTEM TO TAKE THIS ISSUE UP AND ~~DETERMINATION~~ MAKE A DECISION. WHY THEN IS THE LEGISLATURE CONTINUING TO PURSUE THIS ISSUE?

TERRY A. FAURAL

SIGNED:

Testifier

Representing

36 COLLEGE RD SUITE 2-236 FAIRBANKS AK 99701
Address / Phone Number

I am in favor of family values. Each and every gay man and lesbian comes from a family. In my family, all members are treated equally. In this "family" we call Alaska, all citizens should be treated equally and given the same rights, including the right to marry.

The Superior Court has asked the State of Alaska to show a why it has compelling interest in banning gay marriages. The legislators who support SJR-42 are afraid this is difficult. Why would it be difficult to show a compelling interest? Because there is no compelling interest to ban Gay marriages.

In fact, the State of Alaska has a compelling interest to allow gay men and lesbians to marry. Marriage is a contract to take care of each other. For instance, if 1 person is not working, the other supports both, RATHER THAN THE STATE OF ALASKA. If 1 person is in poor health, the other's health insurance can provide medical care, RATHER THAN THE STATE OF ALASKA. Because of this mutual financial responsibility to one another, people who are married are less likely to rely on Public Assistance in times of need.

Thousands of laws regarding marriage already exist, and those laws are intended to help spouses take care of each other. Gay men and Lesbians already form partnerships and take care of each other, but without the legal responsibilities to do so. It is in the best interest of the State of Alaska to allow ALL its citizens the legal responsibilities of taking care of one another, in the form of marriage.

No one is asking that churches be required to perform Gay or Lesbian marriages. Marriage as a religious ceremony is different from marriage as a legal institution. The legal version of marriage should be open to all adults in the State of Alaska, and to all members of every family.

Mari Galereave
PO Box 212
Ester, AK 99725

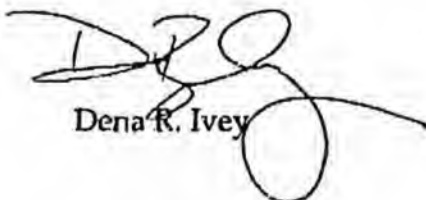
religion, protecting civil rights, and granting equal protection under the law. Legislation to restrict marriage runs counter to these positive public policy concerns.

7. SJR-42 would create a logistical nightmare for married couples. America is not a country where legally married couples need to get a marriage visa stamped every time they cross a state border. The Pennsylvania Supreme Court wrote, "Specifically regarding conflicts as to recognition of marital status, there is strong policy favoring uniformity of result. In an age of widespread travel and ease of mobility, it would create inordinate confusion and defy the reasonable expectations of citizens whose marriage is valid in one state to hold that marriage invalid elsewhere." (re Estate of Lenherr, 455 Pa. at 229-30, 314 A.2d at 258 (1974)).
8. SJR would create a legal nightmare. Imagine if married couples had to worry if their right to make medical decisions for each other, or if their spousal medical insurance was in-force simply because they came to Alaska? How will companies be able to maintain coherent personnel policies if their offices are required by conflicting state laws to treat the same employee differently depending on the state where he or she is working? This anti-marriage legislation is counter to the established legal rules, rights and responsibilities of marriage.
9. The proposed legislation dangerously mixes religion into the business of the state. Religions and philosophies differ with regard to the moral imperatives they either condemn or condone. While some find same-sex unions repugnant, others embrace and sanctify them. If the moral position of some is enshrined as a legal prohibition against marriage for same-sex couples, what other moral positions can be enacted into law? Should the state allow adulterers to remarry? Should procreation be a requirement for a marriage couple?

(Taken from <http://www.cs.cmu.edu/afs/cs/user/scottw/ftp/wpa2mc/points.html>)

Traditionally, marriage has been defined as a union between a man and a woman. However, marriage has also been "traditionally" defined as a union between two people of the same religion or the same race, and one in which wives were the property of their husbands. As early as the 1960s, state governments denied interracial couples the right to marry. Those "traditional" elements changed to reflect the equality of individuals. Today we recognize that the choice of a marriage partner belongs to each person, not to the state. Although domestic partnerships are a step in the right direction, no domestic partnership plan provides the same sort of responsibilities, benefits, protections and acknowledgement that marriage does. In short, domestic partnership is no substitute for civil marriage. In 1989, Denmark became the first country to legalize same-gender marriage, which they term 'registered partnerships'. Since then, two other countries, Norway in 1993 and Sweden on June 7, 1994, have also legalized same-gender unions. In all three countries, public opinion has been generally more accepting of these unions since their legalization. To illustrate the progress the United States has made, I conclude with the following: not long ago, opponents of interracial marriage argued that ending that discrimination would lead to polygamy. It did not, because one thing has nothing to do with the other, and the American public realized and acknowledged this in its acceptance of interracial marriage. There is perhaps, some hope that the American public will do the same for same-sex marriage today.

Sincerely Yours,



Dena R. Ivey

Public Opinion Statement

Dena R. Ivey
P.O. Box 80164
Fairbanks, AK 99708
(907) 456-2471

My name is Dena Ivey and I am a Yup'ik woman, born and raised in Fairbanks. The premise upon which SJR-42 is founded alarms me, not simply because of its obvious discriminatory nature, but also that legislation such as this is certainly unconstitutional.

The Christian Coalition clearly has an agenda that favors SJR-42 and other similar legislation. This comes as no surprise to me personally, as the premise that belies SJR-42 is based upon religious values. What is confusing to me, and perhaps someone can explain this, is how can it be that such legislation exists, when the Constitution clearly and explicitly prohibits the interaction of church and state?

Article One, Section Four in the Bill of Rights of the Alaska Constitution states, "No law shall be made respecting the establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof." This provision is termed "Freedom of Religion." Article one of the Bill of Rights of the United States Constitution states essentially the same with regard to religion.

It is irrefutable that the basis of SJR-42 is certainly a series of religious moral values. What is also irrefutable is that these religious moral values belong within the confines of the church, and have no place in the affairs of the state. I realize, however, that this is stating the obvious.

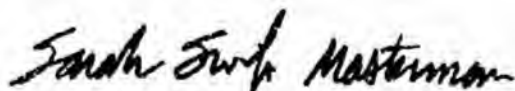
The not so obvious are reasons why this legislation should be struck down, that is to say, what compelling arguments I could assert which would support same-sex marriage in Alaska. They are as follows:

1. Marriage is a stabilizing influence in our society, which promotes family and family values.
2. Gay and lesbian couples are denied significant benefits in the area of property and inheritance rights, legal standing, insurance and employment, and taxation because they cannot enter into state-sanctioned civil marriage.
3. A Hawaiian commission created to study same-sex marriage concluded that there are no reasons to deny marriage to these couples, and significant reasons to extend the benefits of marriage to them. These reasons include the right to be free from discrimination and equal protection of the law.
4. Civil marriage is not religious marriage. The separation of church and state protects religious denominations that disapprove of same-sex marriage from having to perform or recognize them. Just as some religions now do not recognize civil divorce, no religion can be forced to recognize marriages that go against their teachings.
5. SJR-42 is unnecessary and costly. No state currently performs marriages for same-sex couples. If, in the future, some state should begin to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples, the state courts will decide whether these marriages must be recognized. This legislation, if passed, guarantees that Alaska will face extensive litigation when these laws are challenged.
6. SJR-42 lacks a legitimate foundation in public policy. State policies that encourage monogamous marriage decreases the spread of sexually-transmitted diseases, can improve mental health by providing stable emotional support, and is consistent with state policies protecting freedom of

Testimony on SJR - 42

SJR - 42 is a bill that benefits no one. There is no individual, no group, and no constituency who would benefit from the passage of this bill. It is my opinion that this is basically an issue of equal rights. Not special rights, but equal rights. It is also my belief that no group benefits from restricting the rights of others. One of the lessons of the civil rights movement is this: when we restrict the rights and freedoms of one group of Americans we restrict the rights, freedoms and progress of all Americans.

Furthermore, I believe that a public debate on this issue would be divisive. It would create anger, fear, and disunity at time when Alaskans need to come together to work for positive solutions to the larger issues affecting our society. The legislature and the Alaskan people are currently facing many important issues that affect all Alaskans. Why should we spend our time and energy debating a bill from which no one will benefit? I suggest that SJR -42 be dropped so that the legislature and the Alaskan people can focus on moving forward together.



Sarah Swift Masterman
Fairbanks, Alaska

insult to not only me, but also to our families.

I have not been willing to publicly testify before because of my job, but I think it is important for you to know what I do for a living. I am a science and math teacher at West Valley High School here in Fairbanks, and the reason I cannot be here today is because I am at work, teaching a science class or working with my students. In the past I have not been willing to "come out" and be open about my relationship, but I now feel compelled to do so because of the nature of this resolution. I treat my students with respect for who they are, but I do not believe that this resolution affords me or many of my friends a similar respect. I am deeply troubled by the message that Senator Leman and others is sending out and, should this pass, I see a dangerous and divisive seven months ahead as this issue heads for a popular vote. I feel that I have no choice but to speak my conscience and follow my heart if this debate continues.

I urge you to defeat this resolution. Thank-you.

Jeff Walters
P.O. Box 82708
Fairbanks, AK 99708

Testimony for April 1, 1998--Jeff Walters

I wish to testify today against Senate Joint Resolution No. 42, but because I am at work I am unable to attend the hearing. Therefore, I am having this testimony submitted with the resolution.

I am against Senate Joint Resolution No. 42 because it seeks to legislate discrimination and because it is an attack on the privacy rights of all Alaskans. The first statement of the resolution is undeniably meant to attack gay men and lesbians and to deny them the legal rights afforded to the heterosexual majority. The Superior Court judge noted in his decision that it is a fundamental right of all people to choose their life partner and that, had the will of the majority been left in place in the past, segregation would still exist today. I think this attack on a certain segment of our society is meant to keep that segment from attaining the rights that the majority has. It is discrimination, pure and simple.

The second line of the resolution disturbs me as much as the first. If passed by a majority of our population in November, the legislature could "by law, enact additional requirements relating to marriage." What in the world could this mean? Is our state legislature willing to go even further to dominate our population, invade their privacy, and eliminate their right to make their own decisions? This clear attack on the privacy and rights of Alaskans should be a warning to us all. How far will the state go to legislate its own view of morality?

I would like to add that I am a gay man and that I am in a long-term, committed, and loving relationship. My family, and the family of my life partner, are both wonderful and accepting. We spend holidays with them, talk on the phone often, and share wonderful times when we can visit. Two summers ago my life partner and I flew his mother and niece to Alaska for a visit: a wonderful experience for us all. To imply that our relationship is not as honorable and loving as other relationships is a personal

- 1 -

My name is Debbie Martinez. I've lived in Fairbanks since 1980. I am here this morning to testify against SJR 42.

The court has asked the state to provide a compelling reason why two persons of the same sex should not enjoy the privileges of marriage. SJR 42 appears to be a way for the legislature to by pass the court and legalize discrimination against a segment of the population.

I urge you to drop this discriminatory resolution and get on the real work of the government, like solving the subsistence issue, funding our universities, providing for public safety, etc.

Thank you.

2454 K...
01/10/98



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Finance
 Committee on SJR 42 Committee Name
Bill / Subject Dated 4/1/98

Alaskans have the right of privacy for adults
 written into our Constitution. It is ~~not~~ inappropriate
 for government agents to try to take this right away
 by refusing to allow individuals to marry whom they
 chose. If marriage was a neutral situation, this
 would just be an aggravation. However, marriage
 confers financial, social and other ephemeral advantages
 on the individuals who marry. Therefore to forbid
 marriage to certain individuals only, or to limit the
 choice of have the government try to select a proper
 partner is discriminatory, and against our constitution.

SIGNED: Kathleen LEITNER

Self
 Representing

831 Chena Hills Drive Fairbanks AK
 Address / Phone Number

907-479-0686 99709

Dr. Marc Dumas, M.D.
1166 Skyline Drive
Fairbanks, AK 99712,
(907) 457-1458
4/1/98

Senator Loren Leman,
State Capitol, Room 115, Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182.
fax 907-465-3810

Dear Senators,

I recommend you please withdraw SJR 42, which would amend the state constitution to narrowly define the marriage contract as only valid if between a man and a woman, and which would invalidate commitments between people of the same gender. I cannot believe you have nothing better to do than to try to interfere in private matters that have nothing to do with you or matters of the State!

1) What purpose do you believe SJR 42 serves? (Especially now that the Senate has unanimously approved SCR 25, urging a speedy appeal of the Brause-Doogan case)? Since the Senate already has requested the courts to resolve this matter, what do you think will be gained from legislative action on this issue at this time?

2) This is a Civil Rights Issue! Why would you promote SJR-42, which only serves to violate both the privacy rights and the inherent equal rights of all citizens of the state of Alaska?!

3) Finally, I respectfully request that SJR 42's sponsors and supporters respond to this letter, answering the questions I have raised here.

I live in Alaska because Alaskans believe strongly that the government should not be meddling in people's personal lives. Surely the Legislature has better things to do than to try to tell us who we can marry?! If you infringe the privacy rights of this group, you will undermine everyone's rights. Next, you'll be picking on immigrants and Jews!

Enough is enough! Get back to the real work you were sent to Juneau to do - Stop trying to make yourselves look good by "solving" imaginary problems! You are right about one thing - there exist corrupting influences in society. This hate-mongering bill is a perfect example.

Please oppose this SJR #42! Alaska does NOT need a Gay Discrimination Amendment!

Sincerely,

Marc Dumas, M.D.

CC: All Alaska Legislators

Lisa Penalver
1166 Skyline Drive
Fairbanks, AK 99712,
(907) 457-1458
e-mail, pen-art@mosquiconet.com
4/1/98

Senator Loren Loman,
State Capitol, Room 115, Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182.
fax 907-465-3810

Dear Senators,

I urge you to oppose SJR 42, The Gay Marriage Ban. I have heard outrageous claims - some to the effect that if we allow gays to marry, what is to stop incestuous marriages?! Give me a break! - I have never heard of any group promoting incest, and Gays certainly do NOT!! This bill is clearly an attack on a group of law-abiding, hard-working tax-paying citizens - simply because they are different. I am convinced that Alaskans and Americans are better than this!

Would you please explain to me:

1) What purpose do you believe SJR 42 serves? (Especially now that the Senate has unanimously approved SCR 25, urging a speedy appeal of the Brause-Doogan case)? Since the Senate already has requested the courts to resolve this matter, what do you think will be gained from legislative action on this issue at this time?

2) This is clearly a Civil Rights issue! Why would you promote SJR-42, which only serves to violate both the privacy rights and the inherent equal rights of all citizens of the state of Alaska?!

As an Alaskan I believe strongly that the government should not be meddling in the very private and intimate realm of a person's choice of life partner. Surely the Legislature has better things to do than to try to tell us who we can love and live with?! If you infringe the privacy rights of this group, you will undermine everyone's rights!

If fail to see how it is in the interests of the State to interfere with the acceptance of personal responsibility for a partner. This resolution is a blatant attempt to discriminate against the committed gay couples in our communities.

I worry that if such a resolution were to pass, we would soon be seeing bans on cross-religious marriages, and on interracial marriages; - it will never end! If we allow discrimination against one group, we grant permission to restrict the freedoms of any other group who may fall out of political favor! I find this resolution highly offensive.

Please oppose this SJR #42! This Gay Discrimination Amendment should never have come up!

cc. all legislators

Sincerely,

Lisa Penalver



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate ^{FINANCE} ~~Judiciary~~
 Committee on Senate Joint Resolution No. 42(JUD) Dated April 1, 1998
 Bill / Subject Committee Name

I am against the above resolution. My reasons are as follows.

- Married persons are more stable members of society because an individual is less likely to up root themselves and take unnecessary risks when they will affect a loved partner. Therefore it follows that both parties will be more productive. In case of the disability of one partner the other partner is legally bound to provide for the disabled individual. This would offset any costs to the State in the end.
- The majority of Alaskans maintain the opinion that there is already too much government in our lives. We pride ourselves on our individualism. Same sex marriage is an individual choice that does not harm anyone.
- The State does not currently recognize same sex marriages. There is no need to amend the constitution, changing something that will not change anything. *Why are you wasting my money?*
- If this amendment is being put forth because some people believe that same sex marriages are morally wrong and a sin, then this piece of legislation should never have seen the light of day. The United States constitution and our State constitution adhere to the principles of Freedom of Choice, Freedom of Religion, and the Separation of Church and State.

SIGNED:

Gregg Ritter
 Testifier

Gregg Ritter
 Representing

work phone 458-4235
 Address / Phone Number

POST-IT Grand tax transmittal memo 1/6/7 # of pages = 1	
To Senate Finance Committee	From Nome LIO
Co. Committee	Co.
Dept. written testimony	Phone #
Fax # for SJR 42	Fax #

April 1st, 98

Public testimony on SJR-42

I was in the LIO office this am to testify on SJR-42. I had been told that they would be taking testimony from 7 am to 9 am this am. As it turned out, a recess was taken at 8:23 am, and we were not allowed to testify after that.

I would like to register that I am against SJR-42 for a variety of reasons, including but not limited to the following:

1. As a member of the National Association of Social Workers, it is my duty to advocate for my clients. I am a member of the Alaska State Chapter of Social Workers. I am a member of the Committee on Gay and Lesbian Issues. I would like to quote statements directly taken from the NASW literature.

"Social Workers are guided by the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) Code of Ethics (NASW, 93) which bans descrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and encourages social workers to act to expand access, choices, and opportunities for oppressed people and groups."

"NASW affirms its commitment to work towards full social and legal acceptance and recognition of lesbian and gay people. To this end, NASW shall support legislation, regulation, policies, judicial review, political action, changes in social work policy statements and the NASW Code of Ethics, and any other means necessary to establish and protect the equal rights of all people without regard to sexual orientation."

Senator Leman's proposed bill is directly opposed to the kind of legislation that NASW members would support. As a group, both statewide and nationally, NASW as an organization will not support nor tolerate this kind of legislation.

2. Senator Leman's arguments that allowing persons of the same sex to marry goes against "natural law" is erroneous in many ways. This is the same argument used in the past to argue against intra-racial marriage. Many felt it was "un-natural." But more so than that, I personally feel Senator Leman and others are using this argument as a "smoke screen" for their personal religious beliefs. Although I support the right for them to have their opinions, I take strong opposition when they try to use it to mandate public policy. We have the separation of church and state for a very good reason.
3. I think the Alaska legislature has other state issues to conquer. Let the definition of marriage rights issue be tackled by the justice system. The Alaska legislature has better things to do. Time is money. And the legislature has been focused on saving money this year. Save us all some money. Let the judicial system deal with the rights of minorities, not Senator Leman.

TAYLOR BURNS
PO Box 305
Nome, Alaska 99762 Phone: 443-3312

March 31, 1998

Honorable Senator:

I attended the public hearing on SJR 42 last night, listened to testimony presented, and was appalled. I believe that the majority of Alaskans would feel the same way.

To equate homosexuality with being Black, Spanish, or another race, and then crying racial prejudice is just a smoke screen. They are not a race. They choose to live a deviant lifestyle. There are no credible scientific studies that have substantiated the genetic theory of being "gay", yet this view continues to be expounded as fact. Suppose a group of people next choose their sons, daughters, brothers, sisters, moms, dads, or pets as "life-long partners"? Will we be engaging in hate crimes if we take a stand against those actions?

Right is right and NOW is the time to pass this resolution and let the people of Alaska clarify the issue.

Thank you for your time.

Sandy King
Sandy King

March 31, 1998

Honorable Senator:

I would like to urge the passage of SJR 37, the Parental Consent Resclution. There seems to be no other recourse but to clarify, in the Constitution, that parents have the right to parent their children. If it is not spelled out, then interpretations by judges are made based on prejudices and bias.

This resolution will give the citizens of Alaska a chance to speak. The voters will decide what constitutes parental rights, and, hopefully, return these to the homes where they belong.

It is tragic how "personal reproductive rights" has become such a divisive issue. Why can parents determine the best interests of their child in every other area concerning health and welfare but not this one? We need to return the ball to the parent's court, and away from the state court. SJR 37 is a beginning for that process.

Thank you for your time,

Sandy King
Sandy King

To Whom it May Concern:

I would just like to share my opinion concerning SJR42 besides the fact that I adamantly opposed to it.

Last night when I went to sleep, this was still a free nation. Unless something has changed dramatically while I slept... I am assuming this still holds true. Freedom and justice is for ALL... every person in this country last I heard is entitled to those rights. Freedom, liberty and the pursuit of happiness is everyone's right... including homosexuals. I beg you to see clearly concerning this issue. Please DO NOT let Sen. Lemen's personal agenda succeed in mixing church and state. Although Sen. Lemen hides behind the "Natural Law" routine...this clearly has a religious theme to it. Sen. Lemen has a right to his beliefs as does EVERY American citizen. They do not however have the right to change these rights for ALL by public opinion. My grandmother, bless her soul, died last year. She was the most bigoted women you ever met. In 1997, had a bill come up to vote on whether or not blacks should be enslaved again... she would have been the first to drag her 87 year old self to the polls to vote yes!!! If enough people are motivated by hatred and bigotry and allowed to vote against the minority...Lord help this country. Your job gentlemen is to make sure all of our rights are kept in tact... without bias.

Marriage is an institution. It is a union. A union created out of love. So let it be. Two people want to join out of love... I ask you.. what possible harm can come of this? Two FREE American citizens should be at LIBERTY to join in their PURSUIT of happiness if they choose in marriage. It is a right. This right cannot pick and choose...it MUST include all... including homosexuals. We cannot be blinded and let religion interfere with state. If we do, which religion will we allow that privilege? Who will decide? The majority? It is ludicrous.

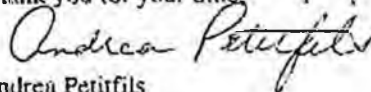
There is room for all and for all beliefs. That's what this country was built upon. That's what our forefathers fought for. Please remember that we ALL have the same rights provided by the constitution. We cannot allow the majority to change that simply because they may not agree with the minority.

Sen. Lemen and his group of religious followers hide behind their hatred by claiming to protect the sacred institution of marriage. The foundation of all civilization as they call it. This same group of people allow within their sacred group... murderers, rapists, and child molesters to marry. This great man/woman institution of theirs, the last time I checked, was failing 50% of the time. One of every 2 or 3 marriages now end in divorce. Doesn't seem to me that these people with this track record are much of an authority of how any institution should work... much less pass judgment. They did a fine job messing the institution of marriage all by themselves. They didn't need the help of homosexuals to mess that up. Funny that a lot of people who live in glass houses do an awful lot of rock throwing!!

Finally, these unions do exist. Whether you choose recognize them or not... They do exist throughout the United States...people from all walks of life. They are living and functioning as families. They are unfairly unprotected. The fact is we ALL have the same rights. This panel must remain true to that fact and protect the minority from the majority.

I would like to also add that I was in the Nome LIO office at 8:26am to testify. Public announcements stated that you would be taking testimony until 9:00am and you had already adjourned.

Thank you for your time.



Andrea Petrifils
P.O. Box 2122
Nome, Alaska 99762
(907-443-4635)



TELECOPY COVER SHEET

NOME Legislative Information Office

Office - (907) 443-5555

Fax - (907) 443-2162

TO: Senate Finance Committee

ATTN: Sen. Tomerson FAX: 443-2187 PHONE: _____

FROM: NORME LIO PHONE: 443-5555

INSTRUCTIONS: Written Testimony by Andrea Pettifils

SENT: Date 4/1/98 Time 9.20am

NUMBER OF PAGES: 1 (NOT counting cover sheet)

TRANSMITTED BY: A Gray

behave? That is a cultural assignment of gender, irrespective of either chromosomal or anatomical sexual identity, and is practiced in many societies. Without defining what constitutes a man and what constitutes a woman SJR-42 is meaningless, impractical, and unenforceable -a waste of taxpayer money that will surely be struck down when tested in the courts should it pass into law.

Thirdly, how long is it reasonable to expect that people who are being marginalized, singled out, and unjustly persecuted will continue turning the other cheek to this oppression? I urge legislators to awaken regarding the genuine urgency and passion of ordinary people who are sick and tired of having pain, expense, and violence inflicted upon them by the irrational prejudices of the ignorant and the cruel vindictiveness of the radical religious right. What is it going to take for all citizens to actually hold the equal civil rights which are constitutionally due each of us in a secular nation where church and state are separate and all citizens are constitutionally equal under the law?

Please say no to this heinous legislation, now, before it goes any further.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "A. J. King", written in a cursive style.

My name is Steven Jacquier and I currently reside in Manokotak.

Yesterday, during a break in stormy weather, I chartered the only airplane which flew in or out of Dillingham to the surrounding bush villages so that I could participate in this hearing. I wonder how many voices are not being heard because 800-number access was not made available for rural resident's testimony.

There are three points which I hope to make with regard to SJR-42.

First, research has established that a substantial percentage of suiciding teens are killing themselves in large part because they fear that their lives will be miserable if they turn out to be lesbigay. They fear rejection and marginalization to the point that they would rather die than face it. This bill contributes directly to fostering the climate of fear, intolerance, and marginalization which leads to suicides.

Secondly, this bill seeks to define marriage as "a union between one man and one woman," but it does not define what constitutes a man and what constitutes a woman. The legislation does not define what it is to be male and what it is to be female simply because there is no rational, practical, and enforceable basis upon which to do so. Every member of the legislature received copies of scientific articles by Dr. William Beeman and Dr. Ann Sterling-Fausto explaining the ambiguities encountered when we examine carefully what constitutes a man or a woman. Is it chromosome composition (XX versus XY), as geneticists and the Olympic Committee view the situation? Is a person a man or a woman on the basis of external anatomy and internal plumbing? There are at least 5 million Americans who are neither clearly male nor female on these bases. Is a person a man or a woman based on how they dress and

ROBERT D. BOWERS
BEVERLY L BOWERS

PHONE AND FAX: 907-443-2865
email: rdbowers@nome.net
Box 907, Nome, Alaska 99762

FAX

To: SENATE FINANCE SUB-COMMITTEE SJR-42
@Fax: 907-465-2187
From: Robert and Beverly Bowers
Date: Wednesday, April 01, 1998
Re: DO NOT PASS SJR 42
Pages: 1, including this

We oppose SJR-42 because it violates the right to privacy and the equal rights of all our citizens. It would establish a constitutional mandate for invading the privacy of the bedroom. It is a curious thing to us that the supporters of this constitutional change talk the loudest about individual rights and getting the government off the people's backs. Yet, they would have the constitution become involved with our most intimate relationship of marriage. Let the politically neutral judicial system weigh the issue which is the way issues ought to be decided in a democracy. Do not burden the constitution with politically motivated and frivolous amendments.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the SSR 42
 committee name
 committee on _____, dated 4-1-98
 bill/ subject

*I am sorry that you have to consider this bill.
 But since you must. Please vote in favor of SSR 42
 I support the bill.*

Signed: *[Signature]*
 Testifier

Representing (Optional)
H.C. 60 Box 3143 Delta Jct Alaska 99707

Address
555-0159

Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Finance
committee name
 committee on SJR42, dated 4-1-98
bill/ subject

I urge you to pass SJR42 immediately.
 The platform of the Republican Party of Alaska opposes same sex. Putting this amendment on the ballot and letting the people of Alaska decide is the ONLY fiscally prudent thing to do. Lets not spend hundreds of thousands of dollars to let one unaccountable judge decide something that the people of Alaska have every right to decide. I am confident that this amendment would pass if put before the people. But if it does not I would be willing to live with that if it is the will of the people.

Pass SJR42.

Signed:

Debra A. Smith, Chairwoman

Testifier

Republican Party of Alaska, District 35

Representing (Optional)

Box 377, Delta Jct, AK 99737

Address

(907) 895-4565

Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate FINANCE
 committee on SJR 42, dated 4-1-98
 bill/ subject

I strongly support SJR 42
 to recognize in the State of
 Alaska that a marriage may
 exist only between one man and
 one woman.

Signed:

Joe McBride
 Testifier

Representing (Optional)

Address

P.O. Box 779 Delta Jet, AK 99737

Phone No.

907-895-4009



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Public Hearing Committee
 committee on SJR NO. 42 - Homosexual, dated Mar 10-98
 bill/ subject

*I strongly support
 this bill to pass in order that homosexuals are not permitted
 to marry in Alaska. Marriages are between one man and one woman,
 the Word of God, our guide for living, the Bible states that it is an
 "abomination" and punishable by death. Families are definitely
 1 man and 1 woman. Lets keep our State clean and not support
 perverted life styles. Even the Republican platform states a note "opposed"
 against ~~the~~ homosexual marriages to be recognized.*

Signed: Barry Harris
 Testifier
 Representing (Optional)
Box 962 - Delta Jct, AK
 Address
895-4564
 Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the SJR 42
 committee on Marriage, dated 4-1-98 committee name
 bill/ subject

I AM FOR S.J.R. 42, I PRAY YOU WILL LET THE
 PEOPLE OF ALASKA DECIDE ON THIS ISSUE. WE
 SHOULD ALL LOVE AND BE CONCERN FOR HOMOSEXUAL
 PEOPLE. THIS DECISION SHOULD BE MADE BY THE VOTERS.
 OUR LAWS WERE BASED ON THE BIBLE, WHY SHOULD
 WE DEPART FROM THE OUR FOUNDING FATHERS.
 THE BIBLE IS VERY EXPLICIT ON MARRIAGE. GOD
 CREATED MAN AND WHEN GOD WANTED A PARTNER
 FOR ADAM, HE DID NOT CREATE ANOTHER MAN
 FOR A PARTNER BUT CREATED A WOMAN. THE BIBLE
 SPEAKS VERY EXPLICIT ON THE HOMOSEXUAL ISSUE.
 I PRAY YOU WILL SEE FIT TO LET US THE VOTERS
 DECIDE ON THIS ISSUE. THANK YOU.

Signed:

Marlin L. Stearns

Testifier

Self

Representing (Optional)

P.O. Box 1293 Delta Jct. AK. 99731

Address

(907) 895-4631

Phone No.



Legislative Agency
Division of Administrative Services
Delta Junction Legislative Information Office
P.O. Box 1189
Delta Jct., AK 99737
Phone: (907) 895-4236 Fax: (907) 895-5017

Official Business

To: Senate Finance

Fax: 465-2187 Phone: _____

Testimony

Date Sent: 4/1/98 No. of Pages Including Cover Sheet: 6

Thank You,

Elizabeth A. Sarver
Information Officer

FAX TRANSMISSION

PO Box 7916
KETCHIKAN, AK 99901
907 225 7065
FAX: BWILT@PTIALASKA.NET

To: Fax Testimonies Dept **Date:** April 1, 1998
Fax #: 465-2187 **Pages:** 1, including this cover sheet.
From: Kerry J Foster & Betty J Wilt
Subject: SJR - 42

COMMENTS:

We are **OPPOSED TO SRJ - 42** because is sexist, bigoted, & full of homophobia.

The United States courts ruled that the state must not prohibit personal choices unless it (the state) can show a compelling need to do so.

I don't see how limiting marriage to one man & women so threatens the integrity & loving relationship that couple has between them that the state needs to protect heterosexual couples.

If SRJ - 42 passes it just shows how the Republican party once again seeks to may gays second-class citizens. Did you know that it is still lawful to not to rent to someone because they are gay. It is still lawful to fire someone because they are gay. What if it was your employee in the Alaska State Republican Politics whose pursuit of happiness was about to be stomped on? Would you do the right thing & support your co-worker?

MARCH 31, 1998

Alaska State Legislature
Senate Finance Committee
Juneau, Alaska

Re: SJR 42

I represent the 1,000 members of the Knights of Columbus in ten (10) communities across the state. The Knights of Columbus is a Catholic family, fraternal men's organization. It is a non-profit organization dedicated to charity, unity, fraternity and patriotism. I head the State Council which oversees fourteen (14) subordinate Councils. Internationally there are nearly 13,000 Councils and over 1.6 million members.

No state in the union allows same sex marriages. No country in the world permits same sex marriages. Supposedly, in the Netherlands where same sex unions are allowed, that union is not called a marriage. The federal government of the United States defines marriage as being a union of only one man and one woman. If judge Michaelski's ruling is allowed to stand, Alaska will be in conflict with the rest of the world

Why are the homosexuals and their supporters seemingly afraid of the "voice of the people"? Why are our laws makers spending so much time on this issue? Let the voters of this state voice their conscience at the ballot boxes. Pass SJR 42 out of committee, out of the legislature and into the hands of the voters, where it truly belongs.

These homosexual demands (same sex marriages) endanger the survival of the family unit, as we know it. Challenging the very basis of civilization. The only way to make certain that such recommendations are not put into practice, is to reinstate laws against sodomy in every state in the union. In passing such laws we would offer a normative way of life. That children be born and nurtured in traditional families. A unit that leads to the rebirth of life, and love and hope on earth. The world is full of ruined monuments to the failure of civilization, or the failure of numerous civilizations, each organized according to different principles, each brought to disaster in a different way. Every state in the union outlawed sodomy until 1961. Then homosexual activists and organizations like the ACLU

mounted an assault against such legislation on the state level. The institution of marriage is still fighting against their efforts to destroy it. These demands endanger the survival of the family. The only way to make certain that such recommendations are not put into practice, is to reinstitute laws against sodomy in all states in the union. In passing such laws we would affirm a normal way of life. That children be born and nurtured in traditional families. A unit that leads to the rebirth of life, and love and hope on earth.

The union of a man and woman in marriage is the single most important social institution in the Western Civilization. Without the family unit, there is no controlling social stability. Good family units contribute good citizens. Taking homosexuality to its extreme, there are no children, there is no growth, there is no civilization.

Homosexuals and lesbians demand they be given same tax breaks as the traditional families, be given equal consideration in adoption of children, their sexual arrangements be taught as valid "alternative life styles" in the public schools and that private institutions, businesses and organizations give them the same fringe benefits (insurance, sick leave, bereavement leave, etc.....) that is offered to married people. Lesbians have become parents thru artificial insemination. Does this assure that they are good parents? The psychologist and psychiatrists are still "out" on that question.

The opposition to SJR 42 by the homosexual supporters is a financial and economic one. The question should be asked, "where does the money go?" The homosexuals want to be subsidized with tax payers money, just like "real families". Its typical of the liberal agenda, if it feels good, it must be good for you.

Roman and Chinese empires were destroyed by such perverted activities. In these greatest of civilizations, that failed, there is a common thread that runs through to the end: a corruption of spirit that leads to selfishness and preoccupation with pleasure to the exclusion of what is usual and normal.. At the end of great civilizations are found homosexuality widespread, energetic and enormously proud of itself.

America, and Alaska, is now at that point in the history of the world. It's moral and religious traditions are now held in contempt by an increasing number of people. Life is regarded as meaningless except during moments of self gratification when promiscuous sexual behavior is everywhere. When once again,

homosexuality is not only accepted but applauded. Billy Graham was once quoted as saying, "If God doesn't destroy the United States of America, He owes Sodom and Gomorrah an apology."

Additionally, we need to set our own destiny. The court system has sought to take over our moral judgments. Alaskans need to have a voice, and that voice is exercised at the ballot box. There have been 23 constitutional amendments to Alaska's constitution since statehood. Lets make SJR 42 the vehicle that Alaska citizens can claim as amendment number 24 in our ride back up the "slippery slope" from degradation and debasement.

John P. Monagle, State Deputy E-mail: johnsari@ptialaska.net
Knights of Columbus
P.O. Box 210527 Fax: (907) 789-9297
Auke Bay, Alaska 99821 Phone: (907) 789-5910

March 31, 1998

Finance Subcommittee
Alaska State Senate
Juneau, AK 99811

Re: SJR 42

Dear Finance Subcommittee:

I greatly regret that I was unavailable to testify at today's teleconference hearing in Anchorage. I have appeared at two previous hearings, but was not permitted to testify at either (the Judiciary Committee, and the Finance Committee). I am sure that I am not the only citizen who has difficulty appearing and waiting during lengthy hearings.

I oppose SJR 42. It is misguided both as a constitutional measure and as a social policy matter.

As to the constitutional issue, it is unwise constantly to tinker with our constitution, depending on the prevailing political winds. The beauty and strength of the constitution is that it is not cluttered with special interest clauses and restrictive provisions. Great care and caution should be exercised before the legislature ever proposes to the voters that its provisions be changed. This is especially true in this case, when the litigation that gave rise to this proposal is still in its infancy. The case is not even over in the trial court, much less on appeal. There will be ample time to complete the litigation, then to contemplate what, if anything, the legislature ought to do about the outcome. There is nothing admirable or statesmanlike in leaping to block every suspected or feared loss in the courts. It has the appearance of a child changing the rules of the card game whenever he starts to lose.

As to the social policy issue: Senator Lemai has set forth various arguments for this legislation, none of which should be persuasive to this body. He has argued, for example, that same sex marriage threatens the viability and stability of the family. I do not follow this line of thinking. Marriage is a serious step, with serious consequences. No couple should undertake it lightly. However, we impose no test and no standards on those wishing to marry, so long as they are adults of opposite sexes. How will this institution be threatened if adults of the same sex undertake the same serious obligations and responsibilities? Stability and commitment cannot threaten the institution of the family. Same sex couples and same sex families already exist. In my legal practice, I see many such families, and try to help them form legal structures that will protect them and their children. Without the option of marriage, it can be very difficult. High rates of divorce, teen pregnancy, family violence, and poverty threaten our families. Same-sex marriage does not.

Senator Lemai has also argued that if Alaska permits same-sex marriage, it will spawn litigation nationwide. With all due respect, this body should realize that history is being made. If any state recognizes same-sex marriage, the issue of recognition in other states will arise. It is quite unlikely that this will not come to pass in the next five or ten years, whatever you do here now. Marriage is the most important and valuable civil right currently denied to gays and lesbians, and we are not likely to abandon the fight for this right and privilege, now that we have begun. Passing this amendment will only move this kind of litigation to the federal arena. A desire to avoid this issue and this fight is not a reason to amend the constitution, and it will not be effective for this purpose.

Religious beliefs and religious tradition, which is sometimes wrongly labeled "morality," is likewise no proper basis for this legislation. Our religious beliefs and traditions vary tremendously. Some religions support same sex unions, while others do not. Religions over the ages have not agreed as to what constitutes marriage; polygamy and concubines were rife in biblical times. Even if religions agreed, however, our constitution is not a religious document. Same sex relationships may be disapproved by some citizens, by not by all, by any means. Interfaith

- 2 -

March 31, 1998

and interracial marriages are also disapproved by some, perhaps by many. But our system has wisely adopted a policy of noninterference in each person's choice of life partner. Unfortunately, this tolerance does not extend to me. Allowing me the choice of marriage is not a judgment by the State or its citizens that my choice of partner is approved by all.

It is foolish to assert that each person has the right to marry, so long as they marry the opposite sex. Surely no thinking person really wants to force gays and lesbians into heterosexual marriages. The results would not lead to family stability. Effectively, gays and lesbians may not marry under the current system. We may as well just admit that, if we are to carry on this debate. We are not being treated equally with other similarly situated citizens.

I urge you not to pass this bill. It is ill considered, unwise, and unnecessary. I will be available during the April 1 hearing time, in Anchorage, should you wish to ask me any questions relating to this testimony. It is not too much to assert that I am an expert in Alaska family law and in the legal status of gays and lesbians. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Allison E. Mendel

Re, SJR 42

From Frank H Gardner, Kodiak, AK

I appreciate the right to speak in this forum of public debate. What a travesty it would be to lose this right.

It would also be a travesty for the people of Alaska to be denied the right to speak at the ballot box on an issue so relative to our daily lives as the redefining of marriage. The redefining of marriage would undermine the historic and moral fiber of our society. Though a judge has the right to his own opinions and views, he does not have the right to force those opinions and views on society. Only community should be allowed to change the mores and standards by which the community lives.

We dare not take away our right to speak. If the community wants to redefine marriage, let the community say so. If the community does not want to redefine marriage, let the community say so. That's what the ballot box is for.

In the words of President Abraham Lincoln, let us make sure, "That government of the people, by the people, for the people shall not perish from the earth."

We are not willing to let a judge speak for us when his words do not represent the community. Our right to speak regarding the preservation of the historic meaning and understanding of marriage is our right. Put the decision in the hands of Alaska's citizens and we will speak our decision at the ballot box.

RE: Hearing on SJR 42
April 1, 1998
7:00 A.M.

March 31, 1998

I am not in favor of SJR 42 because it discriminates against one certain group of people. To say we should keep things the way they are because they have always been that way does not seem right or make any sense. I'm glad that mentality didn't prevail out when women finally were trying to get the right to vote or when black people were fighting for their right to ride in the front of the bus. We need to stop legislation that is discriminatory against any group of people and stop electing legislators who think they can tell us how to think and what to think. Please defeat SJR 42 because it is not fair or right.

Why is this hearing at 7:00 A.M. in the morning? And why weren't those of us in the bush given an 800 number to call? Shouldn't we wait until this bill is out of the courts before the legislature acts on it?

Thank you,

Jackie Bowling
P.O. Box 390
Kotzebue, AK 99752
(907) 442-3104

SENATE FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE TESTIMONY

SJR 42

March 31, 1998

My name is Marsha Buck. I am the co-chair of PFLAG Juneau. PFLAG stands for Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays. I am speaking in opposition to SJR 42.

I believe that we are debating the wrong issue when we stand ^{up} against this resolution based on our religious beliefs about same sex marriage. We have differing religious beliefs on this issue and that is fine. But the issue of same sex marriage has been made into a political issue because it can serve political or power purposes and we are getting pulled into that fray rather than the real issue on which those of us in PFLAG and those here on behalf of the Christian Coalition can agree -- the issue of upholding American democracy that we all believe in, that we trust.

Our democracy was purposefully based on 3 branches of government -- the legislative where we are participating today, the executive and the judicial. I see legislative resolutions like this one and others under discussion trying to purposely weaken the judicial branch in order to limit the rights of minority groups and I think we should all be up in arms about that prospect if we indeed care about our country and the freedoms on which it is founded. Today it is OK to oppress gays, lesbians, and bisexuals. In the past it was OK to oppress African Americans and Jews. Tomorrow it may be deemed OK to oppress the religious freedoms of the Christian Coalition. If we reduce the system of checks and balances that are built into our 3 branch democracy, our children and their children could live in a nation that we would all find abhorrent!

The discussion around the issue of same sex marriage is a divisive one. It is divisive in the neighborhood where I live. It is divisive in many families. And this divisiveness does not need to be occurring! I understand that this resolution is born out of fear and is being fed by fear and mistrust that is hurting us all. If prayer is a part of your life, as it is a part of mine, then I ask you to pray deeply for our nation and our state leaders who are now acting in fear of the very democratic system we treasure. While we are divided we are easy targets of swift and heated change that will surely come back to haunt our grandchildren.

As Katie Hurley, who was a part of the Alaska Constitutional Convention said so eloquently this afternoon, legislative detail like this resolution does not belong in the Alaska Constitution, no matter what we think about same sex marriage. We need many years of individual and group soul searching and prayer before we quickly throw out the foundations of our democracy. Please join me preserving our full democracy, not in tearing down the judicial branch and weakening our constitution.

Marsha Buck
8445 Kimberly St.
Juneau 99801

March 31, 1998

Testimony on SJR 42 -- Senate Finance Committee

by

Sidney D. Heidersdorf

P.O. Box 020658

Juneau, AK 99802

I support SJR 42. It is important that the State act promptly in defense of marriage in the face of threats by Alaska courts to strike down the present prohibition against same sex marriages. If our courts would ever require official State recognition of homosexual relationships because it is a privacy right all other State limitations for marriage will fall. On Feb. 25, 1998 a superior court judge, as justification for striking down a parental consent requirement for a minor's abortion, stated the following: "The maturity or immaturity of minors and their capacity for decision making does not diminish the right of privacy of that person." Thus, there will be no logical argument to refuse recognizing the marriage of any individual at any age including a father marrying a son or daughter, brother and sister marrying or even the practice of bigamy.

SJR 42 reaffirms the true purpose and meaning of marriage as we have known it for centuries. It would be a serious mistake for the courts to change the definition of marriage and thereby require public recognition of homosexual relationships. It would be a blow to the family and ultimately to our society. Good families are basic to a good society. Marriage is the foundation and glue of good families which includes a mother and a father.

[Marriage is not a privacy issue. Marriage is a public recognition on the part of the State and our society of a commitment between a man and a woman.] This institution has social meaning and purpose for the pro-creation, raising and nurturing of children which only the complementary nature of a man and a woman can provide.

We will hear it argued that the Constitution must treat everyone equally; that it cannot discriminate. Our constitutional rights are not without limit. Where they conflict with the common good they are limited. We have an endless array of rules, regulations and law, which limit our participation in certain areas of endeavor. This is not correctly viewed as discrimination but as reasonable steps taken by society to promote and protect the common good.

We can all sympathize with the special burden of being homosexual including the concern of parents, family members and friends to help their loved ones who are homosexual. However, it is very important for the State to maintain policies that protect the structure of the family and that do not encourage or condone homosexuality. It does not show love and compassion for the plight of our homosexual friends and neighbors to deceive them about homosexual sex implying that it is an acceptable lifestyle. Whether or not the homosexual condition is genetic or freely chosen has no bearing on the same sex marriage issue. The bottom line is that in either case same sex marriage would be harmful to society.

It is very disturbing that we even have to discuss the issue of same sex marriages. We are seeing the effects of social engineering on a vast scale. We have been inundated with euphemistic, innocent views of the homosexual lifestyle by the media, movies and TV. It has desensitized us to what the homosexual lifestyle is and what it means. We have tolerated homosexual sex in our society now the goal is nothing less than total acceptance of it.

Same sex marriage is a radical, destructive idea. The people of Alaska should settle this issue by voting on it rather than have a few judges tell us what they want.

Please pass SJR 42.



Committee for Equality PO Box 34202 Juneau AK 99803

Date: March 28, 1998

To: All Legislators

From: Committee for Equality
A statewide organization advocating for equal rights and responsibilities
for lesbian, gay and bisexual Alaskans.

Re: SJR-42 Opposition: **The Real Costs of SJR-42**

The real costs of SJR-42 are not the \$3000 fiscal note on the bill.

As legislators up for re-election, you need to know that tens if not hundreds of thousands of dollars will be spent on both sides of a marriage-restriction ballot issue.

SJR-42 directly takes tens upon hundreds of thousands of dollars out of your very own campaign coffers.

Don't drain your own campaigns of supporters' energy and big money donations.

Instead, vote no on SJR-42 even if you support the marriage restriction. Vote no saying this bill doesn't have to be resolved until after the Supreme Court makes its final decision. And remind Alaskans you've voted "yes" to SCR-25 which asks the court to decide the issue promptly.

Save yourselves money. Save citizens the pain of a divisive unnecessary ballot proposal. Save the Constitution from premature attacks.

Think of the real costs of SJR-42, and vote "no."

**HOMOSEXUAL MARRIAGE
SAME SEX MARRIAGE
SJR 42**

I am here today to testify in favor of SJR 42.

Those who favor same sex marriage point to the Alaska Constitution's privacy clause and claim that somehow it protects or grants same sex marriages.

Nothing could be further from the truth. While I generally support the privacy clause, this is anything but a private issue. I do not concern myself with what a homosexual chooses to legally do in private. That is their business. But asking for the right or privilege of marriage takes the issue out of the privacy arena and puts it squarely in the public arena.

The homosexual community, through a lawsuit, is demanding that the people of Alaska legalize same sex marriages. In other words, we will be required to license, approve, and condone them. Thus, this becomes a very public issue. We cannot grant this privilege in a vacuum, as there are many public consequences to this decision that will affect all Alaskans.

Let's talk about some of the consequences to this decision:

- From a public relations aspect, Alaska will become the only state that condones the practice. This will have dramatic exposure in the national and world media thereby effecting everyone who currently lives or will ever live in Alaska. Homosexuals from all over the world will flock to Alaska to get married.
- Marriage brings spousal rights and privileges, such as health insurance and retirement benefits. The average homosexual life span is about 30 years less than heterosexuals, and the incidents of disease are much greater. Health and life insurance costs for state employees and business owners could go up dramatically.
- Marriage is the foundation of our society. Without heterosexual families we would cease to exist. Obviously same sex marriages cannot produce children and therefore I believe it to be a very public attack on the bedrock of our society, our families.

The point that I am trying to make is that we are not in a vacuum, our actions do affect others. Granting homosexual marriages is, and will be a very public issue. It cannot be decided by any one person on behalf of all of us. The constitution of our great country begins with "WE THE PEOPLE," not "we the court" or "we the judge." Only the people of Alaska have the right to approve or reject this demand.

Art Mathias
563-3188 ph. 563-7416 fax

Dear Representatives,

Thank you for allowing me to voice my support in favour of SSR 42. There are two very pertinent words that should have appealed to you in that statement. First - representatives - May I gently remind you of the meaning of represent - each one of you represents thousands of Alaskans that have put their trusting vote behind you to represent their interest. Second - Thank you - a very necessary part of the American political system - thankful people re-elect gracious representatives. I'm sure each and everyone of you would like to hear Thank You in November from your constituent.

Suzanne Calkins

567-3373

Ninilchik Alaska 99637

Pastor of The Calvary Baptist Church
in Ninilchik

My name is Rev. Ron Blough, and I am speaking in favour of the passage of SJR 42. This is a sad day in Alaska when the public must testify in favour of a constitutional amendment defining marriage as a union of one man and one woman. Once again the courts are grinding the moral values of a majority of Alaskans under their iron heel, telling us that the objections Jews or Christians have traditionally had to acts which are perilous to the individual and poisonous to the social order are vile bigotry that must be suppressed by any means necessary. The day is fast approaching when it will be illegal to voice anything but approved opinions on homosexuality. That is what the homosexual militants crave--to enforce group-think and compel public approval of them sexually. Judge Makalski is attempting to force approval of same-sex marriages upon the citizens of our state, with a convoluted twisted logic that says that somehow the Alaska State Constitution also supports it. There can be no doubt whatsoever in the minds of the vast majority of the citizens of Alaska that the framers of our constitution never remotely envisioned a day when two men would petition the courts for legal permission to marry, thus entitling them to all the benefits of normal married people. Since once again an unelected liberal judge exercising a power never granted him by the constitution has chosen to impose upon us an approval of an immoral lifestyle, I urge the passage of SJR 42 that the voice of the people of the state of Alaska might be heard loud and clear.

Ronald E Blough
Box 509, Ninilchik, AK 99639
Ph. 547.3394

My statement in support of ~~SR~~^{SJR} 42:

I believe that marriage and family are the foundation of our civilization. As a mother of three precious children, I'm concerned about their futures. I do not want them to grow up in a state that will be known all over the world as the first state to approve of homosexual marriages. It is absolutely wrong for one unelected judge to redefine marriage and give room for same-sex marriages without the people of Alaska being involved in the decision. Passage of SJR 42 will allow me and my fellow voters to decide this issue as it should be. It will give us God fearing citizens the chance to say to Judge Peter Michalski, "Marriage is the union of one man and one woman: Your definition is wrong. You're overruled!"

Vicky Daniels

Box 614

Ninilchik, AK 99639



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the

STFIN

committee name

committee on SJR 42

, dated 03-31-98

bill # / subject

I WAS ALWAYS TAUGHT THAT MARRIAGE IS A SACRED ACT BETWEEN MAN AND WOMAN. I AM A GOD FEARING MAN AND KNOW THE WORD OF GOD TO BE TRUE. IT IS BY THE WORD OF GOD THAT I LIVE BY. I COULD GIVE MANY REASONS AS TO WHY I'M AGAINST THE MARRIAGE OF HOMOSEXUALS AND WHY I SUPPORT BILL SJR 42 BUT I WILL NOT TAKE TOO MUCH TIME SO THAT I CAN ALLOW OTHERS TO VOICE THEIR CONCERNS TOO. I WILL SAY THIS! I AM A DAD AND I AM PROUD OF THAT, AND I AM LOOKING FORWARD TO RAISING MY DAUGHTERS AND TEACHING THEM THE LOVE AND UNION THAT TAKES PLACE BETWEEN A MAN AND A WOMAN. I ALSO LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING MY DAUGHTERS GROW UP AND HAVING CHILDREN OF THEIR OWN, AND HAVING A HUSBAND WHO LOVES THEM VERY MUCH. IF IT WAS NOT FOR MAN AND WOMAN NONE OF US WOULD EXIST. WHEN GOD SAID IN HIS WORD BE FRUITFUL AND MULTIPLY HE WAS SAYING THIS TO A MAN AND A WOMAN. PLEASE KEEP MARRIAGE HOLY. PLEASE PASS SJR 42.

Elmer Overpeck

Signed:

Elmer J. Overpeck

Testifier

(GOD'S CHILDREN OF ALASKA)

Representing (Optional)

P.O. Box 393 STERLING, AK 99672

Address

(907) 262-8821

Phone number

Wesley and Joyce Veatch
3015 Yale Drive
Anchorage, AK 99508
(907) 258-7912
iovwes@servcom.com

**Testimony Related to SJR-42:
A Constitutional Amendment to Ban Same-Sex Marriages.**

My name is Wesley Veatch. I am a minister in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), retired after 50 years of service as a pastor and counselor. I recently served three years as Chaplain of the Alaskan AIDS Assistance Association.

Through the years, I have spent countless hours with many persons, including Gay and Lesbian couples, in homes, hospitals and nursing homes, during excruciatingly difficult hours of pain and loss. I have been deeply impressed by the devotion and strong affection expressed by Gay couples, as by others, in the midst of crisis, celebration and normal life together.

My wife and I have enjoyed close friendship with many Lesbian and Gay partners over the 45 years of our marriage. These friends are welcome and frequent guests in our home and we are theirs.

I strongly believe that persons of the same sex, who are deeply committed to one another, should have the full privileges and responsibilities of marriage. I see no reason why Gay and Lesbian couples should be deprived of any rights available to any other two people who love each other.

It is my opinion that the full rights of marriage for these couples would not detract from, but would enhance true family values in our nation.

I am strongly opposed to the passage of a Constitutional Amendment to ban same-sex marriages. It is not appropriate! State and National constitutions exist to protect the rights of all citizens, not to reflect the private prejudices of any special interest group - including the religious right.

This proposed amendment does not represent the larger Christian or Interfaith communities or the best interests of our total society. It should be voted down. Thank you.

-- Wesley Veatch



Committee for Equality PO Box 34202 Juneau AK 99803

Date: March 28, 1998

To: All Legislators

From: Committee for Equality
A statewide organization advocating for equal rights and responsibilities for lesbian, gay and bisexual Alaskans.

Re: SJR-42 Opposition: **The Real Costs of SJR-42**

The real costs of SJR-42 are not the \$3000 fiscal note on the bill.

As legislators up for re-election, you need to know that tens if not hundreds of thousands of dollars will be spent on both sides of a marriage-restriction ballot issue.

SJR-42 directly takes tens upon hundreds of thousands of dollars out of your very own campaign coffers.

Don't drain your own campaigns of supporters' energy and big money donations.

Instead, vote no on SJR-42 even if you support the marriage restriction. Vote no saying this bill doesn't have to be resolved until after the Supreme Court makes its final decision. And remind Alaskans you've voted "yes" to SCR-25 which asks the court to decide the issue promptly.

Save yourselves money. Save citizens the pain of a divisive unnecessary ballot proposal. Save the Constitution from premature attacks.

Think of the real costs of SJR-42, and vote "no."

cc:Mail for: Senator Bert Sharp

Subject: SJR 42

From: mccalld@customcpu.com (McCall; Dorine/Jim) at CC2MHS1 03/28/98 5:13 PM

To: Senator John Torgerson at LAA_STOR

To: Senator Drue Pearce at LAA_SPEA

To: Senator Bert Sharp at LAA_SSHA

To: Senator Sean Parnell at LAA_TRANS

To: Senator Randy Phillips at LAA_TRANS

To: Senator Al Adams@legis.state.ak.us at CC2MHS1

To the Senate Finance Committee:

We, Jim and Dorine McCall, support Senate Joint Resolution 42, as to the proposed constitutional amendment to protect the traditional definition of marriage as a union of one man and one woman. How anyone could possibly think this could be anything else but this.

I would like to know for sure when the hearings are going to be held.

Thank you all for your hard, consistent work toward the goals of high standards. We need to get back to these and it seems like we have to try again and again. Keep up the good work.

Jim and Dorine McCall

cc:Mail for: Senator Bert Sharp

Subject: SJR 42 and SJR 37

From: fgrstrm@mail.ptialaska.net (Phil & Kathy Fagerstrom) at CC2MHS1 03/31/98 7:20 AM

To: Senator Bert Sharp at LAA_S3HA

Good morning. I am writing to you today to express my support in favor of SJR 42. I am amazed at how far the values and traditional morals of our country (state) have fallen. I believe that now is the time to exercise the God given common sense we have on the hill there, and keep the institution of "marriage" as sacred today as it was intended to be. The sanctity of marriage should be between one man and one woman only. While one cannot today deny the existence of people who have chosen a lifestyle that is not normal and natural as God intended for it to be, one does not have to stand by while this vocal minority tries to dilute the moral fabric of our state further. Please make this legislative session the one where we (and the kids we are raising), can look back to with pride as a benchmark where morality and common sense prevailed.

On the subject of parental consent as outlined in SJR 37, please accept my support for this bill. While I personally view abortion as legalized murder, I do not think that a teenager or minor should be able to proceed without parental consent an operation that has such long term physical, moral, and emotional consequence.

Thank you for letting me tell you how I feel about these two issues. I'll be praying for you to make your decision with wisdom, and watching intently for your response.

Phil Fagerstrom

This is my testimony regarding SJR42. I am unable to attend the scheduled testimony session tomorrow.

Under current circumstances, I support SJR42 to clarify the definition of marriage in our State Constitution.

To recognize a homosexual union as a marriage is absolutely wrong, regardless of a judge's ruling.

A constitutional amendment is a short term solution to a corrupt judiciary. The long term solution is applying the constitutional impeachment process to purge the judiciary of corrupt judges (reference Article IV, Section 12 of the State Constitution). Judge Michalski has clearly stepped beyond the bounds of judicial reason and has used his position to further the homosexual agenda. Rulings like Judge Michalski's contradict morality and will make people lose respect for the law. Impeachment is an important check and balance in our system of government that was meant to be used. The Legislators should perform their constitutional duty and remove Judge Michalski from office through the impeachment process.

The Legislators know that Alaskans will not accept Judge Michalski's clear distortion of the law and his blatant assault on morality. Alaskans are counting on their Legislators to do the right thing.

Note: A pastor told me that he attended a public testimony session on same sex "marriage" a couple of weeks ago. He said that everyone there except himself was a homosexual. He said that they were rude, abrasive, aggressive, and used foul language. If tomorrow's session has similar attendance, normal people may not show up to testify in support of SJR42. So be advised that the public testimonies could appear to be against SJR42, not because Alaskans are against it but because an aggressive and vocal minority of homosexuals has dominated the public testimony sessions, thus biasing the testimonies.

3700 McGinnis Drive
Juneau, AK 99801
March 30, 1998

Dear Senator:

I urge your active involvement in the passage of SJR42 re: Marriage. It seems almost unreal that this topic is being addressed by this body. It is nearly tragic that we were so tardy in recognizing the objectives and the intensity of those who seek to remake our society in their image. Through the collusion of leaders in media, education, and the insidious activities of some governmental offices, the tares have been sown while most were asleep.

Perhaps we should not have been surprised by this assault upon this social institution. Hundreds of years ago, the Jewish people wanted release from the "restrictions" of marriage. They sought the "right" to have "throw away" wives. One they called, "Rabbi," reminded them that "From the beginning" marriage was the union of "one man and one woman." A century or more ago some within our nation contended for the "right" to have multiple wives. Again, the historic and rational concept of marriage was upheld.

Some seek to malign this effort to maintain the institution of marriage. We must respond that this is the established process of resolving fundamental issues. Were it not for the revolutionary rulings of some judges, we would not need to confront this topic here and now. Increasingly, individual judges have used the "judicial review" as the tool to remold our society. It evades many Americans that the power of "judicial review" is not granted by the Constitution. It was assumed by John Marshall and was used to evade a thorny political issue in *Marbury v Madison*.

I urge you to present this to the people of Alaska that we may exercise the popular sovereignty. I strenuously resist the efforts to destroy the foundations of our social order through the judicial rulings obtained by lawsuits filed in venues selected for sympathies of the judges.

LET THE PEOPLE DECIDE.



Bill Elinton

cc:Mail for: Senator Bert Sharp

Subject: <No subject>
From: pbmutnage@juno.com (Paul L Utnage) at CC2MHS1 03/27/98 3:25 AM
To: Senator Loren Leman at LAA_SLEM
cc: Senator Drue Pearce at LAA_SPEA
cc: Senator Bert Sharp at LAA_SSHA
cc: Senator Dave Donley at LAA_SDON
cc: Senator Sean Parnell at LAA_TRANS
cc: Senator Randy Phillips at LAA_TRANS
cc: Senator_John_Torgenson@legis.state.ak.us at CC2MHS1
cc: Senator_Al_Adams@legis.state.ak.us at CC2MHS1

I am writing to endorse the legislation SJR 42, which proposes a constitutional amendment to define marriage as a union between one man and one woman. I feel that several reasons support legislation which would support societal ethics. Society's ethics--as we have historically enjoyed it--are founded upon a character which is not created by another definition of marriage. I feel strongly enough about this that I will vote for, and support, only those legislators who guide our state's culture in this direction. My name is Paul L. Utnage, and I reside in southern Anchorage.

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Date: 3-27-98 Total pages: 1, including this one
 To: Sen. Sharp Fax # _____
 From: Sara Boesser Voice # _____
Committee for Equality Fax: 907-789-7450(h)
 Regarding: Re SJR-42 + your dread of Voice: 907-789-9604(h); 907-586-5230(w)
hearing testimony

Senate Finance members,

At the Tuesday Finance meeting, you all expressed dread for hearing testimony on SJR-42 (constitutional amendment re marriage).

Please, think about how little you look forward to just a few hours of testimony. Then think of the whole state bombarded by that debate for 8 long months if you pass this bill.

Save Alaska from ballot campaigns on SJR-42. Leave it in the courts for now. Think how awful months ahead will be unless you vote no.
 Sara Boesser

F A X M E S S A G E

FAX NO: 465-2070

FROM: *Phil Meeks*
P.O. Box 1514
Petersburg, Alaska 99833

Home Ph: 907/772-3253

3-24-98

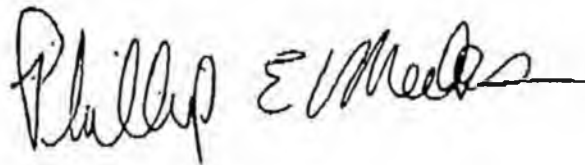
TO: Sen. Bert Sharp
Finance Committee

SUBJECT: Alaska Law re: Definition of Marriage

MESSAGE: There can be no further debate about the definition of the state of marriage, - because since the beginning of time marriage means the legally recognized relation between husband and wife, only a man and a woman. And no other relation or union can be called a "marriage".

The decision by judge (Peter Makauski (sp.?) who ruled otherwise should be thrown out as it is not his right to make the law.

Thank you.



cc:Mail for: Senator Bert Sharp

Subject: Bills
From: fsjbt@aurora.alaska.edu (TROUT JO B) at CC2MHS1 03/23/98 4:40 PM
To: Senator Tim Kelly at LAA_SKEL
To: Senator Loren Leman at LAA_SLEM
To: Senator Georgianna Lincoln at LAA_CAP
To: Senator Jerry Mackie at LAA_CAP
To: Senator Mike Miller at LAA_SMIL
To: Senator Drue Pearce at LAA_SPEA
To: Senator Randy Phillips at LAA_TRANS
cc: Senator Bert Sharp at LAA_SSHA
cc: Senator Robin Taylor at LAA_STAY
cc: Senator John Torgerson at LAA_STOR
cc: Senator Jerry Ward at LAA_TRANS
cc: Senator Gary Wilken at LAA_CAP
To: Senator_Al_Adams@legis.state.ak.us at CC2MHS1
To: Senator_Dave_Donley@legis.state.ak.us at CC2MHS1
To: Senator_Jim_Duncan@legis.state.ak.us at CC2MHS1
To: Senator_Johnny_Ellis@legis.state.ak.us at CC2MHS1
To: Senator_Lyda_Green@legis.state.ak.us at CC2MHS1
To: Senator_Rick_Halford@legis.state.ak.us at CC2MHS1
To: Senator_Lyman_Hoffman@legis.state.ak.us at CC2MHS1
To: Senator_Sean_Pamell@legis.state.ak.us at CC2MHS1

I am in support of bills SJR 37 and SJR 42!

Jo Brett

F A X M E S S A G E

FAX NO: 465-2070

FROM: *Sandra Meeks*
P.O. Box 1514

Petersburg, Alaska 99833

Home Ph: 907/772-*3253*

3-24-98

TO: Sen. Bert Sharp
Finance Committee

SUBJECT: Alaska Law re: Definition of Marriage

MESSAGE: There can be no further debate about the definition of the state of marriage, - because since the beginning of time marriage means the legally recognized relation between husband and wife, only a man and a woman. And no other relation or union can be called a "marriage".

The decision by judge (Peter Makaus'1 (sp.?) who ruled otherwise should be thrown out as it is not his right to make the law.

Thank you.

Sandra Meeks

F A X M E S S A G E

FAX NO: 465-2070

FROM: Mrs. Joan Shilling
P.O. Box 832
606 N. Second St.
Petersburg, Alaska 99833

Home Ph: 907/772-3908

3-24-98

TO: Sen. Bert Sharp
Finance Committee

SUBJECT: Alaska Law re: Definition of Marriage

MESSAGE: There can be no further debate about the definition of the state of marriage, - because since the beginning of time marriage means the legally recognized relation between husband and wife, only a man and a woman. And no other relation or union can be called a "marriage".

The decision by judge (Peter Makauski (sp.?) who ruled otherwise should be thrown out as it is not his right to make the law.

Thank you.

cc:Mail for: Senator Bert Sharp

Subject: lhgroff: Supporting Senate Joint Resolution 42

From: lhgroff@juno.com (Leon H Groff) at CC2MHS1 03/23/98 5:04 PM

To: Senator Bert Sharp at LAA_SSHA

Dear Senator Pearce:

How would you like to hear that your child was being taught in school by a homosexual or lesbian teacher? It is happening across the U.S., the Nation that WAS founded on godly principles, all the time. God calls Sodomy sin, and deals with it severely. We are to LOVE the SINNER and HATE the SIN. By passing the Homosexual "Marriage", we are casting God's judgement on our nation just like Sodom and Gomorrah, because God is a righteous God and will not tolerate sin and neither should we! Therefore, I very strongly support SJR 42.

Sincerely,

Kim Groff

----- End forwarded message -----

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cc:Mail for: Senator Bert Sharp

Subject: SJR 37 and SJR42

From: tbosela@alaska.net (Tony Bosela) at CC2MHS1 03/22/96 11:49 AM

To: Senator John Torgerson at LAA_STOR

To: Senator Bert Sharp at LAA_SSHA

To: Senator Dave Donley at LAA_SDON

To: Senator Randy Phillips at LAA_TRANS

To: Sentor_Drue_Pearce@legis.state.ak.us at CC2MHS1

Please support SJR37 and SJR42. Thank you.
Carolyn Bosela
Sterling, AK

cc:Mail for: Senator Bert Sharp

Subject: Re: Hearing On Homosexual "Marriage" Scheduled For Tuesday
From: merwinak@alaska.net (Michael D. Erwin) at CC2MHS1 03/22/98 6:39 PM
To: Senator Dave Donley at LAA_SDON
To: Senator Drue Pearce at LAA_SPEA
To: Senator Randy Phillips at LAA_TRANS
To: Senator Bert Sharp at LAA_SSHA
To: Senator John Torgerson at LAA_STOR
To: Senator Sean Parnell at LAA_TRANS
To: Senator_AI_Adams@legis.state.ak.us at CC2MHS1

Gentelmen,

I support SJR 42, the amendment that defines marriage as a union that can be entered into only by "one man and one woman." I earnestly hope that Alaska never allows same sex marriages. What a disgrace it would be, to be from a state that allows this to happen, and to possibly be the first state to do so. Please support SJR 42.

Sincerely,

Amy Wall Erwin
Anchorage, Alaska

cc:Mail for: Senator Bert Sharp

Subject: SJR 37&42

From: JMarrs58@aol.com at CC2MHS1 03/23/98 1:37 AM

To: Senator Bert Sharp at LAA_SSHA

Please support and vote for SJR 37&42. Thankyou. Jim Marrs

cc:Mail for: Senator Bert Sharp

Subject: SJR 42/SJR 37

From: dunham1@juno.com (Calvin Dunham) at CC2MHS1 03/22/98 9:43 PM

To: Senator Bert Sharp at LAA_SSHA

Thirty years ago no one would have considered marriage anything other than a man and a woman. In fact, until very recently it was taken for granted that marriage referred to a man and a woman. I feel the homosexual activists will continue to push us as far as they can, and it is time to say NO to them. They won't be satisfied with homosexual "marriage." What will they want next? It could be making us believe pedophiles are "normal" and those who know it is wrong are simply uneducated. Please consider the ramifications of same sex marriage. I urge you to vote for SJR 42.

Parental consent before a minor can have an abortion is critical. Why is it that minors cannot have their bodies pierced without parental consent and that never seems to be up for discussion? However, a girl can have an abortion without parents knowing about it. Abortions can and are botched in "legal" clinics, girls die, become sterile, to say nothing of the emotional damage that occurs. Please have the courage to vote for SJR 37.

Sincerely,
Frances J. Dunham

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cc:Mail for: Senator Bert Sharp

Subject: Support SJR 37 and SJR 42

From: joycem@galenaalaska.org (Mark & Joyce Moldenhauer) at CC2MHS1 03/22/98 11:12 PM

To: Senator Georgianna Lincoln at LAA_CAP

To: Senator Lyman Hoffman at LAA_CAP

To: Senator Johnny Ellis at LAA_TRANS

To: Senator Bert Sharp at LAA_SSHA

To: Senator Dave Donley at LAA_SDON

To: Senator Drue Pearce at LAA_SPEA

To: Senator Gary Wilken at LAA_CAP

To: Senator Jim Duncan at LAA_SDUN

To: Senator John Torgerson at LAA_STOR

To: Senator Randy Phillips at LAA_TRANS

To: Senator Sean Parnell at LAA_TRANS

To: senator_al_adams@legis.state.ak.us at CC2MHS1

To: senator_jerry_mackie@legis.state.ak.us at CC2MHS1

I ask for your support of both SJR37 (proposed constitutional amendment to protect our present Alaska law requiring parental consent before a minor receives an abortion); and SJR42 (proposed constitutional amendment to define marriage as a union entered into by one man & one woman).

The reason you have not heard from the majority of Alaskans that support these two resolutions is most likely because these two items passed as laws in last years session with grrreat support (we're, also, building homes, going to work, and raising families) . We felt they should have stood firm (they've been legal for more than 200 years of American history!)...however, as you know, opponents found a liberal judge (easy to find these days) to spew that "such laws are unconstitutional" and here we are...(I wonder what George & Abe would say about such heresy).

Now I hear that the "pro aborts" and "pro same sexers" are showing up to defeat the joint resolutions; and even Republican Senators are being swayed by them. Whether republican or democrat, I hope and pray you will search your own heart for what is right and good in these matters. A "no" vote on these SJR's would join many in this country taking a giant leap backwards to the days of Sodom and even the Roman empire (who's nation fell because of it's support for such lasciviousness). If these two resolutions fail and the pedophiles come along in numbers (who prefer our children for their sexual objects) would you support them too? You might say thats absurd or off track; but don't be fooled; they are already pushing for legislation in their favor in this country. God help us!

Please support our heritage, our parental authority, and our nation's future...support SJR37 and SJR42.

signed,

one man & one woman, with 3 children...

Mark & Joyce Moldenhauer

cc:Mail for: Senator Bert Sharp

Subject: Homosexual marriage

From: jandrull@alaska.net (james r. andrulli) at CC2MHS1 03/22/98 6:50 PM

To: Senator Bert Sharp at LAA_SSHA

Dear Mr. Sharp,

The traditional family and the home are the basic institutions of civilization.

Scientific research proves that children grow to maturity best in that environment.

It is from within the family that morals and the traditions of the culture are learned

and then carried forward to the next generation. If the families are good then the

society will be good. Without traditional families, civilizations wither and die.

Traditional families cultivate selflessness, self-discipline, chastity, self-denial,

charity, self-sacrifice, faith, hope, and so on.

Homosexual behavior and activities decay the family institution and the ethical

morality of civilization. The homosexual lifestyle is defined by immoral, promiscuous

sex with multiple partners. Because of this behavior, homosexuals have increased

incidences of all STDs, including AIDs, Hepatitis A,B, and C, and "Gay men bowel

disease" which is a group of gastrointestinal diseases that only homosexual men get due

to their unnatural sexual practices. Homosexuals also have higher rates of alcohol and

drug abuse, depression, and suicide than the general population.

According to research done by Larry Kramer, a well known homosexual activist, even

before the AIDs epidemic, the homosexual community was sick and dying with the average

age of death being 42 years of age. Since Aids, that average has dropped to age 39.

For female homosexuals, the median age of death was found to be 45.

Long term relationships between homosexuals are the exception rather than the rule.

Most relationships tend to be shallow, superficial, and based on "puppy love" rather

than real love. The average relationship lasts from one and one-half to three years

with about half of the partners being unfaithful during that time. Andrew Sullivan, a

"gay Catholic" admits that homosexuals are more accepting of open marriages.

Homosexuals may wrap their motivation for marriage in such rhetoric as rights,

compassion, tolerance, and love but in reality they seek to completely redefine,

undermine, and destroy the marriage institution as we know it.

Promotion of homosexuality by the state will not only increase public health

expenditures to combat the many diseases spread by the behavior but will also cause a financial burden on the family when homosexuals seek financial rights and privileges that married couples now have. The state definitely has a compelling interest in banning such marriages.

Sincerely,

James R. Andrulli
3815 Tanada Rd.
North Pole, AK 99705

cc:Mail for: Senator Bert Sharp

Subject: Same-sex marriages

From: hooter@alaska.net at CC2MHS1 03/18/98 7:21 PM

To: Senator Bert Sharp at LAA_SSHA

Dear Senator Sharp:

I am a 35-year-old, politically active, heterosexual, conservative Republican. What I read in the press lately regarding the same-sex marriage issue has me very dismayed. I think some of our lawmakers, and Senator Leman in particular, have lost sight of the forest for the trees, and Republicans in Juneau might be very surprised to hear the thoughts on this issue from a John Q. Public conservative like myself. My thoughts:

Any 1990's conservative worthy of the label is at heart a libertarian. Nothing is more fundamental to Reagan era conservatism than the sanctity of the Constitution and the Jeffersonian premise of the least possible government intrusion into our individual lives and liberties. Although as a practicing Christian I do not personally condone homosexual behavior, one *cannot* legally restrict it without trampling on the rights enjoyed by every U.S. citizen as codified in the U.S. Constitution. Among the most fundamental human rights, certainly, is the right to choose one's own mate and enjoy all the benefits of binding married union. Any two people who choose to truly commit to one another for life seem to me to be far better role models than a George Jacko, for example.

I should also mention that perverse though homosexual behavior may be, it is certainly less so than the perversions indulged in by a good many heterosexuals in positions of power and influence in this state and elsewhere. If homosexual sex is perverse, it is hardly alone, even in Juneau. The fact remains that to paint same-sex unions as the death-knell of the American family is ludicrous on its face. There are far worse threats to families and family ethics than a handful of gay couples. To hold up male-female marriages as paragons of virtue simply because they're male-female is equally ludicrous (two words: Packwood and Clinton). What is *not* ludicrous is the parallel I see in Senator Leman's bill to the Nurembury Laws of 1932. The fact remains that an attack on the basic rights of any one class of people is an attack on all classes.

More to the point, Article IV, Section 1 of the Contitution of the United States is quite clear: "Full faith and credit shall be given in each state to the public acts...of every other state." Marriage is just such a public act - a publically-proclaimed union between two people which is witnessed by the State - and has never fallen under any other type of law. Like it or not, any attempt to restrict the rights and benefits of marriage against homosexuals is doomed to fail the very moment any other state grants recognition to same-sex marriages (Hawaii leaps to mind). Anyone who has eyes to see and a brain to think *must* acknowledge that that event is not a long time in coming, and when it does, all the draconian state legislation imaginable will not alter Article IV, Section 1 of the U.S. Constitution. Further, repeal or amendment of that Article is similarly unrealistic, which is to say, it's just not going to happen.

That being the case, I consider it a serious abrogation of responsibility to the taxpayers to lend support to any such grandstanding legislation, frittering away current and future public resources on an unwinnable fight, particularly when there are so many other, more dire issues at hand.

I urge you in the strongest possible terms to not waste my time and money supporting Senator Leman's proposed unenforceable legislation restricting the right of any Alaska resident to marry any Alaska resident.

This is 1998, not 1898, and we're Alaskans, not Victorians - let's pull our heads out and stick to the State's real business, none of which you'll find in people's bedrooms.

J.D. Stewart
Ardent and Vocal Voter

cc:Mail for: Senator Bert Sharp

Subject: SJR 37 & SJR 42

From: ajc12@concentric.net at CC2MHS1 03/18/98 11:14 PM

To: Senator Bert Sharp LAA_SSHA

Please support SJR 37 to require parental involvement and permission for teenage girls to have an abortion. This is such a monumental decision for a young girl to make and she needs to have the support and understanding of her family, not some organization pushing abortion down her throat. She needs to realize there are other choices than abortion.

Also, please support SJR 42 to define marriage as a union between a man and a woman. This is a fundamental law of nature and civilization and legitimizing homosexual unions will undermine the very network of our society. Sincerely, Ms. A. J. Clark

cc:Mail for: Senator Bert Sharp

Subject: Marriage Amendment

From: ahippler@mtaonline.net (Arthur E Hippler) at CC2MHS1 03/18/98 2:59 PM

To: Senator John Torgerson at LAA_STOR

To: Senator Randy Phillips at LAA_TRANS

To: Senator Sean Parnell at LAA_TRANS

To: Senator Bert Sharp at LAA_SSHA

To: Senator Drue Pearce at LAA_SPEA

To: Senator_Al_Adams@legis.state.ak.us at CC2MHS1

SJR42, which would define marriage as a union which can be entered into only by one man and one woman, deserves your full support and it certainly has ours.

If an individual desires to maintain an unconventional relationship there is nothing in this bill which would prevent that. But what is prevented is pretending that homosexual or other irregular unions are the same for legal purposes as the one man one woman marriage.

There is no legitimate reason for extending legal protections rights and obligations to those whose very actions deny the unique validity of marriage.

Yes, we have every right to deny that which nature denies. There is no way in which the union of two members of the same sex can produce children which is the fundamental purpose of marriage, however often some individuals abuse this relationship. Society has every right to protect itself against regularizing that form of perversity which has been the destruction of so many societies and individuals.

I use the term perversity advisedly. It is a perversion of nature to ejaculate semen into an anus, an oral cavity or indeed anywhere else than in a vagina. At one time it was well understood in psychoanalytic circles that homosexuality was indeed a perversion of the love object.

As an academic anthropologist who was intimately involved with the psychoanalytic community I was well aware of the contempt in which the Psychiatrists were held who permitted their meetings to be invaded by perverts into denying the emotional disorder connected with homosexuality.

By permitting homosexual unions to same status as regular marriages, we put a seal of approval on perversion and provide no buffer between children and others of lesser mental and moral capacity who will then be preyed upon by homosexuals.

The self-chosen term for many homosexuals is "queer". That is a blatant and defacto recognition on their own part of the imbalance in their actions.

Make no mistake. It is actions we oppose. One may feel predisposed to any on a number of evils; that does not condemn us. If we act on our evil impulses we are properly condemned.

Do not fall for the hoary old chestnut that such a law would be

"prejudiced" or bigoted. The hallmark of maturity is the capacity precisely to discriminate between the good and the bad. It is not bigotry to try to defend civilization from its enemies.

Sincerely
Arthur E Hipper

cc:Mail for: Senator Bert Sharp

Subject: Senate Joint Resolution 42

From: mparker@customcpu.com (Marge Parker) at CC2MHS1 03/22/98 2:54 PM

To: Senator Bert Sharp at LAA_SSHA

Dear Senator,

I would like to voice my strong support for the "traditional marriage" definition being added as an amendment to our Alaska State Constitution. This is an integral part of the normal family unit in western society. This unit is where children can be nurtured by a parent of each sex and deprives no one of their rights. It is not an issue of sexuality but one of family.

Homosexuals are not prevented by law from practicing their peculiar forms of sexual relations. That "right" they have. If homosexual marriage is legally recognized in Alaska, a "Pandora's Box" will be opened which will have to include such things as plural marriages. Imagine the employer who has to provide health care for a worker with 3 wives and 20 children.

Any casual political observer can see this thinly veiled smokescreen sponsored by the homosexual lobby to force society to validate the "normalcy" of their chosen method of sexual expression. I will not do that personally and will never support any political group or individual who does.

Sincerely,
David L. Parker

cc:Mail for: Senator Bert Sharp

Subject: Support for SJR 42

From: kwinslow@xyz.net (Winslow's) at CC2MHS1 03/22/98 6:04 PM

To: Senator John Torgerson at LAA_STOR

bcc: Senator Bert Sharp at LAA_SSHA

I am strongly opposed to Same Sex Marriages, these are not marriages at all. Marriage is defined as the Union of a man and a woman in Holy Matrimony.

Please pass the SJR42 in order to define marriage in Alaska Law as the union that can be entered into only by "One man and one woman"

Thank you very much,

Kimberly Winslow

P.O. Box 15073
Fritz Creek, AK 99603
(907)235-6228

cc:Mail for: Senator Bert Sharp

Subject: SJR 42

From: dogpak@alaska.net (Mark Robitaille) at CC2MHS1 03/23/98 4:56 PM

To: Senator Sean Parnell at LAA_TRANS

To: Senator Randy Phillips at LAA_TRANS

To: Senator John Torgerson at LAA_STOR

To: Senator Dave Donley at LAA_SDON

To: Senator Bert Sharp at LAA_SSHA

To: Senator_Al_Adams@legis.state.ak.us at CC2MHS1

To: Senator_Drew_Pearce@legis.state.ak.us at CC2MHS1

cc: sharpshooter@bigfoot.com at CC2MHS1

cc: sharpshooter@hotmail.com at CC2MHS1

I strongly urge you to support SJR 42.

It is important that the State Constitution be ammended by restricting the definition of marrige to "a union that can be entered into only by one man and one woman."

Thank You,

Mark E. Robitaille

Kenny Lake

HC 60, Box 329R Copper Center, AK 99573

cc:Mail for: Senator Bert Sharp

Subject: SJR 42

From: trevys@alaska.net (Greg Trevithick) at CC2MHS1 03/21/98 5:18 PM

To: Senator Bert Sharp at LAA_SSHA

I am sending you this message to urge you to please vote YES in support of Senate Joint Resolution 42. Thank you.
Greg Trevithick

cc:Mail for: Senator Bert Sharp

Subject: SJR 42

From: jeanette_57@hotmail.com (jeanette morris) at CC2MHS1 03/22/98 11:56 PM

cc: Senator Bert Sharp at LAA_SSHA

To: Senator_Drue_Pearce@legis.state.ak.us at CC2MHS1

Dear Senator,

I implore you to please consider carefully the decision you are about to face. Allowing homosexuals to be considered legally married is an insult to the sanctity of marriage. It is a mockery to those of us who still consider marriage holy and sacred. Marriage is meant only for one man and one woman. To allow same-sex marriages is to completely ignore the God given design for marriage. Look at nature, and you will see that it is unnatural for two men, or two women to spend their lives together as "mates". Have we, the United States, a Christian nation, gotten so far away from our Christian beliefs that we would allow such an atrocity to occur? Please do not insult me, and the thousands of other real married couples by allowing this to become legal. Please consider that which is morally right when you cast your vote. Don't allow this to happen. Let's not allow ourselves to be bulldozed into a wrong decision by those who are trying to push this through on the coattails of what has been legalized in Hawaii. Please remember all of us who want to preserve the home and our families. Thank you for your time,

Jeanette Morse
Delta Junction

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cc:Mail for: Senator Bert Sharp

Subject: SJR 42

From: rporter@ptialaska.net (Rick Porter) at CC2MHS1 03/22/98 10:58 PM

To: Senator Drue Pearce at LAA_SPEA

cc: Senator Bert Sharp at LAA_SSHA

cc: Senator Dave Donley at LAA_SDON

cc: Senator Sean Parnell at LAA_TRANS

cc: Senator Randy Phillips at LAA_TRANS

cc: Senator John Torgerson at LAA_STOR

cc: Senator_AI_Adams@legis.state.ak.us at CC2MHS1

Good morning. We are notifying you, as a member of the Finance Committee, that we support SJR 42 regarding the constitutional amendment on the definition of marriage. We do not want to see our state endorsing homosexual marriage. Thank you for your time. Sincerely, Rick and Nancy Porter

cc:Mail for: Senator Bert Sharp

Subject: SJR 42

From: explor@ptialaska.net (Dale Anderson) at CC2MHS1 03/23/98 5:53 AM

To: Senator Bert Sharp at LAA_SSHA

Good Morning Senator... I STRONGLY urge you to support SJR 42 when it comes time to let your vote and voice count in the Finance Committee hearing on Tuesday. Thank you for all your time and hard work on behalf of the people of Alaska! It is appreciated... Dale Anderson

Admiralty Tours/Auke Lake B&B
Cornerstone Consulting
(907) 789-1965 (phone)
(907) 790-3253 (fax)
explor@ptialaska.net (e-mail)
<http://www.ptialaska.net/~explor> (website)

cc:Mail for: Senator Bert Sharp

Subject: SJR 42

From: jeanette_57@hotmail.com (jeanette morris) at CC2MHS1 03/22/98 11:59 PM

To: Senator Bert Sharp at LAA_SSHA

Dear Senator,

I implore you to please consider carefully the decision you are about to face. Allowing homosexuals to be considered legally married is an insult to the sanctity of marriage. It is a mockery to those of us who still consider marriage holy and sacred. Marriage is meant only for one man and one woman. To allow same-sex marriages is to completely ignore the God given design for marriage. Look at nature, and you will see that it is unnatural for two men, or two women to spend their lives together as "mates". Have we, the United States, a Christian nation, gotten so far away from our Christian beliefs that we would allow such an atrocity to occur? Please do not insult me, and the thousands of other real married couples by allowing this to become legal. Please consider that which is morally right when you cast your vote. Don't allow this to happen. Let's not allow ourselves to be bulldozed into a wrong decision by those who are trying to push this through on the coattails of what has been legalized in Hawaii. Please remember all of us who want to preserve the home and our families. Thank you for your time,

Jeanette Morse
Delta Junction

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cc:Mail for: Senator Bert Sharp

Subject: SJR37 and SJR42

From: mikestearns@email.msn.com (Mike Stearns) at CC2MHS1 03/23/98 4:04 PM

To: Senator Bert Sharp at LAA_SSHA

To: Senator_AI_Ada.ns@legis.state.ak.us at CC2MHS1

To: Senator_Dave_Donley@legis.state.ak.us at CC2MHS1

To: Senator_Jim_Duncan@legis.state.ak.us at CC2MHS1

To: Senator_Johnny_Ellis@legis.state.ak.us at CC2MHS1

To: Senator_Lyman_Hoffman@legis.state.ak.us at CC2MHS1

To: Senator_Georgianna_Lincoln@legis.state.ak.us at CC2MHS1

To: Senator_Jerry_Mackie@legis.state.ak.us at CC2MHS1

To: Senator_Drue_Pearce@legis.state.ak.us at CC2MHS1

To: Senator_Randy_Phillips@legis.state.ak.us at CC2MHS1

To: Senator_John_Torgerson@legis.state.ak.us at CC2MHS1

To: Senator_Gary_Wilken@legis.state.ak.us at CC2MHS1

To: Senator_Sean_Parnell@legis.state.ak.us at CC2MHS1

I am writing to inform you of my support for SJR37 and SJR42.

cc:Mail for: Senator Bert Sharp

Subject: SJR-42

From: saint1@juno.com at CC2MHS1 03/22/98 2:26 PM

To: Senator Loren Leman at LAA_SLEM

cc: Senator Georgianna Lincoln at LAA_CAP

cc: Representative Eldon Muldor at LAA_TRANS

cc: Senator Sean Parnell at LAA_TRANS

cc: Representative Gail Phillips at LAA_CAP

cc: Representative Norman Rokeberg at LAA_TRANS

cc: Senator Bert Sharp at LAA_SSHA

cc: Senator John Torgerson at LAA_STOR

cc: senator_al_adams@legis.state.ak.us at CC2MHS1

cc: senator_dave_donley@legid.state.ak.us at CC2MHS1

cc: Tony_Knowles@gov.state.ak.us at CC2MHS1

cc: senator_dure_pearce@legis.state.ak.us at CC2MHS1

cc: Fran_Ulmør@gov.state.ak.us at CC2MHS1

In my opinion this should have died before it was ever put before the legislative body.

It is a waste of money, and time for the state. We have a shortage of money as the oil prices go down, so therefore it is waste full.

My instructions as a you person and also as I,ve grown older.

The GOOD BOOK says a man will not take another man as a woman. How much planner can you get? Of course if you do not believe in GOD then I believe you as an individual are a lost soul.

I want to impress upon you as leaders of the state to egnore this "Garbage" that is before your body of rules and laws.

Why does Alaska have to be the only state that would allow this to be? We would have more undesirables than we need. It seems as though we have a full quote of that kind of person's in this State already.

Please be advised that I as a citizen, and God fearing man, can not press upon your committee strong enough to VOTE THIS SJR-42 DOWN.

Thank you for your attention and consideration on the above subject.

Sincerely

James F. Watfor

Katherine E Watford

E-mail saint1@juno.com

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Or call Juno at (800) 654-JUNO [654-5866]

cc:Mail for: Senator Bert Sharp

Subject: Senate Joint Resolution 42

From: explor@ptialaska.net (Dale Anderson) at CC2MHS1 03/23/98 6:34 AM

To: Senator Bert Sharp at LAA_SSHA

Dear Senator Sharp:

Please support SJR 42 when it comes to the Senate Finance Committee on Tuesday.

Thank you very much for your good work.

Sincerely, Honey Bee Anderson

honeybee@ptialaska.net

cc:Mail for: Senator Bert Sharp

Subject: SJR 37 and SJR 42

From: spiersj@wainwright-emh1.army.mil (BRAC Env COOR (Spiers; James)) at CC2... 05/23/98 1:15 PM

To: Senator Bert Sharp at LAA_SSHA
To: Senator Dave Donley at LAA_SDON
To: Senator Drue Pearce at LAA_SPEA
To: Senator Georgianna Lincoln at LAA_CAP
To: Senator Jerry Mackie at LAA_CAP
To: Senator Jerry Ward at LAA_TRANS
To: Senator_AI_Adams@legis.state.ak.us at CC2MHS1
To: Senator_Gary_Wilkin@legis.state.ak.us at CC2MHS1
To: Senator_Jim_Duncan@legis.state.ak.us at CC2MHS1
To: Senator_John_Torgerson@legis.state.ak.us at CC2MHS1
To: Senator_Johnny_Ellis@legis.state.ak.us at CC2MHS1
To: Senator_Loren_Leman@legis.state.ak.us at CC2MHS1
To: Senator_Lyda_Green@legis.state.ak.us at CC2MHS1
To: Senator_Lyman_Hoffman@legis.state.ak.us at CC2MHS1
To: Senator_Mike_Miller@legis.state.ak.us at CC2MHS1
To: Senator_Randy_Phillips@legis.state.ak.us at CC2MHS1
To: Senator_Rick_Halford@legis.state.ak.us at CC2MHS1
To: Senator_Robin_Taylor@legis.state.ak.us at CC2MHS1
To: Senator_Seán_Parnell@legis.state.ak.us at CC2MHS1
To: Senator_Tim_Kelly@legis.state.ak.us at CC2MHS1

Ladies and Gentlemen:

We would like to go on record as strongly supporting SJR 37 (a proposed constitutional amendment to protect Alaska's law requiring parental consent before a minor's abortion) and SJR 42 (a proposed constitutional amendment to define marriage as a union that can be entered into only by "one man and one woman." Please support these amendments.

James K. Spiers
Julie J. Spiers

cc:Mail for: Senator Bert Sharp

Subject: Senate Joint Resolution 42 and Senate Joint Resolution 37
From: lesa@ptialaska.net at CC2MHS1 03/23/98 11:15 AM
To: Senator Dave Donley at LAA_SDON
To: Senator Gary Wilken at LAA_CAP
To: Senator Georgianna Lincoln at LAA_CAP
To: Senator Jerry Mackie at LAA_CAP
To: Senator Jim Duncan at LAA_SDUN
To: Senator John Torgerson at LAA_STOR
To: Senator Johnny Ellis at LAA_TRANS
To: Senator Lyman Hoffman at LAA_CAP
To: Senator Randy Phillips at LAA_TRANS
To: Senator Bert Sharp at LAA_SSHA
To: Senator_Al_Adams@legis.state.ak.us at CC2MHS1
To: Senator_Drue_Pierce@legis.state.ak.us at CC2MHS1
To: Senator_Loren_Leman@legis.state.ak.us at CC2MHS1

Dear Senator:

I am writing to ask that you vote in support of the following resolutions:

Senate Joint Resolution 37----- Parental Consent for Abortions by Minors
Senate Joint Resolution 42----- Prohibition of Constitutional Amendment
allowing Same sex Marriages
Thank you for voting to preserve family values.

Sincerely yours,

Lesia K. Newman
Juneau, AK

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Sqa 400
Support

cc:Mail for: Senator Bert Sharp

Subject: SJR-42, Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the St
From: Ric_Plate@usa.net (Ric Plate) at CC2MHS1 03/23/98 11:18 AM
bcc: Senator Bert Sharp at LAA_SSHA
To: @ at CC2MHS1

Dear Senator,

I am writing to urge you to SUPPORT SJR-42, proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the State of Alaska relating to marriage.

Marriage has always been between "one man and one woman" and should be constitutionally protected. Alaska should not, nor ever, redefine marriage in any other way. The people of Alaska should be given the chance to vote on this issue.

Defining marriage as between "one man and one woman" in no way condemns gay people. Neither does it afford the benefits of marriage, nor should it. The gay activist seek to legitimize their activities through legislative changes but homosexual activities are wrong.

Thank you for your support and help. Please give the people the chance to vote on this issue.

Richard Plate
Box 3874
Soldotna, AK 99669

An active voter for more than 20 years.

Bill Text

Section 25. Marriage. To be valid or recognized in this State, a marriage may exist only between one man and one woman. No provision of this constitution may be interpreted to require the State to recognize or permit marriage between individuals of the same sex. Additional requirements related to marriage may be established to the extent permitted by the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Alaska.

* Sec. 2. The amendment proposed by this resolution shall be placed before the voters of the state at the next general election in conformity with art. XIII, sec. 1, Constitution of the State of Alaska, and the election laws of the state.

cc:Mail for: Senator Bert Sharp

Subject: SJR 42

From: jimndeb2@juno.com (jim p pucket) at CC2MHS1 03/23/98 8:59 AM

To: Senator Bert Sharp at LAA_SSHA

cc: Senator Drue Pearce at LAA_SPEA

cc: Senator Dave Donley at LAA_SDON

cc: Senator Jean Parnell at LAA_TRANS

cc: Senator Randy Phillips at LAA_TRANS

cc: Senator John Torgerson at LAA_STOR

cc: Senator_Al_Adams@legis.state.ak.us at CC2MHS1

Dear Sir:

My wife and I appreciate the hard work you have devoted to our community over the years. Your willingness to serve in our state government is not taken for granted.

Generally speaking we have been pleased with your stand on issues during your tenure as Senator. We hope that you will join in supporting SJR 42. It saddens us to even need to work for the passage of a constitutional amendment defining a marriage as "one man and one woman." We are disturbed that our society has declined to the point that what common sense tells us needs to be specified by government.

We look forward to your reply regarding this issue.

Sincerely,

Jim and Debi Puckett

<jimndeb2@juno.com>

You don't need to buy Internet access to use free Internet e-mail.
Get completely free e-mail from Juno at <http://www.juno.com>
Or call Juno at (800) 654-JUNO [654-5866]

cc:Mail for: Senator Bert Sharp

Subject: SJR 42

From: ejones@polarnet.com (Edwin E. Jones) at CC2MHS1 03/23/98 3:02 PM

To: Senator Drue Pearce at LAA_SPEA

cc: Senator Bert Sharp at LAA_SSHA

cc: Senator Dave Donley at LAA_SDON

Edwin E. Jones wrote:

> Edwin E. Jones wrote:

>

> > Edwin E. Jones wrote:

> >

> > > Dear Senators:

> > > The Laws of Our Great Nation and Our Great State have been founded
> > > by our forefathers with common sense, individual and collective
> > > principles, and the desire to promote the Common Good or our citizens.
> > > These laws have served us well for many years and as written can serve
> > > us well long into the future. Already, many freedoms guaranteed by those
> > > laws have been legislated away by the voices of minority, Special
> > > Interest Groups, that do not want to abide by those Laws, but want to
> > > force upon the General Populace, laws that give credence to abhorrent
> > > behavior, legality to killing unborn babies, the worship of Man as
> > > god(Humanism) and what else to come in the future.

> > >

> > > Human History and Nature itself should be enough to convince a
> > > reasonable man that Marriage between a Man and Woman is a sacred vow
> > > that stabilizes the human experience and provides the wherewithal to
> > > propagate the race of man with a nurturing, loving means to raise
> > > Children in the confines of Family. All the rhetoric of these Special
> > > Interest Groups aside, nothing can compare with the established
> > > provisions found in the laws of Alaska concerning Marriage. Are all
> > > marriages perfect?, far from it. Do all children have safe homes, loving
> > > parents and good role models?, probably not. But will they have a better
> > > chance, living in the presence of sodomites who claim to be and may be
> > > loving people but live a lifestyle that demeans family, because they can
> > > never produce a family naturally. History itself has left us records and
> > > no doubt warnings of the fall of societies that embraced this abhorrent
> > > behavior. I have personally viewed the degradation evident in the
> > > ruins of Pompeii, where Signs of male genitals hung outside doorways
> > > Is that what is in the future of this Great State?, I hope not!!
> > > I strongly support SJR 42 and urge the Alaska Legislature to pass this
> > > resolution. Do not allow the further erosion of Decency in this Great
> > > Country and State.

> > >

> > > Sincerely, Edwin E. Jones

> >

> > Edwin E. Jones wrote:

> >

> > > Dear Senators:

> > > The Laws of Our Great Nation and Our Great State have been founded
> > > by our forefathers with common sense, individual and collective
> > > principles, and the desire to promote the Common Good or our citizens.
> > > These laws have served us well for many years and as written can serve
> > > us well long into the future. Already, many freedoms guaranteed by those
> > > laws have been legislated away by the voices of minority, Special
> > > Interest Groups, that do not want to abide by those Laws, but want to

> > > force upon the General Populace, laws that give credence to abhorrent
> > > behavior, legality to killing unborn babies, the worship of Man as
> > > god(Humanism) and what else to come in the future.

> > >
> > > Human History and Nature itself should be enough to convince a
> > > reasonable man that Marriage between a Man and Woman is a sacred vow
> > > that stabilizes the human experience and provides the wherewithal to
> > > propagate the race of man with a nurturing, loving means to raise
> > > Children in the confines of Family. All the rhetoric of these Special
> > > Interest Groups aside, nothing can compare with the established
> > > provisions found in the laws of Alaska concerning Marriage. Are all
> > > marriages perfect?, far from it. Do all children have safe homes, loving
> > > parents and good role models?, probably not. But will they have a better
> > > chance, living in the presence of sodomites who claim to be and may be
> > > loving people but live a lifestyle that demeans family, because they can
> > > never produce a family naturally. History itself has left us records and
> > > no doubt warnings of the fall of societies that embraced this abhorrent
> > > behavior. I have personally viewed the degradation evident in the
> > > ruins of Pompeii, where Signs of male genitals hung outside doorways
> > > Is that what is in the future of this Great State?, I hope not!!
> > > I strongly support SJR 42 and urge the Alaska Legislature to pass this
> > > resolution. Do not allow the further erosion of Decency in this Great
> > > Country and State.

> > >
> > > Sincerely, Edwin E. Jones

cc:Mail for: Senator Bert Sharp

Subject: SJR 42

From: KeithWinkle@compuserve.com (R. Keith Winkle) at CC2MHS1 03/23/98 3:45 PM

bcc: Senator Bert Sharp at LAA_SSHA

To: Blind.Copy.Receiver@compuserve.com at CC2MHS1

Dear Senator,

I would like to inform you of my support for SJR 42. Traditionally, marriage has been defined as a union between one man and one woman. That there have been occasional exceptions to this historically only seems to prove the rule. Historically benefits have been extended to spouses and their families so that the offspring of that union could be cared for by a parent at home while their health needs were met. If you really want to go down the slippery slope of extending benefits to whoever wants them, then take this problem on honestly and debate whether an employee can extend his benefits to a person of his choice.

Sincerely,

R. Keith Winkle

cc:Mail for: Senator Bert Sharp

Subject: SJR 42

From: info@ancbt.org (ABT Web Site Administrator) at CC2MHS1 03/23/98 4:38 PM

To: Senator John Torgerson at LAA_STOR

To: Senator Randy Phillips at LAA_TRANS

To: Senator Dave Donley at LAA_SDON

To: Senator Bert Sharp at LAA_SSHA

To: Senator Drue Pearce at LAA_SPEA

To: Senator_Sean_Parnall@legis.state.ak.us at CC2MHS1

To: Senator_AI_Adams@legis.state.ak.us at CC2MHS1

I want to encourage you to support SJR-42. Thank you for your consideration.

Jerry Prevo

JP/dfm

cc:Mail for: Senator Bert Sharp

Subject: SJR 42

From: jaredd@usa.net (Jared Dougherty) at CC2MHS1 03/23/98 4:53 PM

To: Senator Drue Pearce at LAA_SPEA

To: Senator Bert Sharp at LAA_SSHA

To: Senator Dave Donley at LAA_SDON

To: Senator Sean Parnell at LAA_TRANS

To: Senator Randy Phillips at LAA_TRANS

To: Senator John Torgerson at LAA_STOR

To: senator_al_adams@legis.state.ak.us at CC2MHS1

I support SJR 42, that a marriage is a union by "one man and one woman." This is a very clear and obvious arrangement, both biologically and socially. It's been a functional reality of nesting robins, wolf packs and humans throughout history. The alternative is dysfunction, irrational and destructive to our social fabric.

Get a grip and refuse to legitimize and therefore give up moral and rational equivlence to aberrant behavior. At least try to keep our society on a level with the average loon or canada geese couple (who mate, male and female, for life and to raise young). Do the right thing and vote yes for SJR 42.

Dennis Dougherty
2216 Penrose Lane
Fairbanks Alaska, 99709

cc:Mail for: Senator Bert Sharp

Subject: Senate Joint Resolution 42

From: mvtaylor@alaska.net (Michael & Stephanie Taylor) at CC2MHS1 03/23/98 4:41 PM

To: Senator Bert Sharp at LAA_SSHA

Senator Sharp:

The Senate Finance Committee is scheduled to receive comments on SJR 42. We will be unable to attend the hearing, but we wanted to give you our comments. We firmly believe that "marriage" is the union (spiritual and legal) between 1 man and 1 woman. Many groups in the last 200 years have tried to redefine marriage. We were married in Alaska and do not want our union to be questioned in other states because Alaska allowed marriage to be redefined. Please consider our request and support SJR 42. We would like to have the opportunity to maintain the definition marriage. Your support for SJR 42 will allow all Alaska citizens to make their wishes known.

cc:Mail for: Senator Bert Sharp

Subject: SJR 42

From: jaredd@usa.net (Jared Dougherty) at CC2MHS1 03/23/98 4:56 PM

To: Senator Drue Pearce at LAA_SPEA

To: Senator Bert Sharp at LAA_SSHA

To: Senator Dave Donley at LAA_SDON

To: Senator Sean Parnell at LAA_TRANS

To: Senator Randy Phillips at LAA_TRANS

To: Senator John Torgerson at LAA_STOR

To: senator_al_adams@legis.state.ak.us at CC2MHS1

Please vote in support of SJR 42. In preparation for the anniversary of my marriage, I am asking you to honor the sanctity and definition of marriage as, and always as, the union between one man and one woman. Please do not allow the perversion of my and all marriage by changing what is natural, whether in mankind or what we observe in nature -- a male and female union.

Annie Dougherty
2216 Penrose Lane
Fairbanks Alaska, 99709

cc:Mail for: Senator Bert Sharp

Subject: Marriage Bill

From: jvhansen@juno.com at CC2MHS1 03/24/98 1:48 AM

To: Senator Bert Sharp at LAA_SSHA

Jansy Hansen
2170 Cascade St.
Juneau, AK 99801
E-Mail Address: jvhansen@juno.com

The Honorable Bert Sharp

Dear Bert Sharp:

Although I empathize with those who care for one another, I support the ban on same sex marriages because it is yet another weakening factor for the future of the American family.

Sincerely,

Jansy Hansen

cc:Mail for: Senator Bert Sharp

Subject: SJR 42

From: jaredd@usa.net (Jared Dougherty) at CC2MHS1 03/23/98 4:59 PM

To: Senator Drue Pearce at LAA_SPEA

To: Senator Bert Sharp at LAA_SSHA

To: Senator Dave Donley at LAA_SDON

To: Senator Sean Parnell at LAA_TRANS

To: Senator Randy Phillips at LAA_TRANS

To: Senator John Torgerson at LAA_STOR

To: senator_al_adams@legis.state.ak.us at CC2MHS1

Please vote in favor of SJR 42.

Jared Dougherty
2216 Penrose Lane
Fairbanks Alaska, 99709

cc:Mail for: Senator Bert Sharp

Subject: Re: Senate Joint Resolution 42
From: kmkarlen@juno.com (Karen M Karlen) at CC2MHS1 03/23/98 8:20 PM
To: Senator Drue Pearce at LAA_SPEA
cc: Senator Bert Sharp at LAA_SSHA
cc: Senator Sean Parnell at LAA_TRANS
cc: Senator Randy Phillips at LAA_TRANS
cc: Senator John Torgerson at LAA_STOR
cc: Senator._Dave_Donley@legis.state.ak.us at CC2MHS1
cc: Senator_Al_Adams@legis.state.ak.us at CC2MHS1

I would like to ask for your support for SJR 42 which defines marriage as a union that can be entered into ONLY by one man and one woman.

Thank you.

Karen Karlen
830 - 5th Avenue
Fairbanks, AK 99701

You don't need to buy Internet access to use free Internet e-mail.
Get completely free e-mail from Juno at <http://www.juno.com>
Or call Juno at (800) 654-JUNO [654-5866]

cc:Mail for: Senator Bert Sharp

Subject: SJR-42

From: beilfak@mtaonline.net (Beilfuss) at CC2MHS1 03/23/98 7:17 PM

To: Senator Bert Sharp at LAA_SSHA

I would like to encourage you to vote in favor of SJR-42 during the hearing scheduled for March 24. I feel we need this type of legislation to define marriage due to liberal decisions which are being handed down in our Alaskan courts as well as others across the nation. Thank you for your time in this matter. Randy Beilfuss - HC 85 Box 9361 - Eagle River, Ak 99577.

cc:Mail for: Senator Bert Sharp

Subject: SJR42

From: erwalker@alaska.net (ERLOW R. WALKER) at CC2MHS1 03/23/98 11:43 PM

To: Senator Sean Parnell at LAA_TRANS

To: Senator John Torgerson at LAA_STOR

To: Senator Bert Sharp at LAA_SSHA

To: Senator Randy Phillips at LAA_TRANS

To: Senator Drue Pearce at LAA_SPEA

To: Senator Dave Donley at LAA_SDON

To: Senator_AI_Adams@legis.state.ak.us at CC2MHS1

Honorable Senators,

Please vote to support the constitutional amendment to define marriage and the union of "one man and one woman." Homosexuality is wrong and we need to do all we can to discourage and end it. The people involved in homosexuality need to be loved, but the act is to be hated and acted against (love the sinner, hate the sin).

Thanks,

Brian Walker <><

cc:Mail for: Senator Bert Sharp

Subject: SJR 42

From: kayare@ccncentric.net (Ken Rosentrater) at CC2MHS1 03/23/98 8:44 PM

To: Senator John Torgerson at LAA_STOR

To: Senator Randy Phillips at LAA_TRANS

To: Senator Sean Parnell at LAA_TRANS

To: Senator Dave Donley at LAA_SDON

To: Senator Bert Sharp at LAA_SSHA

To: Senator_Drew_Pearce@legis.state.ak.us at CC2MHS1

To: Senator_Al_Adams@legis.state.ak.us at CC2MHS1

Senator:

This is to register with you my support of SJR 42. Please give it your serious consideration in the hearing taking place March 24.

Please remember that "family" and "marriage" are not self-defined by men and women according to their various choices, whims, and ideologies. Rather, they are defined by the One who created the institution in the first place. You cannot go to a higher or more authoritative source for the definition of anything than to the one who made/created it.

It is in the best interest of all to affirm as a society God's intention for marriage. It helps no one to attempt to creatively bypass His purposes, because in reality we cannot do that anyway. Ideas have consequences.

Please vote for the amendment.

Thank you,

Ken Rosentrater

cc:Mail for: Senator Bert Sharp

Subject: SJR 42

From: mvoigt@polarnet.com (Mitch Voigt) at CC2MHS1 03/23/98 9:35 PM

To: Senator Bert Sharp at LAA_SSHA

To: Senator Dave Donley at LAA_SDON

To: Senator Drue Pearce at LAA_SPEA

To: Senator John Torgerson at LAA_STOR

To: Senator Randy Phillips at LAA_TRANS

To: Senator Sean Parnell at LAA_TRANS

To: Senator_AI_Adams@legis.state.ak.us at CC2MHS1

Dear Senator,

I am writing to voice my support for SJR 42. The future of our families, our state, and our country are at stake. What was wrong 100 years ago, is still wrong today. Please vote YES on this issue.

Sincerely,

Chuck Voigt
2110 Goldstream Rd.
Fairbanks, AK 99709

cc:Mail for: Senator Bert Sharp

Subject: SJR 42

From: mvoigt@polarnet.com (Mitch Voigt) at CC2MHS1 03/23/98 9:30 PM

To: Senator Bert Sharp at LAA_SSHA

To: Senator Dave Donley at LAA_SDON

To: Senator Drue Pearce at LAA_SPEA

To: Senator John Torgerson at LAA_STOR

To: Senator Randy Phillips at LAA_TRANS

To: Senator Sean Parnell at LAA_TRANS

To: Senator_AI_Adams@legis.state.ak.us at CC2MHS1

Dear Senator,

I am writing to voice my support for SJR 42. The future of our families, our state, and our country are at stake. What was wrong 100 years ago, is still wrong today. Please vote YES on this issue.

Sincerely,

Pam Voigt
2110 Goldstream Rd.
Fairbanks, AK 99709

cc:Mail for: Senator Bert Sharp

Subject: SJR 42

From: mvoigt@polarnet.com (Mitch Voigt) at CC2MHS1 03/23/98 9:32 PM

To: Senator Bert Sharp at LAA_SSHA

To: Senator Dave Donley at LAA_SDON

To: Senator Drue Pearce at LAA_SPEA

To: Senator John Torgerson at LAA_STOR

To: Senator Randy Phillips at LAA_TRANS

To: Senator Sean Parnell at LAA_TRANS

To: Senator_AI_Adams@legis.state.ak.us at CC2MHS1

Dear Senator,

I am writing to voice my support for SJR 42. The future of our families, our state, and our country are at stake. What was wrong 100 years ago, is still wrong today. Please vote YES on this issue.

Sincerely,

Mitch Voigt
2110 Goldstream Rd.
Fairbanks, AK 99709

cc:Mail for: Senator Bert Sharp

Subject: SJR 42

From: mvoigt@polarnet.com (Mitch Voigt) at CC2MHS1 03/23/98 9:35 PM

To: Senator Bert Sharp at LAA_SSHA

To: Senator Dave Donley at LAA_SDON

To: Senator Drue Pearce at LAA_SPEA

To: Senator John Torgerson at LAA_STOR

To: Senator Randy Phillips at LAA_TRANS

To: Senator Sean Parnell at LAA_TRANS

To: Senator_AI_Adams@legis.state.ak.us at CC2MHS1

Dear Senator,

I am writing to voice my support for SJR 42. The future of our families, our state, and our country are at stake. What was wrong 100 years ago, is still wrong today. Please vote YES on this issue.

Sincerely,

Matt Voigt
2110 Goldstream Rd.
Fairbanks, AK 99709

cc:Mail for: Senator Bert Sharp

Subject: SJR 42

From: mvoigt@polarnet.com (Mitch Voigt) at CC2MHS1 03/23/98 9:34 PM

To: Senator Bert Sharp at LAA_SSHA

To: Senator Dave Donley at LAA_SDON

To: Senator Drue Pearce at LAA_SPEA

To: Senator John Torgerson at LAA_STOR

To: Senator Randy Phillips at LAA_TRANS

To: Senator Sean Parnell at LAA_TRANS

To: Senator_AI_Adams@legis.state.ak.us at CC2MHS1

Dear Senator,

I am writing to voice my support for SJR 42. The future of our families, our state, and our country are at stake. What was wrong 100 years ago, is still wrong today. Please vote YES on this issue.

Sincerely,

Julie Voigt
575 Halvorsen Rd.
Fairbanks, AK 99709

cc:Mail for: Senator Bert Sharp

Subject: SJR 42

From: mvoigt@polarnet.com (Mitch Voigt) at CC2MHS1 03/23/98 9:37 PM

To: Senator Bert Sharp at LAA_SSHA

To: Senator Dave Donley at LAA_SDON

To: Senator Druce Pearce at LAA_SPEA

To: Senator John Torgerson at LAA_STOR

To: Senator Randy Phillips at LAA_TRANS

To: Senator Sean Parnell at LAA_TRANS

To: Senator_AI_Adams@legis.state.ak.us at CC2MHS1

Dear Senator,

I am writing to voice my support for SJR 42. The future of our families, our state, and our country are at stake. What was wrong 100 years ago, is still wrong today. Please vote YES on this issue.

Sincerely,

Rudy Voigt
537 10th Ave.
Fairbanks, AK 99701

cc:Mail for: Senator Bert Sharp

Subject: SJR 42

From: mvoigt@polarnet.com (Mitch Voigt) at CC2MHS1 03/23/98 9:38 PM

To: Senator Bert Sharp at LAA_SSHA

To: Senator Dave Donley at LAA_SDON

To: Senator Drue Pearce at LAA_SPEA

To: Senator John Torgerson at LAA_STOR

To: Senator Randy Phillips at LAA_TRANS

To: Senator Sean Parnell at LAA_TRANS

To: Senator_AI_Adams@legis.state.ak.us at CC2MHS1

Dear Senator,

I am writing to voice my support for SJR 42. The future of our families, our state, and our country are at stake. What was wrong 100 years ago, is still wrong today. Please vote YES on this issue.

Sincerely,

Della Voigt
537 10th Ave.
Fairbanks, AK 99701

cc:Mail for: Senator Bert Sharp

Subject: SJR 42

From: nivoigt@polarnet.com (Mitch Voigt) at CC2MHS1 03/23/98 9:39 PM

To: Senator Bert Sharp at LAA_SSHA

To: Senator Dave Donley at LAA_SDON

To: Senator Drue Pearce at LAA_SPEA

To: Senator John Torgerson at LAA_STOR

To: Senator Randy Phillips at LAA_TRANS

To: Senator Sean Parnell at LAA_TRANS

To: Senator_AI_Adams@legis.state.ak.us at CC2MHS1

Dear Senator,

I am writing to voice my support for SJR 42. The future of our families, our state, and our country are at stake. What was wrong 100 years ago, is still wrong today. Please vote YES on this issue.

Sincerely,

Bud Hilton
575 Halvorsen Rd.
Fairbanks, AK 99709

cc:Mail for: Senator Bert Sharp

Subject: SJR 42

From: mvoigt@prlarnet.com (Mitch Voigt) at CC2MHS1 03/23/98 9:40 PM

To: Senator Bert Sharp at LAA_SSHA

To: Senator Dave Donley at LAA_SDON

To: Senator Drue Pearce at LAA_SPEA

To: Senator John Torgerson at LAA_STOR

To: Senator Randy Phillips at LAA_TRANS

To: Senator Sean Parnell at LAA_TRANS

To: Senator_AI_Adams@legis.state.ak.us at CC2MHS1

Dear Senator,

I am writing to voice my support for SJR 42. The future of our families, our state, and our country are at stake. What was wrong 100 years ago, is still wrong today. Please vote YES on this issue.

Sincerely,

Iona Hilton
575 Halvorsen Rd..
Fairbanks, AK 99709

cc:Mail for: Senator Bert Sharp

Subject: SJR 42

From: mvoigt@polarnet.com (Mitch Voigt) at CC2MHS1 03/23/98 9:41 PM

To: Senator Bert Sharp at LAA_SSHA

To: Senator Dave Donley at LAA_SDON

To: Senator Drue Pearce at LAA_SPEA

To: Senator John Torgerson at LAA_STOR

To: Senator Randy Phillips at LAA_TRANS

To: Senator Sean Parnell at LAA_TRANS

To: Senator_AI_Adams@legis.state.ak.us at CC2MHS1

Dear Senator,

I am writing to voice my support for SJR 42. The future of our families, our state, and our country are at stake. What was wrong 100 years ago, is still wrong today. Please vote YES on this issue.

Sincerely,

Travis Englund
2550 Cushman St.
Fairbanks, AK 99701

cc:Mail for: Senator Bert Sharp

Subject: SJR 42

From: mvoigt@polarnet.com (Mitch Voigt) at CC2MHS1 03/23/98 9:43 PM

To: Senator Bert Sharp at LAA_SSHA

To: Senator Dave Donley at LAA_SDON

To: Senator Drue Pearce at LAA_SPEA

To: Senator John Torgerson at LAA_STOR

To: Senator Randy Phillips at LAA_TRANS

To: Senator Sean Parnell at LAA_TRANS

To: Senator_AI_Adams@legis.state.ak.us at CC2MHS1

Dear Senator,

I am writing to voice my support for SJR 42. The future of our families, our state, and our country are at stake. What was wrong 100 years ago, is still wrong today. Please vote YES on this issue.

Sincerely,

Dalena Englund
2550 Cushman St.
Fairbanks, AK 99701

cc:Mail for: Senator Bert Sharp

Subject: SJR 42

From: AKSAMSPADE@aol.com at CC2MHS1 03/24/98 3:29 AM

To: Senator Drue Pearce at LAA_SPEA

cc: Senator Bert Sharp at LAA_SSHA

cc: Senator Dave Donley at LAA_SDON

cc: Senator Sean Parnell at LAA_TRANS

cc: Senator Randy Phillips at LAA_TRANS

cc: Senator John Torgerson at LAA_STOR

cc: Senator_AI_Adams@legis.state.ak.us at CC2MHS1

We support SJR 42, and urge you to support it also.

Thank you,
Ella J. and E. Louie Rogers
P. O. Box 210486
Auke Bay, Ak. 99821

Letter of Opposition

cc:Mail for: Senator Bert Sharp

Subject: SJR 42

From: cindyl@corecom.net (Cindy Lelake) at CC2MHS1 03/30/98 5:00 AM

To: Senator Bert Sharp at LAA_SSHA

Dear Senator Sharp:

Please work to keep SJR 42 from becoming a constitutional ammendment. It needs to be settled in the courts where it belongs.

Cindy Lelake

cc:Mail for: Senator Bert Sharp

Subject: SJR 42

From: pipimlr@alaska.net (irene miller) at CC2MHS1 03/31/98 9:21 AM

To: Senator Bert Sharp at LAA_SSHA

Senator,

This is just a note to let you know that there are people in smaller communities that oppose Sjr 42. The Constitution is a sacred trust.

Please leave it alone. Patrice Huettl
P.O. Box 1055
Petersburg, AK
(907)772-9313

Michael J. Jones
P.O. Box 6185
Sitka, Alaska 99835

The Honorable Bert Sharp
The Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801

March 14, 1998

Dear Mr. Sharp:

This letter serves to express my opposition to SJR-42 -- a proposed amendment to the Alaska constitution regulating marriage, and I urge you to pay attention to the words and opinions of the majority of Alaskans who also have spoken out in opposition to the measure.

The concept of marriage does connote spiritual, social, and economic union -- a union and a bond that can develop and mature between any two people without regard to gender. The related resolution approved by the full senate earlier this week (SCR 25) goes on to say that because marriage is an independently quantifiable good, it must be preserved without regard to religious belief.

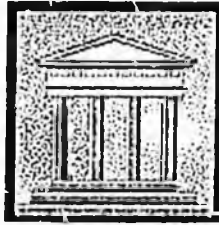
Marriage should be preserved, protected, and respected. However, with the exception of arguments based on religious foundations, there is no reason why the right to marry should become a right made exclusive in constitution of the State of Alaska.

A strong majority of Alaskans understands and agrees that SJR-42 serves only to exclude and hurt a valid and valued segment of the state's population. This majority of the population understands and agrees that this proposed amendment to the Alaska constitution serves to regulate and invade the freedoms of choice and the rights to privacy of ALL Alaskans.

Remember that lawmakers are servants of the public. Listen to the voices that put you in office and vote against SJR-42.

Sincerely,
Michael Jones

Fairbanks Legislative Information Office



To: Sen Sharp / Co-Ch Sen Finance Fax: 465-2187 Phone: _____

Notes: please copy & distribute to all senate finance
committee members

Number of pages: _____ (including cover sheet)

Sent by: Christi

119 N. Cushman Street - Suite 101
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701
(907) 452-4448 - Phone
(907) 456-3346 - Fax

Lisa Peñalver
1166 Skyline Drive
Fairbanks, AK 99712,
(907) 457-1458

e-mail, pen-art@mosquitos.net

3/24/98

Attn. all Alaska Senators

State Capitol,

Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182.

Dear Senators,

I urge you to oppose SJR 42, which would amend the state constitution to narrowly define the marriage contract as only valid if between a man and a woman and which would invalidate commitments between people of the same gender.

As Alaskans, we believe strongly that the government should not be meddling in the very private and intimate realm of a person's choice of life partner. Surely the Legislature has better things to do than to try to tell us who we can love and live with?! If you infringe the privacy rights of this group, you will undermine everyone's rights!

I understand that some of you have trouble with the very concept of homosexuality - and to those of you who do - please realize that you are overlooking the fact that a marriage is far MORE than mere sex!! A marriage is about commitment, about LOVE - about openly accepting responsibility for another person - in front of family, friends, the community, God and everyone. Surely, many of you are more comfortable among people of your same gender; and you can probably think of people of the same gender (including relatives) of whom you could say you feel fondness (perhaps love?). It may be cliché, but love knows no bounds... I fail to see how it is in the interests of the State to interfere with the acceptance of such personal responsibility. This resolution is a blatant attempt to discriminate against the committed gay couples in our communities.


In response to the argument that acceptance of same-gender couples is "undermining the integrity of the family" - you should really be looking at the refusal of heterosexual men to accept that very responsibility you are trying to impede with this bill. The breakdown of the family has far more to do with older men having sex with much younger girls, then abandoning their offspring - WITH NO NEGATIVE REPERCUSSIONS from society (heck, THAT's not illegal, is it!). Stop trying to shift the blame away from the truly culpable, and please stop trying to scapegoat those who are different from yourselves.

I worry that if such a resolution were to pass, we would soon be seeing bans on cross-religious marriages, and on interracial marriages - it will never end! If we allow discrimination against one group, we grant permission to restrict the freedoms of any other group who may fall out of political favor! We find this resolution highly offensive.

Please oppose this SJR #42! Alaska does NOT need a Gay Discrimination Amendment!

*Please respond!
- what purpose/benefit
does this bill provide??*

Sincerely,



Lisa Peñalver

CC: All Alaska Legislators

cc:Mail for: Senator Bert Sharp

Subject: Against SJR 42
From: kailing@mosquitonet.com at CC2MHS1 03/30/98 7:36 AM
To: Senator Bert Sharp at LAA_SSHA
cc: Senator Drue Pearce at LAA_SPEA
cc: Senator Sean Parnell at LAA_TRANS
cc: Senator Randy Phillips at LAA_TRANS
cc: Senator John Torgerson at LAA_STOR
cc: Senator Dave Donley at LAA_SDON
cc: Senator_AI_Adams@legis.state.ak.us at CC2MHS1

Dear Finance Committee Senators,

Thank you for allowing us to be heard at the subcommittee hearing.

This is an important issue for me and my family. Our wonderful daughter came out to us when she was 21. It was then that my husband and I began our education on society's fear, hatred, and discrimination against gays. Our daughter has to expend an enormous amount of energy hiding a part of who she is so that she can be safe, healthy and prosperous in this society. She is now 31 and we have been active in PFLAG since 1991. We have received death threats and nasty phone calls just because we support our daughter and other gays who should have the same rights, privileges and protection as any other citizen. Just because our daughter loves another woman and plans to remain with her for the rest of her life. She should be able to publicly acknowledge this love and this relationship through marriage just as straight people.

Putting this constitutional amendment before the public will generate more hate and hurt feelings. I have seen the rhetoric put out by the Christian Coalition to support SJR 42 and it is very hurtful and insulting. I too am a Christian and resent this type of talk. Could we serve the same loving Heavenly Father? I know many who support this amendment are good people. If these supporters had a loved gay family member who they know to be a good, capable, giving person, I'm sure they would see this bill and the implications differently.

Sincerely,
Nancy Kailing
PO Box 84680
Fairbanks, AK 99708-4680

cc:Mail for: Senator Bert Sharp

Subject: Re: Bill SJR-42
From: assg@UAA.ALASKA.EDU at CC2MHS1 03/30/98 1:17 PM
To: Senator Sean Parnell at LAA_TRANS
To: Senator Randy Phillips at LAA_TRANS
To: Senator John Torgerson at LAA_STOR
To: Senator Drue Pearce at LAA_SPEA
To: Senator Bert Sharp at LAA_SSHA
To: Senator_Dave_Donely@legis.state.ak.us at CC2MHS1
To: Senator_AL_Adams@legis.state.ak.us at CC2MHS1

Dear Senators:

It has come to my attention that you are in support of SJR-42. I am opposed to amending the constitution regarding marriage. We supposedly live in a free country, whose right is it to dictate who can love on another? This standpoint certainly does not support "Family Values," it only promotes hate. I urge you to put your personal views aside and try to think of what is best for all people, we can certainly not remain living in a vacuum if we are to progress as a people, or as a whole.

Sincerely,

Susan Gardner Dillon
Alaskan Resident & Voter

cc:Mail for: Senator Bert Sharp

Subject: SJR-42

From: ftsmg@aurora.alaska.edu (M & S Galereave) at CC2MHS1 03/30/98 5:10 PM

To: Senator Bert Sharp at LAA_SSHA

To: Senator Drue Pearce at LAA_SPEA

To: Senator Dave Donley at LAA_SDON

To: Senator Sean Parnell at LAA_TRANS

To: Senator Randy Phillips at LAA_TRANS

To: Senator John Torgerson at LAA_STOR

To: Senator_AI_Adams@legis.state.ak.us at CC2MHS1

Please reject SJR-42. It is a devisive bill that is based on fear. I feel sorry for the couple whose marriage will be threatened if my partner and I are afforded the same right. Because the issue of gay marriage is a civil rights issue, let it be decided by the courts.



Committee for Equality PO Box 34202 Juneau AK 99803

Date: March 28, 1998

To: All Legislators

From: Committee for Equality
A statewide organization advocating for equal rights and responsibilities
for lesbian, gay and bisexual Alaskans.

Re: SJR-42 Opposition: **The Real Costs of SJR-42**

The real costs of SJR-42 are not the \$3000 fiscal note on the bill.

As legislators up for re-election, you need to know that tens if not hundreds of thousands of dollars will be spent on both sides of a marriage-restriction ballot issue.

SJR-42 directly takes tens upon hundreds of thousands of dollars out of your very own campaign coffers.

Don't drain your own campaigns of supporters' energy and big money donations.

Instead, vote no on SJR-42 even if you support the marriage restriction. Vote no saying this bill doesn't have to be resolved until after the Supreme Court makes its final decision. And remind Alaskans you've voted "yes" to SCR-25 which asks the court to decide the issue promptly.

Save yourselves money. Save citizens the pain of a divisive unnecessary ballot proposal. Save the Constitution from premature attacks.

Think of the real costs of SJR-42, and vote "no."

cc:Mail for: Senator Bert Sharp

Subject: SJR-42

From: ftsmg@aurora.alaska.edu (M & S Galereave) at CC2MHS1 03/22/98 4:05 PM

To: Senator Drue Pearce at LAA_SPEA

To: Senator Bert Sharp at LAA_SSHA

To: Senator Dave Donley at LAA_SDON

To: Senator Sean Parnell at LAA_TRANS

To: Senator Randy Phillips at LAA_TRANS

To: Senator John Torgerson at LAA_STOR

To: Senator_AI_Adams@legis.state.ak.us at CC2MHS1

DM

Civil Rights are often given to minorities over the protests of the majority. SJR-25 already gave this issue back to the courts. There is no need for SJR-42. Why punch holes in our Constitution? Why is it so threatening to give Civil Rights to Gay People?

cc:Mail for: Senator Bert Sharp

Subject: SJR 42

From: cindyl@corecom.net (Cindy Lelake) at CC2MHS1 03/22/98 8:10 AM

To: Senator Bert Sharp at LAA_SSHA

Dear Senator Sharp:

Please work to keep SJR 42 from passing through the Finance Committee. It is inappropriate as a constitutional amendment, and violates the right of all Alaskans to choose their life partners.

Sincerely,

Cindy Lelake

Cindy Lelake

cc:Mail for: Senator Bert Sharp

Subject: SJR 42

From: mrsmc@pacinfo.com (Steve Click) at CC2MHS1 03/27/98 11:17 AM

To: Senator Bert Sharp at LAA_SSHA

To: Senator Drue Pearce at LAA_SPEA

To: Senator Dave Donley at LAA_SDON

To: Senator Sean Parnell at LAA_TRANS

To: Senator Randy Phillips at LAA_TRANS

To: Senator John Torgerson at LAA_STOR

To: Senator_Al_Adams@legis.state.ak.us at CC2MHS1

Senators:

Please do not pass SJR 42 out of committee. This measure is discriminatory in its nature that it is not allowing choice for life-long relationships within the laws of Alaska between two consenting adults. This is an invasive measure into the personal lives of many, many Alaskan citizens. It affects not only the homosexual couples involved, but also their families and friends.

Please let the courts take care of this situation.

Steven M. Click
PO Box 83636
Fairbanks, AK 99708

Box 778
Tok, AK 99780
April 1, 1997

Senate Finance Committee
Room 532, Capitol
Senate Finance Room, 5th Floor, Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

To Whom It May Concern: ,

I would like to speak out in favor of SJR 42 that would enable the voters to determine the definition of marriage in the State of Alaska. Marriage as defined in the Webster Dictionary is the mutual relation of husband and wife, the institution whereby men and women are joined in a special kind of social and legal dependence for the purpose of founding and maintaining a family. I personally believe it was never the intent of marriage to link same sex cohabitation as an act of marriage. This union is unable to propagate and therefore does not meet the definition of marriage. Vermont's State Constitution definition of marriage was recently called into question. Vermont was able to prevent same sex marriage from being officially recognized in their state.

Sincerely,

Judith A. Harmon

Judith A. Harmon