

SB 72

(file

1)

<TARGET><BILL>SB 72</BILL><SUBJECT>SB 72 (file
1)</SUBJECT><COMM>SHSS30</COMM></TARGET>

WHILE IN SESSION
State Capitol
Room 9
Juneau, AK 99801
(907) 465-4930



ALASKA SENATE DEMOCRATS

WHILE IN ANCHORAGE
1500 W. Benson Blvd.
Room 229
Anchorage, AK 99503
(907) 269-0174

SENATOR BERTA GARDNER

SENATE DEMOCRATIC LEADER
Senate District 1

Sponsor Statement

SB 72 - *"An Act adding to the powers and duties of the State Commission for Human Rights; and relating to and prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity or expression."*

Senate Bill 72 expands current anti-discrimination statutes to include protections against discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. Similar provisions already prohibit discrimination based upon race, religion, color, national origin, physical or mental disability, age, sex, marital status, changes in marital status, pregnancy or parenthood.

Senate Bill 72 would protect citizens from discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations, financing, or credit based upon sexual orientation and gender identity.

The State of Alaska has already taken steps to prevent discrimination with a 2002 administrative order that provides protection against sexual orientation discrimination for employees of the state. In 2010, the University of Alaska amended its antidiscrimination policy to include protections against discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

According to the Human Rights Campaign, the overwhelming majority of America's most successful businesses have already adopted antidiscrimination policies that include protections against discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. Twenty-one states and the District of Columbia have enacted legislation similar to Senate Bill 72. Despite the progress that has been made nationwide, 73% of LGBT respondents to a survey in Anchorage reported hiding their sexual orientation in order to avoid job discrimination after experiencing abuse or harassment in the workplace.

Historically, Alaska has been at the forefront of civil rights legislation. The Territorial legislature awarded women the right to vote in 1913, well before it was passed at the national level. In 1945, the Alaska legislature passed landmark anti-discriminatory legislation protecting Alaska Natives. Senate Bill 72 stands as an opportunity for Alaska to continue its strong tradition of recognition of human rights.

I respectfully ask for your support of Senate Bill 72. For more information, please contact Senator Gardner's staff, Nathaniel Grabman, at 465-4068 or Nathaniel.Grabman@akleg.gov.

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



WORLD TRADE

RULES COMMITTEE

COMMUNITY & REGIONAL AFFAIRS

LABOR & COMMERCE

WHILE IN SESSION
STATE CAPITOL
JUNEAU, AK 99801
(907) 465-4930

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WHILE IN ANCHORAGE
1500 W BENSON BLVD ROOM 220
ANCHORAGE, AK 99503
(907) 269-0174

SENATOR BERTA GARDNER
SENATE DEMOCRATIC LEADER
SENATE DISTRICT I

Sectional Analysis

SB 72 - "An Act adding to the powers and duties of the State Commission for Human Rights; and relating to and prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity or expression."

Section 1: Amends AS 18.80.060 the powers and duties of the Human Rights Commission. The section adds "sexual orientation, gender identity or expression" to the list of categories that include race, religion, color, national ancestry, physical or mental disability, age, sex, marital status, changes in marital status, pregnancy, or parenthood.

Section 2: Amends AS 18.80.200 to add "sexual orientation, gender identity or expression" to the list of discriminations which are cause for public concern and the need to prevent discrimination in employment, credit and financing practices, public accommodations and sale, lease or rental of real property.

Section 3: Amends AS 18.80.210 to add "sexual orientation, gender identity or expression" to the categories of protected civil rights.

Section 4: Amends AS 18.80.220 to add "sexual orientation, gender identity or expression" to the prohibitions against unlawful employment practices.

Section 5: Amends AS 18.80.230 to add "sexual orientation, gender identity or expression" to the prohibitions against unlawful practices in public accommodations.

Section 6: Amends AS 18.80.240 to add "sexual orientation, gender identity or expression" to the prohibitions against unlawful practices in the sale or rental of real property.

Section 7: Amends AS 18.80.250 to add "sexual orientation, gender identity, or expression" to the prohibitions against unlawful practices in extending credit.

Section 8: Amends AS 18.80.255 to add "sexual orientation, gender identity, or expression" to the prohibitions against unlawful practices by the state or its political subdivisions.

Section 9: Amends AS 18.80.300 to add “sexual orientation, gender identity, or expression” to the prohibitions against unlawful practices in blockbusting, or practices by a real estate agents to close a transaction.

Section 10: Amends AS 18.80.300 to add definitions of “gender identity or expression,” and “sexual orientation” to Alaska statute.

Fiscal Note

State of Alaska
2017 Legislative Session

Bill Version: SB 72
Fiscal Note Number: _____
() Publish Date: _____

Identifier: SB072-OOG-HRC-03-24-17
Title: DISCRIMINATION: GENDER ID.;SEXUAL
ORIENT.
Sponsor: GARDNER
Requester: Senate Health and Social Services

Department: Office of the Governor
Appropriation: Commissions/Special Offices
Allocation: Human Rights Commission
OMB Component Number: 1

Expenditures/Revenues

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below. (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY2018 Appropriation Requested	Included in Governor's FY2018 Request	Out-Year Cost Estimates					
			FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
OPERATING EXPENDITURES								
Personal Services								
Travel								
Services								
Commodities								
Capital Outlay								
Grants & Benefits								
Miscellaneous								
Total Operating	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Fund Source (Operating Only)

None								
Total	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Positions

Full-time								
Part-time								
Temporary								

Change in Revenues

None								
Total	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimated SUPPLEMENTAL (FY2017) cost: 0.0 (separate supplemental appropriation required)
(discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

Estimated CAPITAL (FY2018) cost: 0.0 (separate capital appropriation required)
(discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

ASSOCIATED REGULATIONS

Does the bill direct, or will the bill result in, regulation changes adopted by your agency? No
If yes, by what date are the regulations to be adopted, amended or repealed? N/A

Why this fiscal note differs from previous version:

Not applicable; initial version.

Prepared By: <u>Marti Buscaglia</u>	Phone: <u>(907)792-7241</u>
Division: <u>Alaska State Commission for Human Rights</u>	Date: <u>03/24/2017 10:48 AM</u>
Approved By: <u>Guy Bell, Director of Administrative Services</u>	Date: <u>03/24/17</u>
Agency: <u>Office of the Governor</u>	

FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS

**STATE OF ALASKA
2017 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

BILL NO. SB 72

Analysis

The Human Rights Commission restructured in FY17 and will implement a new case management system this fiscal year. With these changes the Commission believes it could manage any increased caseload resulting from this legislation with no fiscal impact to the Commission.

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(907) 465-4930



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SENATOR BERTA GARDNER

SENATE DEMOCRATIC LEADER
Senate District 1

SB 72 Invited Testimony

- Irene Holley, Bettles, AK
- Elias Rojas, Board President: Alaskans Together for Equality
- Marti Buscaglia, Executive Director: Alaska State Commission for Human Rights

LEGAL SERVICES

DIVISION OF LEGAL AND RESEARCH SERVICES
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AGENCY
STATE OF ALASKA

(907) 465-3867 or 465-2450
FAX (907) 465-2029
Mail Stop 3101

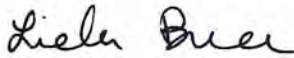
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182
Deliveries to: 129 6th St., Rm. 329

MEMORANDUM

March 28, 2017

SUBJECT: State Commission for Human Rights: Definition of term "sex"
(Work Order No. 30-LS0779)

TO: Senator Berta Gardner
Attn: Megan Holland

FROM: Linda M. Bruce 
Legislative Counsel

You requested an opinion on whether the term "sex" under AS 18.80 includes sexual orientation or gender identity. The short answer is that this issue is currently unresolved.¹

The human rights laws under AS 18.80.200 - 18.80.255 prohibit discrimination based on "sex" in certain places or for certain activities, but do not explicitly include sexual orientation and gender identity. There is no existing definition, in Alaska Statutes, for the term "sex." I was not able to find any Alaska Supreme Court decisions resolving claims of discrimination under AS 18.80.200 - 18.80.255 based specifically on sexual orientation or gender identity. However, in *Rodriguez v. Alaska State Commission for Human Rights*, the Supreme Court noted, in resolving a claim of racial discrimination, that AS 18.80.220(a) "does not include discrimination based on a complainant's sexual orientation."²

The State Human Rights Commission (commission) administers AS 18.80.200 - 18.80.255. According to its website, the commission frequently processes complaints alleging sex discrimination prohibited by AS 18.80.200 - 18.80.255. On November 2, 2016, the commission passed a resolution that would interpret sex discrimination to include gender identity and sexual orientation, which is the interpretation used by the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission under Title VII of the 1964 Civil

¹ Note that HB 139 and HB 19, introduced in the 28th Legislature and the 29th Legislature respectively, sought to resolve this issue by explicitly adding discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity, and expression to AS 18.80.200 - 18.80.255.

² 354 P.3d 380, 386 (Alaska 2015) (note that the court did not specifically analyze whether the term "sex" implicitly includes sexual orientation and gender identity).

Senator Berta Gardner
March 28, 2017
Page 2

Rights Act.³ The resolution also calls on the Alaska State Legislature to "prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity and expression."⁴ I do not know if the commission has actually received or investigated complaints of discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity since the resolution passed.

It is unclear whether an Alaskan court would uphold the commission's interpretation of "sex" to include gender identity and sexual orientation. To resolve any doubt about whether the protections of AS 18.80 apply to a person's sexual orientation or gender identity, *these classes should be explicitly included under AS 18.80.200 - 18.80.255.*

If I may be of further assistance, please advise.

LBB:mlp
17-158.mlp

³ I have been unable to locate a copy of the resolution passed by the commission. See Anne Hillman, *Alaska Human Rights Commission proposes regulation changes to protect LGBTQ community*, ALASKA PUBLIC MEDIA (Nov. 7, 2016), <http://www.alaskapublic.org/2016/11/07/alaska-human-rights-commission-proposes-regulation-changes-to-protect-lgbtq-community/>

⁴ *Id.*



10111 East Eagle River Loop Rd.
Eagle River, AK 99577
(907) 694-9601

Senator Berta Gardner
State Capitol Bldg., Room 9
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Senator Gardner:

Please allow me to add my full-throated support for SB 72. As a faith leader in my community, I have witnessed the heartbreak of injustice as good, law-abiding, tax paying Alaskans have been fired from their jobs after their bosses discovered the employee's sexual orientation. I have heard from my LGBTQ friends the horror stories they have experienced in the inability to secure housing due to discrimination regarding their orientation or gender identification.

Such injustice is wrong, and does not reflect the best of who we are as people or Alaskans. As a faith leader, I seek to represent the tradition of a God who seeks to embrace the "least among us," that is those who are on the fringes of any society, and those who are vulnerable to violence, persecution, and the denial of basic civil rights.

I firmly believe that SB 72 is a civil rights amendment, one that embraces a far too long neglected population on our community. Thank you for your leadership on this essential issue.

Sincerely,

The Rev. Dr. Martin W. Eldred, pastor.



505 West Northern Lights Boulevard, Suite 205
Anchorage, Alaska 99503
www.akaction.org

Re: Support HB 184/SB 72

To the members of the Senate Health and Social Services Committee,

Alaska Community Action on Toxics strongly supports House Bill 184/ Senate Bill 72, which updates Alaska's non-discriminatory statute to protect the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people.

Our state already prohibits discrimination based on race, religion, color, national origin, age, sex, disability, and marital status in the areas of employment, housing, public accommodation, and financing practices. However these protections do not extend to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people.

All Alaskans have the right to live without fear and discrimination. Our organization has a non-discrimination policy which is embodied in our core value of creating an environment of health and well being. We strongly believe that achieving our mission of environmental justice in Alaska is dependent on an unflinching ability to work with diversity, especially with those from other ethnic groups, different sexual preferences, physical abilities, sizes, ages, etc. This non-discriminatory policy is unfortunately not required of all employers in the state. It is time for that to change.

Because of discrimination, and fear of discrimination, many LGBTQ employees are forced to hide their identities, are paid less and have fewer employment opportunities than their non-LGBT counterparts. Furthermore, LGBTQ people often face housing discrimination. These forms of violence deny Alaskans their most basic necessities, impacts peoples' ability to make a living, and put LGBTQ people at increased risk for poor physical and mental health.

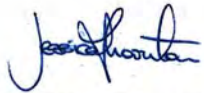
Every Alaskan, no matter how they identify or what their sexual preference may be, should have access to secure and stable housing, to employment opportunities that contribute to the economic health of our state, and to healthy environments that offer people the opportunity to live without fear of discrimination and harassment. We

strongly urge the Senate Health and Social Services Committee to pass this bill. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Pamela K. Miller in blue ink.

Pamela Miller
Executive Director

Handwritten signature of Jessica Thornton in blue ink.

Jessica Thornton
Civic Engagement Coordinator



Dear Senator Gardner,

Thank you for sponsoring SB72, which seeks to prohibit discrimination in housing, employment, and public accommodations on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity/expression. Your commitment to this important issue is appreciated. **I would like to take this opportunity to express Pride Foundation's support for SB72.**

Pride Foundation is a regional community foundation that inspires giving to expand opportunities and advance full equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) youth, adults, and families across the Northwest. As a member of the LGBTQ community myself, I can attest to the difficulties of growing up gay in Alaska. Alaska is an expansive state—much of which is lacking resources and support for LGBTQ people—and as a result, many in our community face isolation and fear for their safety.

It is Pride Foundation's hope that the legislature will take action to create a more inclusive and welcoming Alaska for the following reasons:

- Equality is good for business. Eighty-eight percent (88%) of Fortune 500 companies prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation and nearly 6 in 10 prohibit discrimination based on gender identity. Changing our laws to reflect our values will help Alaska attract and retain the best and the brightest in the workforce.
- All hardworking people—including those who are gay or transgender—should be treated fairly and equally by the laws of our state. All Alaskans should have the opportunity to earn a living to provide for themselves and their families.
- For youth, losing a job can be a pathway to homelessness, and discrimination in the hiring process can prolong one's experience with homelessness. Nearly 40% of youth experiencing homelessness identify as LGBTQ, in contrast with 8% of youth overall. Discrimination and homelessness affects LGBTQ youth disproportionately.
- Updating the law will ensure that all people in our state are judged on their job performance and qualifications. Nothing more, nothing less. No one should have to live in fear of being legally fired for reasons that have nothing to do with job performance.
- There is broad-based support, including from within the business community, for creating a more inclusive Alaska. Locally in Anchorage, Pride Foundation is partnering with the Anchorage Chamber of Commerce and the Anchorage Economic Development Corporation to recognize local businesses that have policies and practices supporting LGBT inclusion. Watch the video here: <https://vimeo.com/117326439>.

Again and again, people are surprised to learn that discrimination against gay and transgender people is still legal in Alaska. Unfortunately, there are people who will only treat others fairly if the law requires it, and so we need these protections for those times when good judgment breaks down. We can all agree that people deserve to be treated fairly, and that it's not for any of us to judge. We strongly urge you to pass SB72.

Together, we can protect all Alaska families and ensure that we stand on the right side of history.

Sincerely,

Joshua Hemsath, Regional Development Organizer in Alaska
Josh@pridefoundation.org
3201 C St #110
Anchorage, AK 99503



Dear Senator Gardner,

Thank you for sponsoring SB72, which seeks to prohibit discrimination in housing, employment, and public accommodations on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity/expression. Your commitment to this important issue is appreciated. **I would like to take this opportunity to express Identity Inc.'s support for SB72.**

Identity Inc. is a statewide LGBTQ organization that works to advance the lives of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Alaskans. We envision a world where all Alaskans can be their authentic self and still feel safe, supported and welcomed in their community. Alaska is an expansive state—much of which is lacking resources and support for LGBTQ people—and as a result, many in our community face isolation and fear for their safety.

It is Identity Inc.'s hope that this legislature will take action to create a more inclusive and welcoming Alaska for the following reasons:

- Equality is good for business. Eighty-eight percent (88%) of Fortune 500 companies prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation and nearly 6 in 10 prohibit discrimination based on gender identity. Changing our laws to reflect our values will help Alaska attract and retain the best and the brightest in the workforce.
- All hardworking people—including those who are gay or transgender—should be treated fairly and equally by the laws of our state. All Alaskans should have the opportunity to earn a living to provide for themselves and their families.
- Updating the law will ensure that all people in our state are judged on their job performance and qualifications. Nothing more, nothing less. No one should have to live in fear of being legally fired for reasons that have nothing to do with job performance.
- There is broad-based support, including from within the business community, for creating a more inclusive Alaska. Locally in Anchorage, Identity Inc. is partnering with Pride Foundation, the Anchorage Chamber of Commerce and the Anchorage Economic Development Corporation to recognize local businesses that have policies and practices supporting LGBT inclusion. Watch the video here: <https://vimeo.com/117326439>.

Again and again, people are surprised to learn that discrimination against gay and transgender people is still legal in Alaska. Unfortunately, there are people who will only treat others fairly if the law requires it, and so we need these protections for those times when good judgment breaks down. We can all agree that people deserve to be treated fairly, and that it's not for any of us to judge. We strongly urge you to pass SB72.

Together, we can protect all Alaska families and ensure that we stand on the right side of history.

Sincerely,

William Farrell, Executive Director
billy@identityinc.org
336 E 5th Ave
Anchorage, AK 99501

SEAGLA
P.O. Box 21542
Juneau, AK 99802

To Whom It May Concern,

The Board of Directors of the Southeast Alaska LGBTQ Alliance (SEAGLA) wishes to express our strong support for Senator Gardner's bill that adds sexual orientation and gender identity and expression into the anti-discrimination policies of the state.

Last August in Juneau, we passed an ordinance that prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression. We heard dozens of Juneau residents testify in support of the ordinance that protects LGBTQ people in the areas of housing, employment and public accommodations. We are proud to live in another Alaskan city where it is illegal to discriminate against someone because of who they love or what their gender is.

There are many LGBTQ people outside of Anchorage and Juneau who are not currently protected by these important pieces of legislation and need to be. We know that people hide who they are every day out of fear of losing their job, being refused services in their community or hearing that someone won't rent an apartment to someone "like them". It is not only morally reprehensible in 2017 to allow intolerance and hatred to persist, but it is also unconstitutional under the Equal Protections clause.

Please vote in favor of Sen. Gardner's bill to support your neighbors, family members, friends and those too fearful of discrimination to "come out".

Thank you,

Board of Directors
SEAGLA

John Church
Staff to Senator Berta Gardner
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801
March 17, 2017

RE: Testimony in Support of SB 72

SB 72 - "An Act adding to the powers and duties of the State Commission for Human Rights; and relating to and prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity or expression."

My name is Sam Rhodes. I reside at [REDACTED] in Anchorage, Alaska. I have resided with my wife Karen Hamilton for nearly 12 years in Anchorage. We have both involved ourselves in numerous community and political activities.

I write today in support of Senate Bill 72 for many reasons. First, as a community we are stronger and more vibrant when we are more socially inclusive rather than exclusive. SB 72 provides for more inclusion. It modernizes and expands current anti-discrimination statutes to include protections against discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. SB 72 updates protections from discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations, financing or credit based on sexual orientation and gender identity. Inclusive neighborhoods and communities only happen when everyone gets the opportunity to be included in having a job, buying or renting a place to live and affording to have a decent mode of transportation to get to work and home.

Second, as a unionist working as staff and a dues-paying union member for over 25 years, I know of no trade union or public employee union that might preclude membership in its organization based on who a union member loves or how they identify or express themselves sexually. But the current language in the powers and duties of the State Commission for Human Rights makes no provision for unlawful prohibition by a labor organization to exclude or to expel a person from its membership, or to discriminate in any way against one of its members or an employer or an employee based on sexual orientation or gender identity or expression. Unions have historically stood steadfast in commitment to inclusiveness. The language of SB 72 more appropriately reflects that commitment.

Third, employers should most certainly be required to include sexual orientation or gender identity or expression as part of their prohibition against discrimination in employment practices. When we don't give everyone equal opportunities though wrongful acts of hiring and employment discrimination, some of the most talented and brightest get excluded, get bypassed for promotional opportunities or get frustrated and quit. When great workers aren't working, we lose.

It's time to set the record straight with a 21st century rewrite. SB 72 reaffirms true inclusiveness in our communities by recognizing everyone. It extends all rights and privileges in all aspects of collective citizenry and codifies a commitment to respect to every citizen in Alaska.

Sincerely,



Sam Rhodes

[REDACTED]
Anchorage, Alaska 99517



Planned Parenthood Votes Northwest and Hawaii

Senator Gardner
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: Senate Bill 72

March 22th, 2017

Dear Senator Gardner,

On behalf of Planned Parenthood Votes Northwest and Hawaii, I write today to thank you for sponsoring Senate Bill 72, which would add the words "sexual orientation, gender identity or expression" to Alaska's non-discrimination statutes. Our state already prohibits discrimination based on race, religion, color, national origin, age, sex, disability, and marital status in the areas of employment, housing, public accommodation, and financing practices. However, these important protections do not extend to lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) people.

Everyday Alaskans across the state live in fear of being fired or denied housing, public service, or other opportunities because they are gay or transgender. It doesn't have to be this way. Each of us should be free to build loving adult relationships and to create families without discrimination based on our personal, private lives.

As a health care provider and employer, Planned Parenthood knows that this legislation is good for public health and good for business. Because of discrimination, and fear of discrimination, many LGBT employees hide their identities, are paid less, and have fewer employment opportunities than their non-LGBT counterparts. This prejudice puts LGBT people at increased risk for poor physical and mental health. Businesses that support anti-discrimination measures for LGBT people recognize that having a corporate culture that embraces diversity improves worker productivity and helps recruit the best talent. Sexual orientation and gender identity have no relationship to workplace performance, and hardworking Alaskans shouldn't be fired because of who they love or who they are.

Access to stable and secure housing is also essential for successful and healthy families, but LGBT people often experience housing discrimination and are denied the security of one of life's most basic necessities. Like everyone else, they just want to contribute to the economic health of our state, earn a living, and be able to provide for their families.

Equality is everyone's concern and it's time that our state catches up. Thank you for your leadership on this issue. We look forward to supporting your efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Alyson Currey'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Alyson Currey
Regional Field Organizer and Legislative Liaison

Planned Parenthood Votes Northwest and Hawaii
3231 Glacier Hwy, Juneau, AK 99801
907.957.8708 | Alyson.Currey@ppvnh.org

From: [joanie ak](#)
To: [Sen. Berta Gardner](#)
Subject: Fwd: SB 72
Date: Friday, March 31, 2017 10:06:06 PM

y

On Mar 27, 2017, at 9:59 PM, joanie ak <joanieak@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Senator,

I am extremely concerned about SB 72.

As a lesbian living in Anchorage I have experienced horrible discrimination.

My partner and I lived in a 4-plex. I moved in first to start a new job and she moved in a month later when she got a job.

I chose the apartment because the landlord, his wife and young daughter lived directly above us. My thinking was with the landlord there it would be quiet, no drugs, loud parties and drinking.

When I got the apartment I told my landlord that another woman would be moving in later.

Long story short, the neighbors across the hall from us drank, even so it was ok for awhile. They took care of their 7 year old niece. The sister moved in with the neighbors across the hall. On court search we found all sorts of drug offenses, robbery, assault etc.

One day the man was in his apartment with only his niece. He was screaming obscenities, racist and homophobic ugly things. We could hear it all. When his wife got home from work we asked her to let him know that we do not want to hear that language and we were concerned about the their niece being exposed to this.

Next thing we hear is "I'm gonna kill those fucking dykes!!"

We called the police. The police were appropriate but after they left the landlord told us if we ever called the police again that he would raise OUR rent.

The landlord was a church going guy... Didn't drink, smoke or do drugs. He knew all about the felon sister living there. He knew exactly what this guy was screaming and yet he would rather expose his wife and daughter to drugs, drinking, and all of the foul drama that goes with than 2 quiet lesbians that paid their rent on time and never made trouble.

This is just one example. Fortunately for us we were able to move. Many people don't have this option.

I just want to live quietly and be a good neighbor and contribute to my community.

We need this protection.

I just want to be safe and know that me, and all lgbt people, are protected and safe.

Discrimination is a terrible thing.

I would have testified but I have a very important medical appointment.

Sincerely,

Joanie Fogel

From: [Judy Andree](#)
To: [John Church](#)
Subject: SB 72: Letter of Support from the League of Women Voters of Alaska
Date: Tuesday, March 28, 2017 5:31:14 PM
Attachments: [image.png](#)



The League of Women Voters
A Voice For Citizens, A Force For Change

P.O. Box 101345, Anchorage, AK 99501-1345

March 28, 2016

Dear Senator Gardner and Member of the Senate Health and Social Services Committee:

The League of Women Voters of the United States believes in equality in education, housing, and employment for all persons regardless of their race, color, gender, religion, national origin, age, sexual orientation or disability. In addition, the League supports the equalization of legal rights, obligations, and benefits available to same-gender couples with those available to heterosexual couples, including the right to marry under civil law. The League believes that one of government's responsibilities is to protect the rights of all its citizens. Therefore, the League of Women Voters of Alaska strongly supports SB 72, a bill to protect the rights of persons regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, or expression.

The 1992 LWWUS Convention added language to their Equality of Opportunity position, making it clear that this position referred to "all persons, regardless of their race, color, gender, religion, national origin, age, sexual orientation or disability." The League position focused particularly on equal opportunity for education, housing, and employment, three important requirements for inclusion and survival in society. The League was established in the early 1900's during the fight for women's suffrage, but that work has grown to include all citizens and the guarantee of equal opportunity and civil rights for all. A society is weakened when it excludes some of its citizens from full participation in rights and opportunities afforded to only certain citizens.

We urge the members of the Senate Health and Social Services Committee to consider the rights of all your constituents and pass HB 72 out of committee. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Pat Redmond, President LWVAK

Judy Andree, Vice-President

Marianne Mills, Past-President

Gail Knobf, Secretary

Carol Dickason, Treasurer

Hetty Barthel, Director

Diane Mathisen, Director

Lois Pillifant, Director

Phyllis Tugman-Alexander, Director

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

(Emailed by Judy Andree)

5985 Lund Street
Juneau, Alaska 99801
907-780-6767 (home)
907-321-1559 (cell)

From: [Chelsea Lindquist](#)
To: [Sen. Berta Gardner](#)
Subject: SB 72
Date: Tuesday, March 28, 2017 10:17:56 PM

Senator Gardner,

I would like to thank you for proposing SB72 which would add "sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression" to our existing state's anti-discrimination law.

The LGBT+ community is one of our most vulnerable and discriminated against and these protections are much needed. All people are deserving of the same rights under the law, regardless of sexual orientation.

I whole heartedly support this bill.

Thank you,
Chelsea Vukovich
Anchorage 99516


From: [Bhree Roumagoux](#)
To: [Sen. Berta Gardner](#)
Subject: SB 72
Date: Tuesday, March 28, 2017 8:26:49 AM

Dear Sen. Gardner:

Thank you for proposing this legislation. No one should be discriminated against, and LGBTQIA deserve the same protections as other classes of citizens who have historically suffered discrimination just for being.

Who you love, how you look, how you are born should never be a cause for discrimination. Yet, people discriminate against LGBTQIA all the time. Some even use religious freedom as an argument to try to support their actions. Treating people with basic human kindness and dignity should be common in our society. But when it isn't, it is the role of government to ensure our community has legal protections.

Again, thank you so much for sponsoring this legislation. You have my full support and deep gratitude.

- Bhree
Bhree Roumagoux
99502


--

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From: [Jane Groseclose](#)
To: [Sen. Berta Gardner](#)
Subject: In support of SB 72
Date: Tuesday, March 28, 2017 11:20:02 PM


Hello Senator Gardner,

I live in Fairbanks and am not able to attend the public hearing of SB 72, but I wanted to voice my support of adding sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression to the state's anti-discrimination policy. I want you to know how glad I am that you are seeking this change and that I want it to pass. As an ally to LGBTQA+ Alaskans, I agree it's the right thing to do both to protect the rights of everyone and create an inclusionary culture. For me, it's more than protecting my LGBTQA+ friends, but also about shaping the future I want Alaska to have.

My gratitude to you, Megan Holland, and anyone else who is helping you pass this bill.

Jane

Jane Groseclose


Fairbanks, AK 99712

From: [Leighanne Atwood](#)
To: [Sen. Berta Gardner](#)
Subject: SB 72 - Support
Date: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 1:12:07 PM

Hello,

I am writing to lend my support of Senate Bill 72. I expect that you will support it as well.

Thank you,

Leighanne D. Atwood

[REDACTED]

Anchorage, AK 99501

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [Tammie Willis](#)
To: [Sen. Berta Gardner](#)
Subject: My support for SB 72
Date: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 8:47:52 AM

I am writing to express my strong support for Senate Bill 72. As a member of the LGBTQ community that lives on the Kenai Peninsula, it is an incredibly important bill to me.

I lived most of my life in the lower 48 where I faced discrimination, violence, harassment and fear on a daily basis. As an older lesbian who came out at a time when it was not okay to come out, I have far too many experiences to share in a short email.

I've been denied jobs. I've been spit on as I've walked down the street. I've been called names when I tried to make purchases in stores. I've spent evenings in the emergency rooms when friends were beat up. I've watched friends die of AIDS. I've been scared as I've been followed on my way home. I've been mocked by police when I've filed police reports for graffiti and broken windows.

When I came to Alaska there was none of this. My sexual orientation didn't seem to matter to anyone. I was accepted for who I was and given the respect and dignity that often eluded me in the lower 48. My wife was even accepted and respected even though Alaska did not recognize my marriage. We were welcomed at work and in our community.

When marriage equality became law, so many people here on the Peninsula celebrated with us and not a single one of them was gay. They were not gay and many barely knew me or my wife but they celebrated with us. When the tragedy of Orlando happened, people hugged us and backed us up and cried with us. When Trump came to office, they worried for us and continue to worry for us as much as we worry for ourselves as state after state starts to pass legislation legalizing discrimination against the LGBTQ community.

But Alaska...it's working to pass legislation that reflects the respect, dignity and rights of the LGBTQ community. It is moving against the tide of hate taking over elsewhere and reinforcing the fact that Alaska is the right place for my wife and I.

Please pass this bill. It is the only thing that is giving me hope in this age of hate.

Sincerely,

Tammie D Willis,
Sterling Alaska

From: [Allison Hourigan](#)
To: [Sen. Berta Gardner](#)
Subject: Support for SB72
Date: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 12:10:40 PM

Senator,

Thank you for proposing SB72. I strongly support all efforts decrease violence, oppression, and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. I feel safer knowing our state leaders are willing to take active steps to reach this shared goal.

Thank you again,

Allison Hourigan
Resident of Juneau

From: [Waltraud](#)
To: [Sen. Berta Gardner](#)
Cc: [Samantha Harris](#)
Subject: SB 72 an act related to discrimination and protections for the LGBTQ community
Date: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 1:13:22 PM

Dear Senator Gardner,

I support SB 72

Thank you for introducing it.

Waltraud Barron, Anchorage



From: [Yvonne Goldsmith](#)
To: [Sen. Berta Gardner](#)
Subject: Support for SB72
Date: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 1:15:24 PM

Dear Members of the AK State Senate, Health & Social Services Committee:

I fully support SB 72, for the following reasons:

1) LGBTQ Alaskans are experiencing discrimination

2) Sexual orientation is a trait one is born with, it is not a chosen behavior or an idea. There is agreement in American and Alaskan society that discrimination against people with natural born traits such as gender or race is against our values. Sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression fall in this category as well.

As an American of Chinese ancestry, I have felt the sting of discrimination in the 60's and 70's myself, with no recourse available. When I finished graduate school in 1975, there were only three places I could live and find a job: the East Coast between NYC and Boston, the California Bay Area, or Hawaii. Happily, my husband Scott Goldsmith was offered a job at UAA and I urged him to do his best to get that job. Why? In 1971 I was traveling standby from Tokyo to NYC and was kicked off the plane in Fairbanks for 24 hours. I felt positive qi and terrific karma there – I always attributed that comfortable, laid-back feeling to the Alaska Natives I saw walking around. I felt sure that a place with a 20% minority population must be welcoming, and I was right. In the 40+ years since, I received only one racist comment (1976: "I didn't know they let Chinks on the train"). No hostile staring, no "Wow your English is so good", no "Go back to where you came from", nor "I can't rent you this apartment, you're going to cook smelly food".

I wish other minorities were so lucky as myself. That is perhaps the most important reason I support SB 72. I wish to treat other people the way I want to be treated myself – with equality based on merit and inclusive behavior, not based on natural born traits. The spirit of my 1975 Alaska needs to be defended and preserved. The people who do not support SB 72 have no idea what it is like to be discriminated against. They are not bad people, they merely lack life experiences. This is the context that should be considered when reading the public comments.

Sincerely, Yvonne Wu Goldsmith, [REDACTED], Anchorage 99516

From: [Sally Mead](#)
To: [Sen. Berta Gardner](#)
Subject: truly support SB 72
Date: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 12:48:37 PM

Dear Berta and your team,

Please add my name, Sally Mead [REDACTED] 99508 to the list of supporters for this bill. A courageous bill presented at a necessary time.

Thank you,
Sally Mead

From: [Laura Herman](#)
To: [Sen. Berta Gardner](#)
Subject: Strongly Urge Protections for LGBTQ community statewide
Date: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 11:59:29 AM

Hi Berta and colleagues in Juneau,

Please support SB72 to add LGBTQ protections to our current statewide non-discrimination ordinance so that all Alaskans can work and be housed in our state without discrimination based on gender identity and sexual orientation. This has been passed in several cities in Alaska with zero negative effects, as well as the great positive effects of making our communities safer for ALL Alaskans.

Currently, although LGBTQ people have the right to marry, they do not have the right to be EMPLOYED or be able to RENT without that being legally held against them. It is a huge misplacement of justice that it is legal to discriminate against LGBTQ people for no other reason but an innate quality within their being.

Please stand up for ALL Alaskans and pass this protection for Alaskans.

Thank you,
Laura Herman
[REDACTED]
Anchorage Ak 99503
[REDACTED]

From: [Maureen Longworth](#)
To: [Sen. Berta Gardner](#)
Subject: SB 72 SUPPORT
Date: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 1:48:31 PM

I am an Alaskan physician of 24 years and a lifetime member of the American Academy of Family Physicians and a member of the Alaska Academy of Family Physicians. All evidence based medical studies agree that equal rights increase the health of the individual, the family, the community, and the state. Whereas discrimination creates medical disease by direct link from the stress and related illnesses.

Any vote other than in support of SB 72 would be further detriment to the health of all Alaskans and our communities.

VOTE YES in support of SB 72. ALL people deserve equal protection under the law of our land.

Sincerely,

Maureen Longworth, M.D.

[REDACTED]
Juneau, AK 99801
[REDACTED]

From: [Amy](#)
To: [Sen. Berta Gardner](#)
Subject: SB 72
Date: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 7:30:24 PM

Thanks for sponsoring SB 72, discrimination is not an Alaskan value and all people deserve equal rights and protections.

Amy

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Mary Parker](#)
To: [Sen. Berta Gardner](#)
Subject: SB 72 - urging support in protection of sexual orientation and gender identity/expression
Date: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 3:53:50 PM

Dear Senator Gardner and members of the Senate Health and Social Services Committee

I am writing in full support of SB72, pertaining to discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity or expression. I am a life-long Alaskan, mother of two adult daughters, one of whom identifies as lesbian, both of whom were born and reared here in our state.

While my heterosexual daughter has remained in Alaska, working and co-owning a home while completing a master's degree through UAA, with the intent of remaining in the state, my lesbian daughter left for college Outside at age 18 and will never return to live here. She also works for a living, co-owns a home, and has completed a master's degree. Unfortunately, Alaska will never benefit from her energy, intelligence, and high work ethic. Since age 18, she has chosen to live where her rights to full protection from discrimination in educational programs, employment, housing and the right to marry as she chooses have been protected by law. I know she is not alone. We have lost hundreds and perhaps thousands of potentially productive state citizens like her over the years, because we fail to protect their rights.

While I could urge you all to 'do the right thing' in protecting all Alaskans from unfair discrimination, or point out that the Alaska I know and love promotes tolerance and understanding of people from different backgrounds, I will let all that remain as said. I have two daughters, one of whom never has to worry about whether she will ever lose a job or a house here because of her sexual orientation, while her sister is not that fortunate. I urge you to support SB 72; I see it as one good step toward offering other sons and daughters who happen to be lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender a reason to remain in Alaska as productive, valued citizens.

Thank you.

Mary Parker



Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays
P. O. Box 210874 Anchorage, AK 99521-0874
Voice Mail: (907) 566-1813
Find Us On Facebook

March 30, 2017

Dear Senator Gardner and Members of the Senate Health and Social Services Committee:

Re: Senate Bill 72 - An Act Related to Discrimination and Protections for the LGBTQ Community

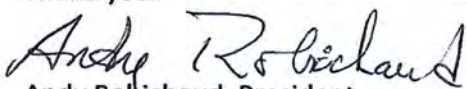
On behalf of the Anchorage Chapter of PFLAG (Parents, Family and Friends of Lesbians and Gays), I am writing to urge your full support of Senate Bill 72, concerning protection against discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression.

Our PFLAG chapter has been active in Anchorage for over twenty years, working with and on behalf of families and individuals whose lives have been affected, sometimes very severely, by such discrimination. We have seen people be refused jobs and housing because of their sexual orientation or gender identity and left without the resources or legal right to challenge discrimination.

We are all Alaskan citizens, proud that our state's population, though limited in number, embraces great differences in background. We believe in tolerance and fair treatment for all, regardless of any difference in identity or background.

On behalf of our many friends and family members, we ask that you support and work to pass SB 72, and provide the same protection to them as is now enjoyed by other Alaskans.

Thank you.


Andy Robichaud, President

March 30, 2017

Sen. Berta Gardner
State Capitol, Room 9
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: SB 72 – An act prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity or expression

Dear Sen. Gardner,

AARP Alaska offers our appreciation to you, Sen. Gardner, for your sponsorship, and to the members of the Senate HSS Committee for consideration of SB 72. AARP's policy is that it is the fundamental right of all people to be free from discrimination, including discrimination based on a person's sexual orientation or gender identity/expression.

Discrimination toward LGBT individuals is historically well documented, and ranges from mild harassment to violence and hate crimes. But, I wish to provide yet another aspect of the importance of non-discrimination protections for LGBT individuals. AARP, nationally, has undertaken a partnership with SAGE USA (Services and Advocacy for GLBT Elders) to help shine a light on the little understood situation LGBT individuals face as they grow old.

In short, the very unfortunate choice older LGBT individuals must face is whether they must go "back in the closet." As people age, we typically experience a series of losses which create varying degrees of dependency on others, and a consequent sense of vulnerability. The need to feel safe (including the need for respect and dignity) increases when having to depend on persons or systems other than one's self. While research on the experience of older LGBT individuals is only now beginning to describe their situation, results show some patterns that underscore the need for increased protection. We know, for instance, that LGBT older adults are:

- Five times less likely to access senior services
- Experience higher poverty rates than senior heterosexual counterparts
- Significantly more likely to delay or not seek needed medical care
- More likely to have problems with substance abuse
- At higher risk for cancer and other serious health conditions (including depression)
- Half as likely as heterosexual elders to have family members to call for help, and are three times less likely to have children.
- Hesitant to disclose sexual orientation to their primary care provider

Many of these disparities can be attributed to the effects of historical prejudice, including disruption to families (who are so necessary to our long term care system), and diminished opportunities to earn a living and save for retirement (often due to lifelong employment discrimination). Ongoing stigma often interferes with full participation in community and society, leaving a significant number of LGBT older adults reluctant to seek needed services and support from potentially hostile aging and health service

providers. Almost a third of gay and lesbian Baby Boomers identify discrimination as their greatest concern about aging....as if aging weren't concerning enough!

The experience of discrimination over a lifetime (remembering today's LGBT elders could have been a victim of violence, or seen their expressions of love labeled a psychiatric disorder, a criminal activity, anti-family, immoral, and a security risk) takes a toll and predisposes to being highly vigilant and cautious. When faced with the vulnerabilities of long term care, one might have to "sweep the house" of all evidence if a home health aide is due to pay a visit; or if living in an assisted living home or nursing home, one would have to make continuous decisions about whether this person or that one, whether staff or other residents, might be safe enough with whom to share the stories of one's life. For all persons coming to the end of life, the story of that life is among the most precious things a person has. It is hard to imagine the sense of loss and grief if that story had to be kept secret or denied. Furthermore, to live in a dependent care situation might have implications about who the LGBT elder is able to have in to visit, or whether those friends would themselves feel comfortable coming into that environment to visit...all of which has the potential to increase an unnecessary sense of loneliness and isolation.

The protections most people take for granted are urgently needed for LGBT older adults, especially with regard to public accommodations, which would include senior centers, health care facilities, assisted living homes, and skilled nursing facilities. No one should have to feel unsafe when they are old and vulnerable, and when so few choices may remain. Nor should anyone have to hide their own life out of fear of what others might say or do. SB 72 is a long-needed and crucial part of Alaska's proud history of self-determination and respect for individual human beings.

AARP Alaska offers our thanks to you and the Senate HSS Committee, and we furthermore offer our strong support for the passage of SB 72 out of committee. Please feel free to contact us if we can be helpful with any further information.

Respectfully,



Ken Helander
Advocacy Director
762-3314
khelander@aarp.org

CC: Sen. David Wilson, Chair, Senate Health and Social Services Committee
Sen. Natasha Von Imhof
Sen. Peter Micciche
Sen. Cathy Giessel
Sen. Tom Begich



March 30, 2017

To the Alaska Senate Health and Social Services Committee
c/o Senator Berta Gardner

RE: Supporting Senate Bill 72

Dear Senator Gardner,

Let us begin by thanking you for sponsoring Senate Bill 72 to add "sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression" to our existing state anti-discrimination law. As leaders of St. John United Methodist Church, we walk alongside dozens of individuals and families whose lives will be measurably improved by such protections.

The United Methodist Church as a denomination states in our Social Principles that: "all persons are individuals of sacred worth, created in the image of God...We affirm that God's grace is available to all. We will seek to live together in Christian community, welcoming, forgiving, and loving one another, as Christ has loved and accepted us. We implore families and churches not to reject or condemn lesbian and gay members and friends..." (*The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church*, ¶161.f).

As United Methodists, we affirm this statement of our church, and add our own urging that public institutions, including federal, state, and local governments, reject discrimination of all people regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression, and actively seek to fully protect all people under the law.

The daily acts of discrimination and micro-aggressions committed against LGBTQ+ continue to cause real harm to real people. We see this harm perpetuated against people we know and love. These individuals, persons of sacred worth, are some of the most incredible Alaskans we have met, whose contributions to our community and state are enormous. It is our hope and prayer that this change in the law is another step towards establishing a just and peaceful society for all Alaskans.

Once again, thank you. Our prayers are with you in this effort.

Sincerely,
The Rev. Andy Bartel, Lead Pastor
The Rev. Nico Romeijn-Stout, Pastor of Discipleship and Social Justice

Jody Simpson

y

From: jen laroe <j
Sent: Thursday, March 30, 2017 9:23 PM
To: Sen. David Wilson; Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Tom Begich
Cc: Sen. Natasha Von Imhof; Sen. Peter Micciche
Subject: SB 72 vote yes!

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Senate Health & Social Services Committee members~

I write to you today to provide my testimony regarding Senate Bill 72 to add to protection from discriminatory practices in employment, housing, education and public services for Alaska-resident members of the LGBTQ community for the sake of humanity. Being accepted for who you believe to be, who you know you are is a core fundamental human right. Sadly there are citizens of our great state and country who don't accept others who don't fit into a narrow subjective view or definition. People are not definable. Everyone deserves equal and protected access to these basic areas. Please add this community or class of people to the protected list. Expand anti-discrimination protection to apply to the following 8 classes: race, sexual orientation/gender identity or expression, color, religion, national origin, gender, disability, and familial status

Thank you for serving the citizens of Alaska.

[How Science Is Helping Us Understand Gender](#)



**How Science
Is Helping Us
Understand
Ge...**

Jennifer LaRoe

Juneau, AK

From: [susan.jabal](#)
To: [Sen. Berta Gardner](#)
Subject: Support of SB72
Date: Thursday, March 30, 2017 8:22:38 AM

Good morning -

My name is Susan Jabal, I am a resident of Juneau, Alaska, at [REDACTED].

I am writing to request that you support SB72, as I know you agree that honoring diversity strengthens our community and state. As I tell my children on a daily basis - everyone makes their own choices, there is no better or worse, just different.

Thank you -
Susan Jabal

[REDACTED]
Juneau, AK 99801
[REDACTED]

From: [Tesia Meade](#)
To: [Sen. Berta Gardner](#)
Subject: SB 72
Date: Thursday, March 30, 2017 5:50:04 AM

Hi Senator Gardner,

I want to thank you for sponsoring SB 72 and show my support for the bill.

Tesia Meade
[REDACTED]
Juneau, AK
99801


From: [April Wisebaker](#)
To: [Sen. Berta Gardner](#)
Subject: Constituent Opinion on SB 72
Date: Thursday, March 30, 2017 7:58:52 AM

Senator Gardner-

I am writing to let you know my support of SB 72 (Inclusive Statewide Non-Discrimination Bill). I am an ally, and strongly believe it is important to ensure all of the residents in our state have equal treatment and opportunity, regardless of sexual orientation. I hope this bill is passed by the state legislature. Thank you for introducing this bill; this makes me proud to live in your district!

Regards,

April R Wisebaker



Anchorage, AK 99507

From: [Tracey Burke](#)
To: [Sen. Berta Gardner](#)
Subject: support for Senate Bill 72
Date: Thursday, March 30, 2017 12:42:49 PM

Dear Senators, c/o Senator Gardner:

I am a Christian, a practicing church-goer, raised Catholic and now Episcopalian. I came to Alaska some 25 years ago as a Jesuit Volunteer. I write to support adding sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression to the Alaskan non-discrimination law. Jesus loved the outsider; we must do the same. Self-identified "Christians" who have hijacked the name who claim religion as an excuse to discriminate do NOT speak for all of us. I do not really believe anyone's religion should drive public policy, but I do believe that individual voters' values are shaped by their faith. Mine says clearly that everyone deserves to be treated well and fairly, and to have legal recourse when not treated that way. As a voter, I support this bill and hope you will as well.

Tracey Burke


Anchorage, AK 99504

From: [Eddie Bailey](#)
To: [Sen. Berta Gardner](#)
Subject: What: SB 72 an act related to discrimination and protections for the LGBTQ community.
Date: Thursday, March 30, 2017 2:02:23 PM

As a straight foster mom I have fostered about 15 LGBT kids. I URGE you to vote to include this group into protection from discrimination. If you want to hear of some of the descrimination my kids have gone through, just let me know and I will share them. I don't share them now because I doubt you will actually read them -- or call me.

--

Eddie Bailey

[REDACTED]

Eagle River, Alaska

99577

[REDACTED]

From: [Gayle & Julie](#)
To: [Sen. Berta Gardner](#)
Subject: SB 72
Date: Thursday, March 30, 2017 1:06:33 PM

SB 72 is so important to Alaskans as the first inclusive statewide non-discrimination law, granting protections we have long fought for in Alaska and across the region. Prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identify in housing, employment, and places of public accommodation only makes sense in light of the push by some to compromise these protections.

When asked if I have ever been discriminated against I frequently forget how often I ignore what others take for granted. Should I have to ask when I enter a bakery to buy a cupcake if they sell to lesbians or is my money good enough as long as I keep my sexual orientation to myself and I don't want a wedding cake. If I wear my "Big Wild Lesbian" T shirt into a store can I be denied service? Can I ask that my taxes not pay for the sidewalk or the street lights, or the snow removal from outside of any business that discriminates? Can I ask that those who seek to discriminate post a sign in their window and on their website so that I and all the LGBT allies know to take our business elsewhere?

Thank you for SB 72.

Gayle Schuh

[REDACTED]

Eagle River, AK 99577

[REDACTED]

Jody Simpson

From: Tasha Elizarde
Sent: Thursday, March 30, 2017 11:52 PM
To: Sen. David Wilson; Sen. Natasha Von Imhof; Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Tom Begich
Cc: Rep. Sam Kito; Sen. Dennis Egan; Sen. Berta Gardner
Subject: Testimony in Support of SB72, Tasha Elizarde (Juneau)

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hello,

My name is Tasha Elizarde and I am an 18-year-old high school senior from Juneau, Alaska. My House District is 33 (Rep. Kito) and my Senate District is Q (Sen. Egan).

I greatly support SB72 and I appreciate Sen. Gardner for taking initiative and advancing human rights issues in Alaska. Thankfully, earlier this year the City and Borough of Juneau passed an ordinance prohibiting sexual orientation and gender identity and expression-based discrimination. Although I am not personally affected by discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity, I have friends who do identify differently and, although Juneau is a very welcoming community, are sometimes discriminated against. One of my friend was bullied constantly by another student simply because he is a transman. Other students would even go out of their way to call him by the wrong name, creating a bad atmosphere for his learning. Nowadays, he is much more accepted in the school and there have been fewer harsh incidents based on his gender. However, the reason for the fewer bad incidents was due to a change in society - a shift that now finds this sort of discrimination as intolerable.

Yet, there are still people out there who still believe it is alright to discriminate people against their own existence. No Alaskan should have to bear such harsh bullying and in worse cases, systemic denial of jobs or property, simply because of who they are. It's time Alaska publically acknowledge its acceptance of every Alaskan living in our state by updating the Non-Discrimination Act to include sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression.

I am happy to see SB72 up in the Legislature and hope to see it sail through the Senate, House and Governor's desk as soon as possible.

Thank you for listening to my testimony,

Tasha Elizarde
House District 33
Senate District Q

Callie Dietrich

Sutton, Alaska 99674

March 30, 2017

Senator

600 E. Railroad Avenue

Wasilla AK, 99654

Phone: 907-376-4866

Fax: 907-373-4724

Dear Senator David Wilson,

My name is Callie Dietrich; I am a born and raised Alaskan, UAA alumni, and RN at Providence Alaska Medical Center. As a nurse, I have dedicated my life to understanding the physical, emotional, and spiritual aspect of human physiology. My senior capstone project last spring explored the relationship that people in the LGBTQ+ community have with their environment. We found that ensuring an anti-discriminatory environment has a positive correlation to healthier communities. For this reason, I am writing to voice my support of Senate Bill 72 and I want you to support this bill as well.

It is well known and researched that healthy, safe environments lend to healthy people and communities. It is also well known that people in the LGBTQ+ community face high rates of discrimination related hate crimes, stigmatization, slander, and general nonacceptance in communities, and thus have high rates of suicide and depression. This is particularly concerning in conservative districts such as Alaska. As community members, the least we can do is make it policy that LGBTQ+ community members are protected from discrimination so that they may be productive, secure, and safe citizens.

SB72 seeks to include anti-discrimination protection for sexual orientation and gender identity minorities such as lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered (LGBTQ+) people in Alaska under the State Commission for Human Rights. As a lifelong resident of Alaska, I imagine it as a place where anyone can feel that they can get housing, stay in housing, get a job, keep a job, and feel safe against discriminatory crimes regardless of their sexual orientation, gender identity as well as many of the other outlined criteria in Alaska's State Human Rights Commission including race, religion, color, sex, disability, or national origin.

I would urge those in opposition of this bill to think of LGBTQ+ anti-discrimination as a civil rights issue that has been left open to hate crimes, rejection from housing, and termination of jobs. Please support SB 72 and help facilitate safer, healthier communities.

Thank you for your time and consideration,



Callie Dietrich

From: [Christians for Equality](#)
To: [Sen. Berta Gardner](#)
Subject: Glad Supporting SB 72
Date: Friday, March 31, 2017 12:47:53 PM

Dear Senator Gardner and members of the 2017 Alaska Legislature,

Thank you so much for your consideration of SB72, a bill to provide discrimination protection to LGBT persons in Alaska. **We are in full support of this legislation.**

This bill aligns with faithful Christian values that affirm that no person should experience the sting of discrimination. As Christians we are called to advocate on behalf of marginalized communities and believe that this bill provides legal protections. We continue to pray that the Alaska Legislature passes this bill and that legal discrimination because of sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression ends. We also believe that discrimination is not an Alaskan value.

Christians for Equality is the social justice ministry of the Alaska Christian Conference, representing congregations, clergy and leaders from across the state.

Kind regards,

Steering Committee - Christians for Equality
Candace Bell, Rev. Michael Burke, Rev. Matt Schultz, Nora Ortiz Fredrick, Rev. Martin Eldred

Christians for Equality

christiansforequality@gmail.com
www.christiansforequality.org

"Raising up a faithful voice for peace, justice & equality rooted in the Hebrew prophets and the gospel of Jesus Christ."

Anchorage Assembly



Elvi Gray-Jackson
Chair: Budget/Finance Committee

Municipality of Anchorage

March 31, 2017

The Honorable David Wilson
Alaska State Senate
State Capitol, Room 115
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Wilson:

I am thankful that Senator Gardner introduced SB72 which prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity or expression because I have always advocated for and believed that everyone deserves equal rights. After many, many years attempting to provide this right to our LGBTQ citizens within our community, I was honored to be one of nine Assembly Members who approved AO 2015-96(S-1) on September 29, 2015.

There are some who truly believe that this is a lifestyle choice. This mentality could not be further from the truth. You see, when I was 14 years old, my sister's son was three years old. Even at that early age, we both knew he was gay. Unfortunately, at the age of 21 years, my sister died from birth control pills which caused a brain hemorrhage and heart failure. She was my idol and died in my arms on the way to the hospital. Before she died, I promised her that I would emotionally take care of Darren as he grew older in a world of hate because of his identity. Darren is now an adult, has been in a relationship with Keith for 19 years, and they married just last year.

I, personally, know what it is like to experience discrimination. I have been a victim more than once because of the color of my skin. I will always be grateful to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. for making a difference in my life and the lives of many. This behavior is simply unacceptable.

I am hopeful that you and your colleagues will support this proposed legislation because it is not just the right thing to do, but the "only thing" to do. Please make this human right a reality.

Sincerely,


Elvi Gray-Jackson
Chair

P.O. Box 196650 • Anchorage, Alaska 99519-6650 • Telephone: (907) 343-4118
gray-jackson@muni.org



March 31, 2017

Via Email (Through Senator Gardner's Office)

Senate Health & Social Services Committee
State Capital
Juneau, AK 99801

**Re: SB 72 – Prohibiting Discrimination Based on Sexual Orientation
or Gender Identity/Expression**

To the Honorable Members of the Senate Health & Social Services Committee:

I am writing to respectfully urge you to support SB 72 by voting to advance it out of committee. It's the right thing to do for Alaska's people—and the smart thing to do for our economy.

At Frontier Tutoring, the largest Alaska-based test prep and tutoring brand, our success is critically dependent on our ability to recruit, retain, and develop skilled and diverse Alaskan team members—including LGBT talent. We know from firsthand experience the value that empowered and fully-engaged employees, along with their varied backgrounds and perspectives, bring to our operations and decision-making capabilities. And this year, as an MBA candidate at Harvard Business School, I have had the opportunity to confirm that the insights Frontier Tutoring has gained regarding the value of maintaining a diverse team are generalizable across many types of organizations. Here are three specific lessons I have learned from the curriculum and my peers which I feel are important to share back at home:

- **Employers and employees alike bear the cost of “covering”:** Many employees—and certainly LGBT individuals—feel compelled to “cover” (obscure or actively avoid disclosing elements of their identity) in the workplace. Not only do employees suffer emotionally when they cover, but employers also bear the real economic costs of lost productivity, reduced engagement, and lower retention when their employees do not feel comfortable bringing their genuine selves to work. It is easy to imagine how being forced to expend significant extra effort on even the simplest tasks—such as answering the question, “How was your weekend?” when an employee believes he or she could be fired for being gay—needlessly diverts focus and energy away from an employee's capacity to engage professionally. The perceived need to cover is only exacerbated in Alaska, where LGBT employees currently have no legal basis for protection against discrimination based on their sexual orientation or gender identity and therefore may have good reason to believe that their best bet at work is hiding an important part of who they really are.
- **Diverse teams help firms make better decisions:** In studying decisions that have gone wrong, one important commonality that emerges is groupthink—the tendency for teams to operate with a bias toward consensus in their decision-making and neglect to consider alternative, superior courses of action. One countermeasure against groupthink is ensuring that teams are comprised of individuals with a diversity of backgrounds who feel comfortable expressing opposing viewpoints. But people who fear the consequences of being

FRONTIER TUTORING LLC
AN ALASKA COMPANY

ANCHORAGE CENTER
500 E. Tudor Rd., Ste. 100
Anchorage, AK 99503

MAILING
2440 E. Tudor Rd., PMB 128
Anchorage, AK 99507

Tel: 907-268-4233
Fax: 907-268-4760
frontiertutoring.com





themselves at work—because, for example, they worry their LGBT status may be used against them—aren't able to bring the full complement of their experiences and perspectives to bear when important corporate decisions are made. Proving to LGBT employees through law that they will be evaluated based on their professional performance—nothing more and nothing less—will help unlock their best insights.

- **Alaska is missing out on top talent:** I have frequently spoken with LGBT classmates at Harvard Business School who are enthralled by the promise of opportunity in Alaska that attracted many of our residents in the first place—but they are reluctant to consider applying their talents in Alaska knowing that they could be fired from their jobs or evicted from their homes for no other reason than their LGBT status. I empathize with their position: Why bother bearing additional risk in Alaska when they could just as easily lead fulfilling lives in many other states that have affirmed through their laws that LGBT professionals are welcome and valued? It is reasonable to assume other accomplished professionals across the country are making the same decisions to deploy their talents elsewhere. It is even more disturbing to consider the capable LGBT youth born and raised in Alaska who depart the state and are dissuaded from returning for similar reasons. For a state that routinely bemoans the economic and social consequences of brain drain, SB 72 provides an obvious and low-cost way to plug one hole in our leaky funnel.

The financial benefits of inclusion are clear and critical to leverage at a time when our forward-going economic viability depends more on our ability to harness human capital than ever before. At an even more fundamental level, providing LGBT people with the same protections we afford to other Alaskans is a matter of demonstrating basic kindness and respect for everyone—something I think we can all agree is a core Alaskan value. And although we can easily discuss the bright spots where employers already stand up for their team members' equality and individuality, top LGBT talent will continue to question Alaska's credibility until we codify their equality in the law.

Like many Alaska organizations, Frontier Tutoring is a people business. For over eight years, we have grown because of our ability to assemble a high-caliber team who we believe could compete successfully against our industry peers anywhere in the country. The passage of SB 72 would give me great confidence in Alaska's ability to remain an attractive destination for employees, entrepreneurs, and investors eight years from now.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian J. Franklin".

Brian J. Franklin
Board Chair



HUMAN
RIGHTS
CAMPAIGN®

March 31, 2017

Senate Health and Social Services Committee
State Capitol Room 205
Juneau AK, 99801

Dear Chairperson Wilson and Members of the Committee,

My name is Sarah Warbelow, and I am the Legal Director for the Human Rights Campaign (HRC), America's largest civil rights organization working to achieve lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) equality. By inspiring and engaging all Americans, HRC strives to end discrimination against LGBTQ citizens and realize a nation that achieves fundamental fairness and equality for all. On behalf of our nearly 2,000,000 members and supporters nationwide, I am writing you today in support of Senate Bill (SB) 72, which would extend nondiscrimination protections to LGBTQ Alaskans in employment, housing, and public accommodations.

America has a proud history of valuing liberty, freedom, and hard work. Anti-discrimination laws put those values into practice. By expanding the state's civil rights laws to include LGBTQ people, Alaska will send a strong message that all of its residents matter. It is time to ensure that discrimination does not trump merit or basic fairness by extending protections to include sexual orientation and gender identity.

Discrimination against LGBTQ people continues to be a very real problem. Far too often, LGBTQ Americans have lost their livelihoods simply because of an employer's fear, lack of understanding, or intolerance. Some are highly skilled professionals who, though seemingly irreplaceable in their positions, suddenly become expendable when they wish to live openly in their communities or are outed by colleagues. Others are people forced into whatever jobs they can find, some scraping together money for the tremendous medical costs of gender transition, which are rarely covered by health insurance. They are people in every walk of life—doctors and lawyers, plumbers and bus drivers. Many are parents and spouses, whose efforts to find secure, fulfilling employment are also a struggle to provide for their families. And for these Americans, the threat of discrimination does not end once they leave the workplace. It is well-documented that LGBTQ people are shown less desirable properties for purchase or rent, receive less favorable customer service, or encounter outright refusal of service. The time has long since passed when we as a nation ought to tolerate arbitrary discrimination against any group of people, in any aspect of life.

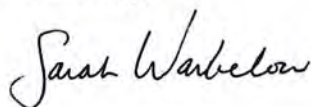
I cannot overstate the real-life implications this bill would have for Alaska. It would extend vital protections in the most fundamental aspects of life to all Alaskans. Now that marriage equality is a reality nationwide, this bill would eliminate the untenable possibility of an individual marrying the person they love, only to be fired from work, evicted, or denied access to public places for doing so. Moreover, this bill would send an unequivocal message to businesses that Alaska is a place where they

can find the best and brightest; where their employees can live, grow, and thrive without fear of discrimination.

Finally, passing the SB 72 will place the state in good company. Beginning with an ordinance passed in Minneapolis in 1975, 19 states, the District of Columbia, and more than 100 cities and counties have enacted fully-inclusive, comprehensive laws prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. Additionally, more than 600 private businesses across the United States, including 66% of Fortune 500 companies, have voluntarily adopted policies that prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. It is clear that employers and governments nationwide agree that they are at their best—their most competitive and most productive—when they do the right thing and affirm that they're open to everyone.

It has never been more important for Alaska to act and ensure that discrimination has no place in this great state. Please vote in favor of SB 72.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sarah Warbelow".

Sarah Warbelow



ALASKANS TOGETHER
FOR EQUALITY

March 31, 2017

Honorable Senator David Wilson, Chairperson
Senate Health & Social Services Committee
Alaska State Legislature
State Capital
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Re: Support for Senate Bill 72 – Prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity or expression.

Dear Chairperson Wilson and Committee Members,

Alaskans Together for Equality (ATE) fully supports making all Alaskans equal and protected from discrimination through passing Senate Bill (SB) 72: “An act adding to the powers and duties of the State Commission for Human Rights; and relating to and prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity or expression.”

ATE represents hundreds of members across the state of Alaska. We are a statewide, nonpartisan, civil rights organization whose mission is to advance civil equality for all Alaskans through grassroots organizing and advocacy, with a primary focus on lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) Alaskans. We advocate for all Alaskans because the stronger the foundation of equal civil rights across institutions and practices makes for a better Alaska. All Alaskans will be enabled to take advantage of opportunities to create healthy lives and produce income that allows for a stronger state.

ATE believes that SB72 is imperative to securing the rights and opportunities of all Alaskans and provides the tools to pursue these opportunities. SB72 positively impacts all Alaskans by strengthening the foundation of equality and protecting civil rights.

As Alaska continues to weather economic challenges, it is imperative that the State do all that it can do to attract and retain a skilled and diverse labor force. When the United States Congress Joint Economic Committee examined the economic consequences of discrimination

based on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity in November of 2013¹, it found that discrimination results in detrimental economic impacts including: lower profits; higher turnover costing business more to train and retain employees; reduced wages and underemployment; reduced economic growth through lost productivity, inefficiencies in the economy and an overall misallocation of crucial human capital.

We urge you to support the justice, fairness and equality for all Alaskans by supporting SB72. With this bill's passage, the Alaska legislature ensures the right for individual Alaskans to work, innovate, and contribute to our state. SB72 is integral to meeting Alaska's economic challenges and will send a strong message to Alaska's LGBT community and those talented LGBT individuals and their families who are considering making Alaska their home, that our state is a welcoming state to all.

Thank you for hearing this bill and after years of waiting for a vote, we hope you pass this bill through this committee but also encourage your fellow legislators to move this bill to the Senate floor and pass it. Not only is it the right thing to do but it also aligns with our Alaskan values of fairness and equality for all.

On behalf of ATE Board and our members,



Elias Rojas
Board President
Alaskan Together for Equality

¹ http://www.jec.senate.gov/public/_cache/files/42dc59a0-6071-46d0-8ff2-9bd7a6b0077f/enda---final-11.5.13.pdf

From: [Pastor Julia Seymour](#)
To: [Sen. Berta Gardner](#)
Subject: SB 72
Date: Friday, March 31, 2017 3:38:22 PM

J

Sen. Gardner-

As an Anchorage-based clergy person, I would like to show my **support** of SB 72 and adding the words to the state's non-discrimination policies and structures. Particularly at a time when the federal government is pulling back from these protections, Alaska needs to stand firmly in support of all residents *and visitors* who seek equal opportunities and treatment in Great Land. I strongly encourage your committee and your colleagues to support this bill and move it forward into passage. Such protections are overdue and *do not go without saying*, but it is better late than never.

Thank you,

The Reverend Julia Seymour
Anchorage, AK

Lutheran Church of Hope

(907)

(907) 555-1234

From: [Kaia Erickson-Pearson](#)
To: [Sen. Berta Gardner](#)
Subject: Letter in support of SB72
Date: Friday, March 31, 2017 10:03:22 AM



To whom it may concern:

I am writing to express my strong support for SB 72. This is a necessary step in securing fairness and equality for all Alaskans.

I am a family medicine physician in Anchorage and a queer cis-gender woman. I can speak from both personal and professional experience how important it is to have institutionalized protections for marginalized communities.

On a personal level, I have experienced a level of anxiety and physical fear that I was entirely unprepared for following the national election in November. Even as a white woman with an abundance of privilege, the hatred towards the LGBTQ community and people of color that was validated by the political establishment made me fear for my personal safety and basic rights. I was far more anxious over that threat than I have ever felt in my medical training. And that insecurity seeped into my life in ways I didn't expect and affected my ability to do my job well. Messages are powerful. We need to think about the messages we are sending to young queer and gender non-conforming kids who are already coping with bullying and prejudice. If I felt as shaken as I did after the election, despite all the professional security and racial privilege that I have, I cannot imagine the level of anxiety and insecurity felt by others. They ought to be told they are beautiful and deserving of living a healthy meaningful life. SB 72 is at least a good start.

As a primary care physician, my role is to provide preventive care to keep people healthy. I am trained to manage chronic diseases and complex medication regimens and keep track of screenings. I discover, though, that before I can address any of these things I must address more basic needs. Many of my patients lack adequate access to food and housing, and many of those patients are LGBTQ folks or immigrants whose lack of access has more to do with discrimination than lack of funds. In addition, as a primary care physician in a state without adequate access to mental health care, I spend a significant portion of my visit time addressing anxiety and stress that are often driven my experiences of either direct or insidious discrimination and injustice. I love my patients and will continue to do I need to support their wellbeing, but I am frequently more a counselor and social worker than a physician. We need better social support services in this state, and SB 72 is a great step in that direction.

LGBTQ people are beautiful, courageous, and loving contributors to our families and communities. Our perspectives and experiences should be celebrated, not persecuted.

Thank you for your time,

Kaia Pearson, MD

From: [jason_jordet](#)
To: [Sen. Berta Gardner](#)
Subject: LGBTQ equal rights
Date: Friday, March 31, 2017 11:14:39 AM

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Ms. Gardner,

I am writing briefly today to voice my support, 100%, for your efforts to ensure that LGBTQ members of our community receive equal treatment under the laws of this state. Thank you for your efforts on this topic.

Jason Jordet

Anchorage, 99508

Sent from my iPad

Jody Simpson

y

From: Barbara McDaniel <[redacted]>
Sent: Friday, March 31, 2017 2:16 PM
To: Senate Health and Social Services
Subject: Testimony SB72

Good afternoon:

I am writing in support of SB72 in the interest of strengthening our Human Rights statutes by including a prohibition against discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations, and banking based on gender identity, orientation or expression. My ethical compass is grounded in the universal ethical code that one should treat others as they would want to be treated, a common-sense approach to developing safer communities.

One's gender identity, orientation, and expression is harmless to others. There is no justification for someone to harmfully discriminate against another over purely personal, gender identity concerns.

Sincerely,

Barbara McDaniel

adler Lp

Wasilla, AK 99623

Jody Simpson

y

From: Friday, March 31, 2017 1:23 PM
Sent: Sen. David Wilson; Sen.Natasha.vonImhoff@akleg.gov; Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Tom Begich
To: Sen. Berta Gardner; Laura Bonner
Cc: Support SB72 Written testimony
Subject:

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Chair David Wilson ,Vice-chair Natasha von Imhoff, and committee members,

Elizabeth Peratrovich, a Tlingit, was the last to testify before the territorial Senate on the Anti-discrimination Act in 1945. She talked about herself, her friends, her children, and the cruel treatment that consigned Alaska Natives to a second-class existence. She described what it means to be unable obtain housing in a decent neighborhood because Natives weren't allowed to live there. She described how Native children felt when they were refused entrance into movie theaters or saw signs in shop windows that read "No dogs or Natives allowed". The territorial Senate passed the bill 11-5 for House Resolution 14, providing "...full and equal accommodations, facilities, and privileges to all citizens in places of public accommodations within the jurisdiction of the Territory of Alaska; to provide penalties for violation." That was in 1945.

Some Alaskans still experience those same feelings and lack of opportunities as it was for Natives back then. Employment opportunities, fairness in credit and financing practices, access to public accommodations and housing accommodations should be available to all.

Isn't it time for Alaska to make it unlawful to discriminate against all citizens no matter who they love? I believe it's time.

Please support SB72 and thank you for bringing this bill forward.

Laura Bonner
Anchorage, Alaska

From:
Sent: Friday, March 31, 2017 12:43 PM
To: Sen. David Wilson; Sen. Natasha Von Imhof; Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Tom Begich
Subject: SB72
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

I am a 74 year old lesbian and my wife and I have been together 40 years, most of those years spent in the closet for fear of losing our public school teaching positions....a very real threat. Only after retiring, did we come out and live openly as a couple. We are deeply involved in the Anchorage LGBT community and advocate for equal protections. The protections we are seeking are those rights that all peoples in Alaska take for granted....not being refused services, housing, or employment simply because of who we are, in other words, basic civil rights.

As LGBT seniors, we want to feel safe going to health care providers or care facilities and know that we will be treated with respect and dignity.

We have been treated as second class citizens for far too long. It is time for the state of Alaska to treat all peoples equally.

Sincerely,
Julie Schmidt, Eagle River

Jody Simpson

y

From: Debby Broneske <d...@m>
Sent: Friday, March 31, 2017 11:53 AM
To: Sen. David Wilson; Sen. Natasha Von Imhof; Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Tom Begich; Sen. Berta Gardner
Subject: SB 72 Civil Rights
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Committee Members and Senator Berta Gardner,
Please support Senate Bill 72 to ensure civil rights to the LGBT community. As a member of the LGBT community I am thankful for the recent national legislation that was necessary to ensure the LGBT community received equal rights in the United States of America. It is time Alaska legislated the very important measures in SB 72 protecting the LGBT community from discrimination in areas of employment , housing, education and public services.
Thank you, Debby Broneske, Palmer, Alaska, 99645

Jody Simpson

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From: Jeff Chen <jchen21@...>
Sent: Friday, March 31, 2017 3:12 PM
To: Jody Simpson
Subject: SB72 Testimony

My name's Jeff Chen from Anchorage. I support SB72. I work closely with the Chinese community and with the youth conservation community throughout the state. Through the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, the Chinese community knows first hand what it's like to face legal discrimination. The LGBTQ community currently faces legal discrimination. I support SB72 because our LGBTQ family and friends should not have to face discrimination in the workplace, in public, or at home. I urge you to support SB72 as well. Thank you.

From: Maya Heubner <maya.€ - - - - ->
Sent: Friday, March 31, 2017 5:58 PM
To: Sen. Berta Gardner; Senate Health and Social Services
Subject: I support SB 72 (and you should too!)

Dear Senator and committee,

When I heard about Senate Bill 72, a bill to protect LGBTQIAP+ people in Alaska, I knew I had to show my support. I know a bill like this will not necessarily change the minds of certain people towards accepting all orientations/genders, but it will change their behavior and I believe eventually accepting people the way they are will be the norm. It's unacceptable to me that people are still allowed to discriminate on others based on something they can't change. It angers me that people often have to hide their true selves in fear of losing the right to live like everyone else. Not only is this morally wrong, but it doesn't make practical sense. For example, an employer might discriminate against someone perfect for a job and have to choose someone with less skill, which harms both the potential employee and the employer.

SB 72 is a step in the right direction to ensure 'justice for all' and I thank you for supporting this bill.

Sincerely,

Maya Heubner

Please save this for public record.

From: [Claire Stump](#)
To: [Sen. Berta Gardner](#)
Subject: Please Support SB 72!
Date: Friday, March 31, 2017 12:33:12 PM

g

Dear Senator Gardner,

I am an Alaskan Christian woman urging you to support SB 72. As a bisexual woman, I know the value of anti-discrimination bills. They not only do they do their intended job of preventing discrimination, they also help me and the rest of the GLBT community feel whole and pure for who they are. Please help keep our state on the path that supports liberty and justice for all of its citizens by voting in favor of this bill. Help me to be able to live a peaceful life without fear of discrimination, a basic privilege that our heterosexual community gets to experience everyday.

In prayer,
Jennifer Claire Stump

Anchorage, AK 99508

From: [Allison Mendel](#)
To: [Sen. Berta Gardner](#)
Subject: SB 72
Date: Friday, March 31, 2017 9:22:30 AM

Y

I know you are on the right page, but I urge you to support SB 72. It would be about time to make this change to state law. I have worked almost my entire professional career to get equal treatment of LGBT citizens. It has been an uphill battle, with some notable recent successes. But even our successes are still under attack. I have served LGBT client for more than 30 years, and have witnessed the unequal treatment we have received at the hands of state and local government. This unfairness is not only harmful to the victims, emotionally and economically, it is harmful to business, to the next generation, and to our society at large.

Allison Mendel

Mendel Colbert & Associates, Inc.

Anchorage, AK 99501

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From: [Rachel Lescher](#)
To: [Sen. Berta Gardner](#)
Subject: SB 72
Date: Friday, March 31, 2017 2:28:27 PM

I am a pediatrician and I provide medical care for transgender children and adolescents. This population of people suffers from many negative health effects directly related to systemic discrimination and harassment leading to homelessness, joblessness, and poverty. With increased support from family, friends, and caregivers and with increased social support, individuals who identify as trans have improved mental and physical health, decreased suicide attempt rates, and improved social/economic outcomes. I stand in support of senate bill 72 to protect the rights of transgender individuals.

Please contact me if you would like to discuss this more.

Sincerely,

Rachel Lescher, MD

From: [Alyse Galvin](#)
To: [Sen. Berta Gardner](#)
Subject: SB 72
Date: Friday, March 31, 2017 3:43:57 PM

Dear Senator and committee,

I am writing in support of Senate Bill 72. Let's make sure every Alaskan is treated fairly!
There is evidence that many Alaskans have had difficulties finding employment, housing and in other areas, due to prejudice against their sexual orientation or gender orientation and that is wrong.

Two of my best friends from high school suffered severe depression and hid their orientation because 30plus years ago, there was little understanding and language for how they felt. Now we have language and we have pockets of acceptance but we must go further and have laws that protect them. We must help each person to feel they can be themselves, openly. This law will help ensure that every person has protections. The law can make sure that if a person is wronged, there will be a defense, that helps. It won't change the culture where there is disrespect and unkind thoughts toward Alaskans who identify as LGBTQ right away but it will change the behavior of those with unkind thoughts. And in time, I hope more education and openness will bring about a much healthier culture of kindness and acceptance.

SB 72 is a step in the right direction to ensure 'justice for all' and I thank you for supporting this bill.

Most Sincerely,
Alyse Galvin

Anchorage, Alaska 99508
Please save this letter for public record.

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Alexander Bergman](#)
To: [Sen. Berta Gardner](#)
Subject: SB72
Date: Friday, March 31, 2017 10:06:52 AM

cy

Hello Senator Gardner,

I would like to show my support of SB72.

As an index of human goodness and trustworthiness, the demographic uniqueness of the LGBTQIA+ community is not nearly so significant as the content of its individual characters, and therefore no more worthy of discrimination or regulation than any other set of demographics. I applaud and stand in solidarity with your pursuit of a more just social infrastructure, and thank you and your office for all your hard work.

Yours most sincerely,

Alexander Bergman

From: [Daphne Coen](#)
To: [Sen. Berta Gardner](#)
Subject: SB72
Date: Friday, March 31, 2017 12:45:52 PM

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To whom it may concern:

I am a resident at _____ Street Fairbanks, Alaska.

I was born and raised in Fairbanks, Alaska. I have raised 6 kids in this city. I am married to a man that I love and have shared a life with for 20 years but I have also loved women and transgender individuals. I was designated female at birth but struggled with that identification most of my life. I knew at a very young age that God had made a mistake when He made me female. I now embrace a non binary identity and use the pronouns they/them.

I may look just like you, raising a family going to work. I worked for 10 years at FMH in the lab. My background is important because you need to understand that we are doctors, lawyers, police, military service members, we bag groceries and we sweep floors. We are also shunned by our families, denied jobs, housing and the right to use the bathroom. The beauty of Alaska and what brought so many people here was and still is the freedom. The freedom to be who you are, to pursue your dreams and goals. This is a place where we care for our neighbors because it is a matter of life and death. This protection is a matter of life and death. Please, care about your neighbors, care about us. Help protect our jobs and our homes, our children, your children.

Thank you,
D Coen

From: on behalf of [Matt Schultz](#)
To: [Sen. Berta Gardner](#)
Subject: Senate Bill 72
Date: Friday, March 31, 2017 12:49:05 PM

y

Greetings,

I am writing in support of Senate Bill 72. I believe that sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression should be to our existing state's anti-discrimination law, so that all of Alaska's citizens can have equal protection under the law.

Thank you,

Reverend Matthew D. Schultz
Pastor, First Presbyterian Church
Anchorage, AK

From: [Jenn Wagaman](#)
To: [Sen. Berta Gardner](#)
Subject: support for anti-discrimination bill
Date: Friday, March 31, 2017 11:25:33 AM

cf

Hello-

I'm writing to express my support for the LGBTQ anti-discrimination bill you have put before the legislature. As a member of an LGBTQ, multi-racial family who works hard to contribute to and participate in our community, this bill is extremely important for me, my wife and our children. I know firsthand how discrimination affects those in our community, particularly our youth. Simple protections that allow us the same rights and access and all other people in our community are essential. I appreciate your support in this effort.

Jenn Wagaman

Fairbanks, AK 99709

From: [Nora Ortiz Fredrick](#)
To: [Sen. Berta Gardner](#)
Subject: Support for SB 72
Date: Friday, March 31, 2017 12:57:24 PM

g

Dear Senator Garder,

As a United Methodist church leader in Anchorage, I am glad to support your proposed SB72 which provides discrimination protection for the LGBT persons.

As a Christian, my faith requires that I speak out for people who have been marginalized by society. No person in Alaska or elsewhere should live with discrimination because of who God has made them to be. We honor all people for the gifts they bring to our community. Please add my voice to the many faithful Christians voices supporting this legislation. I am a member of the Christians for Equality coalition.

Thank you,

Nora Ortiz Fredrick

Anchorage, AK 99501

From: [Carter, Richard J \(LAW\)](#)
To: [Sen. Berta Gardner](#)
Subject: Support for SB 72
Date: Friday, March 31, 2017 2:35:43 PM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)

4

Good Afternoon,

Unfortunately, I am unable support this bill in person at the Capitol today because of responsibilities in my office. I would however like to send this brief but sincere email in support of the proposed anti-discrimination legislation that you are sponsoring. I believe that these rights and protections are not only constitutional, but they are fair and deserved human rights for all peoples of the LGBTQ community. Thank you for your work.

Sincerely,
Richard



Richard J. Carter
Law Office Manager I
Attorney General's Office - Juneau Civil Division
907.465.6722 - Direct Line
907.465.2520 - Fax

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From: [Marcy Nadel](#)
To: [Sen. Berta Gardner](#)
Subject: Testimony on Senate Bill 71
Date: Friday, March 31, 2017 10:14:25 AM

g

Dear Senator Gardner,

I am writing to register my strong support as a voting Alaskan for Senate Bill 71, and as I cannot testify in person today to share a personal story. As a pansexual woman I largely 'pass' as straight. In my first year at a new job in Fairbanks I was mistakenly outed by a friend at work, and faced an uncomfortable private meeting with my direct supervisor. Thankfully nothing came of it: although my supervisor did not approve of my lifestyle they agreed that my sexual orientation has no impact on my job qualifications or work ethic. However, in a different less welcoming workplace there may have been serious repercussions. If I had been fired, this would have been and remains perfectly legal. Passing SB 71 is not just a matter of symbolic importance, but of safety, security, and livelihood for countless Alaskans.

Thank you for your time,

Marcy Nadel

Fairbanks, AK



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Health Social Services Committee
 Committee on SB 72 Committee Name Dated 3/31/17
Bill / Subject

Unlike many legislative packets that are brought forward, this addendum to the human rights statutes of Alaska should have no leg for dissenters to stand on. Considering and protecting the rights of all citizens, regardless of race, color, gender, distinction, or creed. Inclusion and protection of all persons has been shown to increase economic progress, decrease crime, increase childhood development, and bring communities together. Alaska, also, has problems that other states do not have. We struggle to retain and attract talent, young families, and community builders. Young people in America overwhelmingly support the twin policies of equality and inclusion. By joining Alaska at the forefront of inclusive policy such as this, we position the state to grow as a vibrant, inclusive, and self-sufficient community. If not we risk falling into economic ruin and obscurity.

SIGNED: Erin Tilly
 Testifier

self
 Representing

Drive Fairbanks Ak 99709
 Address / Phone Number

y



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Health and Social Services
 Committee on Senate Bill 72 Committee Name
 Dated March 31, 2017
 Bill / Subject

My name is Alyssa Quintyne from Fairbanks. I have been apart of and worked closely with severel LGBTQ organizations, including UAF Gender and Sexuality Alliances I would like to thank Senator Gardner and Health and Social Services Committee for this bill. This addition is exactly the long anticipated and well needed protections for the LGBTQ community. Not only that, but this is necessary and essential in every single aspect of our livelihood and safety. It is essential for our students, k-12 and post secondary, to job security and workplace safety, for home ownership and other living accomadations, for the ability and access to public goods and services, and ^{for} our community of diversity and inclusivity. If anything has taught about equal rights bills, it's to be specific about the people, "who" you're trying to protect. The bill's current definition of sexual orientation is a start, a very good start, but I would like to add the following for conditions: asexuality and pansexuality. This will further strength^{en} ~~and toward~~ the inclusivity of this essential bill. Nothing warms my heart to think we have a future in Alaska where all of us will be treated with equality, respect, justice, and inclusivity. Thank you.

SIGNED: Alyssa Quintyne
 Testifier

~~UAF~~ UAF Gender and Sexuality Alliance
 Representing

Fairbanks AK 99709
 Address / Phone Number

y



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the _____


Committee on SB 72 Bill / Subject Committee Name _____
Dated 3/31/2017

Senators -

As a Fairbanksan I ask you to support SB72. Honestly, this seems rather straightforward - it won't hurt our budget, our economy, or any people. ~~Indeed~~ Indeed, I feel it can do nothing but help our community become a safer and stronger place. Let's send a message to the rest of the country that despite being in the relative hinterlands of the country we are a modern welcoming place.

Thank you
Lindsey Parkinson

SIGNED:

 _____ Lindsey Parkinson
Testifier

_____ Myself
Representing

_____ RD, Fairbanks
Address / Phone Number

y



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the _____
 Committee on SB 72 Committee Name _____
 Bill / Subject Dated 3/31/17

I am a former public school teacher from Fairbanks. I am a lesbian. In my 30 years in Alaska, I have faced discrimination several times due to my sexual orientation. To those who say that discrimination based on sexual orientation is not a problem in Alaska I say this, "walk in my shoes". Now, more than ever, we need protection — the same afforded to others. LGBT people are not going to go away. Making life even harder for us is not going to change that. Do the right thing, pass SB 72. We (all Alaskans) are in this together & we must protect one group to protect all.

SIGNED:

 Testifier Lisa Slayton

 Representing LGBT & All Alaskans

 Address / Phone Number Wray, Fairbanks Alaska
(907)

y



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Health / Social Service
 Committee on Senate Bill 72 Dated March 31, 2017
Committee Name
Bill / Subject

I support, and encourage you to support, Senate Bill 72.

All people deserve and need to feel safe in our society - for work, home and in general.

I personally appreciate the diversity of cultures, races, LGBTQ etc in this country. - Such diversity makes us rich and better!

Please support SB 72. Thank you!

SIGNED: Marilyn Russell
 Testifier

self
 Representing

SP
 Address / Phone Number Fbx AK 99701

907.7...

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ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Health + Social Services
Committee Name
 Committee on SB72 Dated 3.31.17
Bill / Subject

I urge you to enact and include the prohibiting
 the discrimination based on sexual orientation
 or gender identity or expression.

All of Alaska's citizens deserve protection as
 expressed in this legislation

SIGNED: Lauree Walton Lauree Walton
Testifier

self and member of Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Ft. St. George
Representing

Fairbanks AK 99712
Address / Phone Number

9

Jody Simpson

From: River Ramuglia <r
Sent: Friday, March 31, 2017 3:54 AM
To: Sen. David Wilson; Sen. Natasha Von Imhof; Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Tom Begich
Subject: Senate Bill 72

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Members of the Health and Social Services Committee,

My name is River Ramuglia. I am writing to urge you to support Senator Berta Gardner's efforts to strengthen Alaska's Human Rights statutes by including a prohibition against discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations, and banking based on gender identity, orientation or expression.

As a gay man, I have first-hand experience when it comes to this issue. I was born and raised in Alaska, attended Anchorage public schools, used to work for the State, and intend to return to Alaska upon completion of my PhD. I certainly hope that, after all this time, Alaska will be a more welcoming place than it was when I was growing up. I am weary of hearing arguments that discrimination "is not an issue," often from heterosexual people unaware of the privilege conferred upon those whose sexual orientation corresponds to a heteronormative paradigm.

Let me tell you from experience: it wreaks incredible psychological havoc to be forced to hide one's sexual orientation in school, in the workplace, or when you're trying to rent an apartment for the first time, especially when you know that being who you are has social and professional repercussions. I know married members of the gay community in Alaska who must conceal their identities and hide their spouses because they know the consequences would result in termination of their employment. Surely I do not need to remind you of the vitriolic hate that came to the surface of our community in the summer of 2009, when the assembly passed a non-discrimination ordinance subsequently vetoed by then-Mayor Dan Sullivan. Do you need any more evidence that this type of discrimination exists in Alaska than the horrific signs and t-shirts wielded and worn by those testifying against the ordinance? Can you imagine what it would be like to have a person like that as your landlord, clinging to an affordable apartment in an overcrowded, overpriced rental market? Or, what if your landlord knew your sexual orientation or identity and decided to increase your rent twofold? Unfortunately, this is the reality faced by many LGBT Alaskans, and I have heard far too many stories of this happening to my friends.

I urge you to consider the consequences of North Carolina's passage of the "bathroom bill," a law unfairly targeting transgender people that cost the state billions (yes, billions) in revenue and investment from companies and organizations who realized the dangerous societal consequences of marginalizing any particular group in a population. In Alaska's current fiscal climate, how wise is it to make a state even more unappealing to outside investment? We should be trying to attract top talent from across the nation and spur further investment in Alaska to ensure a stable future. Passing Senator Gardner's bill would send a message that Alaska is a welcoming place for everyone. Let's find the Tim Cook of Alaska who can revolutionize our state and make it competitive for a 21st-century global economy. Senator Gardner's bill is a positive step in that direction.

Sincerely,
River Ramuglia

From: [Alavini](#)
To: [Sen. David Wilson](#); [Sen. Natasha Von Imhof](#); [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#); [Sen. Peter Micciche](#); [Sen. Tom Begich](#)
Cc: [Sen. Berta Gardner](#)
Subject: Senate Bill 72 Letter of Support
Date: Saturday, April 01, 2017 11:37:45 AM
Attachments: [SB72 Discrimination Ordinance Testimony.docx](#)

Hello,

I didn't have a chance to testify on Friday but wanted to send you my written testimony.

Thank you Chairman Wilson and committee members for holding these hearings and allowing for public testimony. My name is Vini Lata of Juneau. I'm writing to encourage you to pass this SB72 out of Committee. You may have already been informed that Alaska has the highest suicide and alcohol/drug misuse rates in the country. Being transgender is a mental illness which will soon change, as a new edition of the International Classification of Diseases (ICD), it's the global codebook that influences national disease diagnostic manuals worldwide. The current version, ICD-10, has been around since 1990 and ICD-11 is expected to be approved in 2018. The goal for the declassification is to improve the access to healthcare but these Alaskan citizens still suffer from discrimination in housing, workforce which ties back to increased risk in negative behaviors to cope. Alaskan who are LGBT experience a lot of distress. Studies by the World Health Organization found distress and dysfunction were very powerfully predicted by the experiences of social rejection or violence that people had and they were not actually predicted by gender incongruence itself. Being LGBT doesn't have to equate to suffering. It's actually the external factors that cause the suffering: the societal stigma, the violence, and the prejudices. Remove them, and all that remains is the healthy individual. Young people who grow up in supportive environments" are not particularly distressed. They are receiving adequate social support, they come from families that are not treating them with stigmatization and violence, and they expect that there will be services available to them. So there's no reason for them to be distressed. Over and over again research has shown that those who experience LGBT discrimination may still activate negative coping strategies involving drug abuse, substance misuse, depression and suicide regardless of the stress they cause. This ties back to home for Alaska who also rates high in Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE) scores. I will be seeking letters of support from the State Suicide Prevention Council and the Alaska Mental Health Boards as well as the Governors Board of Alcohol and Drug Abuse. How I see it, discrimination, as long as it exist in society, contributes to the factors and risk behaviors that contribute to the mission of these two vital boards.

Thank you,

Jody Simpson

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From: Amy Tanna <atanna@alaska.gov>
Sent: Saturday, April 01, 2017 1:52 PM
To: Senate Health and Social Services
Subject: Bill SB 72

Dear Alaska Senators,

Thank you for collecting public testimony on this bill.

SB 72 provides an important and necessary addition to Alaska's existing anti-discrimination laws in order to ensure truly equal rights for our LGBTQ neighbors, friends, and families. I have lived in Alaska for almost five years and consider it my home; it is my sincere hope and belief that all residents of our state should be afforded the same rights and opportunities that I have been given regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity or expression. Thank you to Senator Gardner for introducing this legislation, and thank you to all of our legislators for considering this important update in order to ensure that we remain an inclusive and progressive state that truly represents freedom for all.

Sincerely,

Amy Tanna
Fairbanks, AK 99709

From: [Shanah Stone](#)
To: [Sen. Berta Gardner](#)
Subject: SB 72
Date: Saturday, April 01, 2017 7:12:29 PM

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Dear Legislators:

Just as there should be no discrimination on race, sex, color, or religion, there should be no discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity, or expression.

I know this discrimination exists and needs protection. I've seen the pain some of these people go through working at API.

I myself have suffered discrimination as a female, as a Jew, as a democrat working for a right wing republican boss in a state job.

I can more than imagine the pain and suffering in others, I have seen it.

We can not be like other backwards thinking communities and states. This is the morally right and thing to do.

Sincerely,

Shoshanah Stone
Anchorage, AK 99515
907-

Jody Simpson

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From: Elizabeth Wachel <elizabeth.wachel@alaska.gov>
Sent: Sunday, April 02, 2017 8:00 PM
To: Senate Health and Social Services
Subject: Senate Bill 72

Dear Senate Health and Social Services Committee,

My name is Elizabeth Wachel. I live in Fairbanks Senate District A and I would like to testify regarding Senate Bill 72. I am an Alaskan voter; I live and work in Alaska, and I was very worried when I discovered that there are no state laws protecting the LGBT community from discrimination including job and housing loss. The reality of being able to lose everything you have worked for because of who you are or who you are perceived to be is unacceptable. I understand that state employees have some additional protection from job loss due to discrimination, so why can't everyone in the state have these sorts of protections.

I am asking that you please move this bill from committee meetings to a vote in the state senate. Discrimination is real and every human being has a right to be treated with dignity and respect.

Thank you for your attention to this matter,

Elizabeth Wachel

From: Monte Lynn Jordan <mjresource...>
Sent: Sunday, April 02, 2017 7:21 PM
To: Senate Health and Social Services
Subject: SB72

My name is Monte Lynn Jordan (Ms). I am not sure of my exact legislative district but my zip code is 99709. I have lived in Fairbanks since 1977 and several other places such as Glennallen, Delta, Anchorage dating back to 1966. All 3 of my children were born in Alaska and two graduated from UAF.

I was born in 1943 and graduated from high school in 1961. I have seen many changes during that time in how people in our country interact and accept each other. Many ways of relating to each other in the work place and in our communities have changed but more change is needed. I grew up believing that in the United States everyone was equal and would be treated that way. However I learned that wasn't exactly how our country (The Home of the Free) was, exactly. Many people have changed their attitudes toward one another, especially those who are not quite like them in various ways and beliefs. However, it is always uncomfortable and never easy to give up beliefs and behaviors that we grew up believing in. Nevertheless, if we are going to be a country that holds ourselves out to be against discrimination, to treat our citizens, all citizens, equally then we must live our convictions. I am not personally part of the LGBT community but I do have good friends that are.

Therefore, I support SB72 and believe it is time that there is progress now so SB72 can become the law in Alaska.

Thank you,

Monte L. Jordan
P.O. Box '
Fairbanks,AK 99707

From: hillary Webber <hillary_v...>
Sent: Sunday, April 02, 2017 3:50 PM
To: Senate Health and Social Services
Subject: SB 72

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Hillary Brandenburg, and I am a resident of Fairbanks, Alaska. I am e-mailing to notify the Senate Health and Social Services Committee of Alaska that I support the addition of "sexual orientation" and "gender identity and expression" to the state anti-discrimination statute. I believe this change is important for ensuring liberty and inclusion for LGBTQI Alaskans. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Hillary Brandenburg

Jody Simpson

Y-

From: Gretchen Nelson <glnelson1@alaska.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 03, 2017 1:29 PM
To: Senate Health and Social Services
Cc: Sen. Berta Gardner
Subject: In support of HB 184 SB 72

I am writing in support of equality for all and ask that you support these two pieces of legislation. Please convince your colleagues as well, that this is the right thing to do. We must extend crucial protections that end discrimination toward those in our community who identify as lesbian, gay, trans gender, or bisexual. By embracing diversity in our communities we will improve our workforce, support families who contribute to our city and provide basic right to people who also live, work and play in our great state.

Thank you for your work to do the right thing.
Gretchen Nelson

-
Anchorage, AK 99508

Jody Simpson

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From: Paul Boling <paul.l...n>
Sent: Monday, April 03, 2017 10:22 AM
To: Sen. David Wilson; Sen. Natasha Von Imhof; Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Tom Begich
Subject: SB 72

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Greetings Senators David Wilson, Natasha von Imhof, Cathy Giessel, Peter Micciche, and Tom Begich:

I strongly believe it's the State's responsibility to defend the rights of every Alaskan and to safeguard them from discrimination.

I support SB 72.

Please stand up for the residents of our great State and disregard the position of religious organizations and individuals that promote or support discrimination.

Thank you for protecting the rights of every Alaskan,

Rev. Paul L. Boling

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Jody Simpson

y

From: Barbara Belknap <barb@alaska.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 04, 2017 12:04 PM
To: Sen. Berta Gardner; Sen. David Wilson; Sen. Tom Begich; Sen. Natasha Von Imhof; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Dennis Egan; Representative.Cathy.Munoz@akleg.gov; Rep. Sam Kito
Subject: Senate Bill 62 - Do not codify discrimination against LGBTQ Alaskans

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

I live in Juneau, Alaska, and urge you to pass Senate Bill 62 and make it the law.

Martin Luther King said, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." We have a state Constitution that clearly affords justice towards all. It is simply and unequivocally stated in the Alaska Constitution in Article I, Section One on Inherent Rights, where it says, "...all persons are equal and entitled to equal rights, opportunities, and protection under the law."

What are we? Mississippi? South Carolina? Indiana? With an ugly history of discrimination against Alaska Natives, one would think legislators in Alaska would steer clear of singling out any group for discrimination. The trend in the United States is to legalize same sex marriage, not go out of our way to codify discrimination. Large corporations have pulled out of states that allow discrimination against LGBTQ citizens. I doubt the oil companies would do that, but the trend is not towards more discrimination, but for less. Thousands of Alaskans all over the state have gay family members. My sister is gay.

There is actually a website (movoto.com) that provides the names of communities that are LGBTQ friendly. Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau, Talkeetna, Dutch Harbor, Cold Bay, and Barrow are listed as "protective enclaves" for LGBT people. That is a good start. Please make it statewide.

Barbara Belknap

Juneau, AK

Jody Simpson

y

From: Lily Cohen <lily.ra...>
Sent: Tuesday, April 04, 2017 5:15 PM
To: Senate Health and Social Services
Subject: I support SB72

Dear Lawmakers,

I urge you to stop make it illegal to discriminate against people based on their sexual orientation or gender identity. Its absurd that this is still legal in Alaska.

I wish I could speak to you in person at the hearing on Monday the 10th. I will be on the east coast to celebrate my cousin's wedding! So I cannot say that I am sad to miss the hearing because I will be participating in a joyous event. I also would have come to the hearing last week, but alas, I was doing field work in Nome. This email will have to suffice.

Thank you!

Lily Cohen
Fairbanks Resident

Jody Simpson

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From: Tully LaBelle-Hamer <blabe
Sent: Tuesday, April 04, 2017 4:25 PM
To: Senate Health and Social Services; Sen. Berta Gardner
Subject: SB 72 - Support

To the members of the Health and Social Services Committee,

Please support SB 72 and pass protections for LGBTQ Alaskans. No one should be fired or denied housing simply because of who they are.

Thank you,

Brendan Tully LaBelle-Hamer
Anchorage, AK

Jody Simpson

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From: Anne Ruggles <[redacted]>
Sent: Wednesday, April 05, 2017 10:33 AM
To: Senate Health and Social Services
Subject: SB 72

To Members of the Senate Health and Social Services Committee:

This email is my written testimony in support of SB 72. It is time for us to treat everyone equally no matter their color, gender, or sexual orientation. If we don't do this we are losing the creativity, expertise, and hard work of many of our fellow citizens. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important bill. I urge you to pass the bill out of committee.

Sincerely,
Anne Ruggles

Fairbanks, AK

Anne Ruggles

Jody Simpson

cf

From: Larri Spengler <lspen@alaska.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 05, 2017 4:09 PM
To: Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Natasha Von Imhof; Sen. Tom Begich; Sen. David Wilson; Sen. Peter Micciche
Cc: Sen. Berta Gardner; Sen. Dennis Egan
Subject: yes on SB 72

Hello —

I strongly strongly support SB 72, the anti-discrimination bill.

In Alaska statutes, the protection of basic civil rights has been extended to a variety of classes including "race, religion, color, national ancestry, physical or mental disability, age, sex, marital status, change in marital status, pregnancy, or parenthood." Given the history of attacks on the civil rights of those within the LGBTQ community in Alaska, it is imperative that "sexual orientation, gender identity, or expression" be added to that list.

Please support quick and positive action on this bill.

Thank you.

Larri Spengler

Larri Irene Spengler

Juneau, Alaska 99801

Jody Simpson

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From: Nithya Thiru <nith,
Sent: Wednesday, April 05, 2017 10:39 PM
To: Senate Health and Social Services
Cc: Sen. Berta Gardner
Subject: Expressing Support for SB72

To the Members of the Health and Social Services Committee,

As a lifelong Alaskan who believes firmly in equality and human dignity, I would like to express my support of SB72, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity or expression.

These same protections are now included in the University of Alaska's nondiscrimination policy, as well as Anchorage's municipal code. It was my honor to participate in the movements that made those policies possible.

In 2011, I testified to the University of Alaska Board of Regents in favor of protecting the rights of the LGBTQ+ community. At that time, I quoted Albus Dumbledore, a wizard from the Harry Potter series who also happens to be a gay man. During a turbulent and divisive period in wizarding history he said, "Difference of habit and language are nothing at all if our aims are identical and our hearts are open."

I think we all know that Alaska is stronger when we work together, when we are inclusive and most importantly, when we lead with love.

I was born and raised in Alaska. I was educated here, I work here and I continue to have a large stake in the future of this community. I also happen to be a queer person of color. This bill matters deeply to me, and I know it matters deeply to people across the state of Alaska. It is my hope that you pass this bill on to the senate floor, and that together we ensure the passage of an incredibly vital, and historically significant piece of legislation.

Sincerely,
Nithya Thiru

Jody Simpson

JS

From: morganhostin.
Sent: Wednesday, April 05, 2017 6:20 PM
To: Senate Health and Social Services
Subject: SB72

To whom it may be concerned,

My name is Morgan Hostina, I am a lifelong resident of Fairbanks, AK. I am writing to show my support for Senate Bill 72.

Over 200 years ago Thomas Jefferson wrote in the Declaration of Independence that "All men are created equal." I think that it is no far stretch to say that in the 21st century that it is absurd that one could not have protections from discrimination just because the person that they love is the same gender. We will have a happier, healthier and more productive society if we ensure same protections and opportunities to all peoples.

Thanks for your service and your consideration,

MDH

Jody Simpson

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From: Dael Devenport <dae@...>
Sent: Thursday, April 06, 2017 9:40 AM
To: Senate Health and Social Services
Subject: Alaska Senate Bill 72

Please support SB 72 to protect people from discrimination based on their sexual orientation, gender identity or expression. Homophobia is, as Dan Savage says, 'misogyny's snot-nosed little brother'. As I'm sure you know, we have incredibly high rates of violence against women in Alaska. Freedom from discrimination will allow us to start working towards safe, healthy communities for everyone. I urge you to pass the bill out of committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Dael Devenport
Anchorage, Alaska

With compassion for all beings

Jody Simpson

J

From: Judy <judyw7 - >
Sent: Thursday, April 06, 2017 8:04 AM
To: Senate Health and Social Services
Subject: This email serves to provide written testimony in support of SB 72.

To Members of the Senate Health and Social Services Committee:

I was a young adult in Chicago in the 1970s, when there was an explosion of people who finally found the courage to let the world see who they really were. I have many, many friends...smart, artistic, talented, professional people...who are living authentic lives. I find it astonishing that some people -- almost FIFTY years later -- are still trying to limit their rights, still angry that those in the LGBTQ community aren't still hiding in closets.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important bill. I urge you to pass the bill out of committee.

Sincerely,
Judy Williams

Eagle River, AK 99577

Sent from my iPad



4/7/017

Re: Support SB 72

Dear Senate Health and Social Services Committee,

We are writing in support of Senate Bill 72, which we expect to reduce sex trafficking of youth and reduce the number of adults who find themselves with few viable options for survival outside of prostitution in Alaska. The Community United for Safety and Protection is a group of current and former sex workers, sex trafficking victims, and allies working towards safety and protection for everyone in Alaska's sex trade.

Senate Bill 72 is long overdue and will prevent and provide an avenue to address discrimination against Alaskans who are lesbian, gay, bi, and transgender.

Lesbian, gay, bi, and transgender youth are disproportionately likely to experience homelessness and disproportionately likely to experience discrimination in accessing shelter and then turn to trading sex for survival. Youth like this (known as "domestic minor sex trafficking victims") make up the majority of sex trafficking victims in the United States. A 2015 study* of 283 LGBTQ youth engaged in survival sex work in New York City found that youth engaged in survival sex work "after being kicked out by their families or being denied services at homeless shelters." Eliminating discrimination against LGBTQ youth by shelters and other crisis services will prevent a large percentage of sex trafficking of youth in Alaska.

LGBT adults, particularly transgender adults, face discrimination in employment that can leave them with few or no viable options outside of sex work. One 2015 study** found that 69% of transgender sex workers had recently experienced a negative job outcome. Alaskan research*** has found that employment discrimination is a causal factor for transgender Alaskans entering the sex industry. Transgender sex workers face discrimination within the sex

industry in the form of lower pay, less access to safety tools, and are targeted for violence and arrest at a higher rate. In 2014, the only sex worker to be arrested for prostitution more than once in Alaska was a homeless transgender woman in Anchorage who may have had no other opportunities for economic survival.

In addition to reducing sex trafficking, this bill will reduce money spent on police investigations, incarcerating sex workers and sex trafficking victims, and prevent people from becoming a financial burden on the state after incarceration.

Please vote yes on Senate Bill 72.

Thank you,

Terra Burns
Maxine Doogan
Kat McElroy
Crystal Godby

*Banuelos, Connor, Dank, Madden, Mora, Ritchie, Yahner, & Yu. Surviving the Streets of New York: Experiences of LGBTQ Youth, YMSM, and YSWW Engaged in Survival Sex.

** Elspeth, Hickey, & Patterson. Meaningful Work: Transgender Experiences in the Sex Trade.

*** Burns. People in Alaska's Sex Trade: Their Lived Experiences and Policy Recommendations.

g

From: Jamie Hutson <
Sent: Friday, April 07, 2017 9:41 AM
To: Senate Health and Social Services
Subject: I support SB 72

Hello Alaska senate. I am writing to tell you that I fully support SB 72 the bill that will add gender identity and sexual orientation to the list of things that are not okay to discriminate against. I have many LGBT friends but the gender identity parts hits hard for me. The love of my life is a transgender male. He started using the men's room in 2013 a little while after he started hormones because he scared a woman when he was just washing his hands. She asked if she was in the wrong bathroom. He had to explain to her that he is transgender and she told him that it might be wise to use the men's room from then on. He hates the fact that there are people that want to change the anti discrimination ordinance and force him to use the women's room just because of what is on his birth certificate. He feels utterly disgusted and feels like a pervert when he thinks about having to use the women's room. He doesn't belong in the women's room just as how my transgender female friends do not belong in the men's room. So please support SB 72. Protect my LGBT friends and love from hate.

Jody Simpson

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From: Sarah Seifert <sei>
Sent: Friday, April 07, 2017 12:50 PM
To: Senate Health and Social Services
Subject: Alaska Senate Bill 72

Good Afternoon,

I have written to you today to express my support of Senate Bill 72, which seeks to add sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression to Alaska's non-discrimination laws. Though I will be returning to Alaska when my contract is finished, I am currently living overseas, and thus unable to attend the public hearing for this bill. However, I assure you, protecting my friends, family, and myself from discrimination is of the utmost importance to me. Please pass bill 72 so that the people I care about and myself as well do not risk being fired simply for having the audacity to exist. Allowing for people and businesses to discriminate against other Alaskans because they don't like who they are and/or how they dress is a ludicrous prospect which should be wholly rejected, and is fundamentally inhumane and counter to everything Alaska stands for.

Thank you for your time,
Sarah Margaret Seifert
I
Fairbanks, AK

From: Patricia Minatani
To: Sen. Berta Gardner
Subject: Support for Senate Bill 72
Date: Friday, April 07, 2017 10:07:10 AM

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Dear Ms. Gardner,

I am writing to send you my strong support of SB72 that would expand the current anti-discrimination statutes to include protections against discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. It seems incredible to me that we are still debating constitutionally protected freedoms for all citizens in the U.S. It is clear that the 14th amendment to the Constitution provides for equal treatment of everyone under the law. What is it so difficult to conclude that this amendment includes protection for everyone? I am so glad that you are there to bring this to the table once again, and if we need to mandate equality for everyone, then we need to!

Thank you very much for your enduring steadfastness on this issue!

Sincerely,
Patricia Steen

Jody Simpson

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From: Caitlin Taylor <cait
Sent: Saturday, April 08, 2017 7:42 PM
To: Senate Health and Social Services
Cc: Sen. Berta Gardner
Subject: Support for SB 72

Hello to the Health and Social Services Committee,

I am a born-and-raised lesbian Alaskan, product of our education system, and proud to serve my home by working in the nonprofit sector. My similarly lesbian born-and-raised Alaskan girlfriend is wrapping up a double major at the University of Alaska, Anchorage. Together, we frequently question whether to make this state our home for the future. I wish to echo previous SB 72 testimony about the reluctance to stay in Alaska without a paradigm shift. We want to live in places that protect and respect our community. That said, I strongly believe in the adoption of policy that distinguishes Alaska as a welcoming place for all.

As a past president of UAA's LGBTQ+ club, The Family, I encouraged us to celebrate and be proud of our progress—but the fight for acceptance is far from over. This is still the place where Identity Inc.'s flag is burned on a regular basis. Please remember, regardless of whether the policy exists, we the community exist. I have watched the LGBTQ+ people of UAA struggling to come out to the RA's in the dorms, tentatively holding hands at Campus Kickoff, thrilled to use preferred pronouns in safe spaces, and passionately defending their identity in Gender classes. Whether these small victories extend to the workplace is another story. While I have been excited to work for an inclusive organization, my girlfriend and I are both used to the exhaustion of lying about our sexual orientation until safety is certain. From a handful of students to strangers, I have been harassed for being a woman-loving-woman. This anecdote is shared by many. The fundamental issue remains—they are starved for representation and an understanding culture in our state.

The future I want to create, with help from the passing of SB 72, is an atmosphere of resiliency for our Alaska's LGBTQ+ youth. Bringing this ideology to state-level is incredibly important, especially with current sentiment in our federal administration. I strongly support SB 72 as an investment in the willingness of young, bright, talented people to stay in Alaska, and as necessary recourse for discriminatory injustice. Thank you to all who have worked to make this policy our reality.

Sincerely,

Caitlin Taylor

Jody Simpson

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From: Sherri W <hc...>
Sent: Saturday, April 08, 2017 11:58 PM
To: Sen. David Wilson; Sen. Natasha Von Imhof; Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Tom Begich
Subject: SB 72

Dear Members of the Health and Social Services Committee.

One of my proudest moments being a citizen of Juneau was when they added the appropriate LGBTQ+ language to their non-discrimination law. Having said that it is obvious that I am in full support of SB72. Unfortunately I was unable to attend the previous hearing and will not be able to attend the one on Monday. However, I felt it important that you understood my reasons for supporting SB72 and so I have attached what I said last June when I testified in support of the Juneau ordinance. If you change "Juneau" to "Alaska" the sentiments are still the same. Please support SB72.

Thank you,

Sherri Wes

Juneau, AK 99801
907-419-0842.

Jody Simpson

g

From: Eric Muehling <ericr
Sent: Sunday, April 09, 2017 5:06 PM
To: Senate Health and Social Services
Subject: Senate Bill 72 -- Strong support

Dear HSS committee members,

I strongly support Senate Bill 72.

Discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity and expression must end.

Legislation alone will not change prejudice, but legislation can change behavior.

Everyone deserves to be treated with basic human dignity, and equality in housing, education, banking and public accommodation. To this end legislation is required.

Please be on the side of respecting the basic human dignity of all people, and ensuring it with legislation.

Eric Muehling
Fairbanks, Alaska

Jody Simpson

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From: Janet Curran <jan
Sent: Sunday, April 09, 2017 8:43 PM
To: Senate Health and Social Services; Sen. Berta Gardner
Subject: written testimony in support of SB72

Senate Health and Social Services Committee,

This email provides written testimony in support of SB 72, prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity or expression.

As the parent of a 12 year old who recently found a name to describe the gender identity he'd always felt – genderfluid, meaning sometimes a boy and sometimes a girl, and sometimes not really any gender at all – I strongly support adding gender identity to the list of restrictions from discrimination. When my child came forward with this news, his classmates and friends were fairly nonplussed. Much like someone celebrating a birthday, he's still the same person he was yesterday, just with a new label, and this amazingly supportive community of his school-age peers took it in stride. I deeply regret that we as an adult community cannot yet offer this smart, compassionate child the promise of protection from discrimination as he grows up to become a productive member of society, maybe the architect he dreams of being. Viewing the world through such binary filters – boy/girl, gay/straight – often generates fear of those for whom this just doesn't fit and misses the point that we are all people. Acceptance among young people allows children such as my son to live without hiding his identity, without pretending to be something he's not, but change needs to happen at the legislative level to set the tone and serve as a guide for an adult community still grappling with these issues. It is imperative that we not allow a person's gender identity to stand in the way of such a necessary function as employment, such a basic need as public accommodation, such a simple pursuit as rental housing, or the other conditions covered by SB 72. Please take this opportunity to afford these protections so that children such as my son have a bright future to look forward to.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I urge you to pass this important and timely bill out of committee.

Sincerely,

Janet Curran

Anchorage, AK 99508

Jody Simpson

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From: Chelsea Lindquist <...>
Sent: Sunday, April 09, 2017 10:49 PM
To: Sen. David Wilson
Subject: SB72

Hello,

I am writing to voice my support for SB72, proposed by Senator Gardner, which would add sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression" to our existing state's anti-discrimination law.

The LGBT+ community is one of our most vulnerable and discriminated against and these protections are much needed. All people are deserving of the same rights under the law, regardless of sexual orientation.

I urge you to support this bill and show that Alaska is a state that values every citizen and protects the rights of every citizen. By passing this bill you can have a great impact for good for those whose only wish is to live their lives without harassment or discrimination.

Thank you for your time,

Chelsea Vukovich
99516

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From: Meghan Maroney
Sent: Sunday, April 09, 2017 3:17 PM
To: Sen. David Wilson; Sen. Natasha Von Imhof
Subject: Fwd: SB 72

> Dear Senators Wilson and Von Imhof,

>

> I am writing to request that you vote to pass Senate Bill 72 through committee. SB72 is something that all Alaskans can get behind. Sexual orientation and gender identity have no relationship to workplace performance. Hardworking Alaskans shouldn't be fired because of who they love, or how they express their gender identity. Because of discrimination, many LGBTQ employees hide their identities, are paid less and have fewer employment opportunities than their non-LGBTQ counterparts. This prejudice puts LGBTQ people at an increased risk for poor physical and mental health. Like everyone else, LGBTQ Alaskans just want to be self-sufficient productive members of society. Please give the Senate a chance to vote on this bill by passing it through committee.

>

> Thank you,
> Meghan Maroney

>

> Fairbanks, AK

Jody Simpson

Y

From: Angela Larson <[redacted]>
Sent: Sunday, April 09, 2017 3:18 PM
To: Sen. Natasha Von Imhof; Sen. David Wilson
Cc: Sen. John Coghill; Sen. Pete Kelly; Sen. Click Bishop
Subject: In favor of Senate Bill 72

Dear Senators,

I am writing to request that you vote to pass Senate Bill 72 through committee. Sexual orientation and gender identity have no relationship to workplace performance. Hardworking Alaskans shouldn't be fired because of who they love, or how they express their gender identity. Because of discrimination, many LGBTQ employees hide their identities, are paid less and have fewer employment opportunities than their non-LGBTQ counterparts. This prejudice puts LGBTQ people at an increased risk for poor physical and mental health. Like everyone else, LGBTQ Alaskans just want to be self-sufficient productive members of society. Please give the Senate a chance to vote on this bill by passing it through committee. Thank you.

Angela

Jody Simpson

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From: Emily <
Sent: Sunday, April 09, 2017 3:29 PM
To: Sen. Natasha Von Imhof; Sen. David Wilson
Cc: Rep. David Guttenberg; Sen. John Coghill
Subject: Senate bill 72

Dear Senator Von Imhof and Senator Wilson,

Please pass Senate Bill 72 through committee. Sexual orientation and gender identity have no relationship to workplace performance and people should be free to be themselves in the workplace. Thank you for allowing this bill to come to a vote.

Emily Vockeroth

le

Fairbanks 99712

Jody Simpson

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From: Terra Burns <se
Sent: Sunday, April 09, 2017 5:50 PM
To: Maxine
Subject: Support for SB 72
Attachments: SupportforSB72.pdf

Dear Senate Health and Social Services Committee,

We are writing in support of Senate Bill 72, which we expect to reduce sex trafficking of youth and reduce the number of adults who find themselves with few viable options for survival outside of prostitution in Alaska. The Community United for Safety and Protection is a group of current and former sex workers, sex trafficking victims, and allies working towards safety and protection for everyone in Alaska's sex trade.

Senate Bill 72 is long overdue and will prevent and provide an avenue to address discrimination against Alaskans who are lesbian, gay, bi, and transgender.

Lesbian, gay, bi, and transgender youth are disproportionately likely to experience homelessness and disproportionately likely to experience discrimination in accessing shelter and then turn to trading sex for survival. Youth like this (known as "domestic minor sex trafficking victims") make up the majority of sex trafficking victims in the United States. A 2015 study* of 283 LGBTQ youth engaged in survival sex work in New York City found that youth engaged in survival sex work "after being kicked out by their families or being denied services at homeless shelters." Eliminating discrimination against LGBTQ youth by shelters and other crisis services will prevent a large percentage of sex trafficking of youth in Alaska.

LGBT adults, particularly transgender adults, face discrimination in employment that can leave them with few or no viable options outside of sex work. One 2015 study** found that 69% of transgender sex workers had recently experienced a negative job outcome. Alaskan research*** has found that employment discrimination is a causal factor for transgender Alaskans entering the sex industry. Transgender sex workers face discrimination within the sex industry in the form of lower pay, less access to safety tools, and are targeted for violence and arrest at a higher rate. In 2014, the only sex worker to be arrested for prostitution more than once in Alaska was a homeless transgender woman in Anchorage who may have had no other opportunities for economic survival.

In addition to reducing sex trafficking, this bill will reduce money spent on police investigations, incarcerating sex workers and sex trafficking victims, and prevent people from becoming a financial burden on the state after incarceration.

Please vote yes on Senate Bill 72.

Thank you,

Terra Burns

Maxine Doogan

Kat McElroy

Crystal Godby

*Banuelos, Connor, Dank, Madden, Mora, Ritchie, Yahner, & Yu. Surviving the Streets of New York: Experiences of LGBTQ Youth, YMSM, and YWSW Engaged in Survival Sex.

** Elspeth, Hickey, & Patterson. Meaningful Work: Transgender Experiences in the Sex Trade.

*** Burns. People in Alaska's Sex Trade: Their Lived Experiences and Policy Recommendations.

From: [Farrah Greene](#)
To: [Sen. Berta Gardner](#)
Subject: LGBTQ Anti-Discrimination Law
Date: Sunday, April 09, 2017 5:02:37 PM

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Dear Senator:

As a Christian, black woman, and psychologist, I'd like to write a statement of support for Senate Bill (SB) 72. As a Christian, I firmly believe that hate is not a true Christian value, and that discrimination itself is a sin. As a black woman, I am saddened that laws allow for the discrimination of others, which negatively impact their life, safety, and well-being. Similarly, as a psychologist specializing in suicide prevention I am aware of the negative impact that discrimination and social condemnation can have on others, especially our youth. An anti-discrimination law can provide hope to those hopeless, and have a positive impact on youth mental health and well being, and lower suicide attempts and deaths.

Moreover, discrimination can have a negative impact on others besides those persecuted. Those engaging in bullying, hate crimes, or simple discrimination can also be negatively impacted by these actions. Encouraging discrimination and hate can lead to the encouragement of hate crimes and other violence. Thus, causing our whole society to suffer.

I have family, friends, church members, former students, patients, classmates who identified as LGBTQ and are upstanding citizens who contribute good to the world. Not only is it morally reprehensible to deny them a fair chance to achieve their true potential, but discrimination forces them to live underground where many can be taken advantage of and forced into lives deleterious to all of us.

Thank you for your consideration.

--

Farrah N. Greene-Palmer, Ph.D.

From: Sarah Isto
To: Sen. Berta Gardner
Subject: Senate Bill 72 statement of support
Date: Sunday, April 09, 2017 6:01:18 PM

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I am a long-term Alaskan, born in the territory and licensed to practice medicine in the state since 1981. I support Senate Bill 72.

In caring for patients, I was aware of the stress that discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity has caused for some Alaskans and their families. As most of us are aware, stress often leads to negative effects on health. On a broader scale, permitting discrimination with the conflict it causes is not conducive to healthy communities.

I urge this committee and the legislature as a whole to support Senate Bill 72.

Sarah A. Isto, M.D.

Juneau, AK 99801

Jody Simpson

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From: nordic <
Sent: Monday, April 10, 2017 9:40 AM
To: Senate Health and Social Services; Sen. Berta Gardner
Subject: I support anti-discrimination bill, S.B. 72.

I support S.B. 72. It's time to put into law the sentiments of the majority of Alaskans: equality for all.

Thank you.

Constance Quinley, Constituent

Anchorage, AK 99508

From: [Rebecca Noblin](#)
To: [Sen. Berta Gardner](#)
Subject: I support SB72
Date: Monday, April 10, 2017 8:45:17 AM

y

Senator Gardner,

I live and work in Anchorage and am raising my children here. I support SB72 because I want to live in a place where everyone feels safe and welcomed. I teach my children that we treat all people with fairness, kindness and empathy, and our laws should reflect those values.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Noblin
Anchorage, AK 99517

From: Julie Kaufman
To: Sen. Berta Gardner
Subject: Senate Bill 72
Date: Monday, April 10, 2017 8:26:29 AM

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I am writing in strong support of Senate Bill 72. It is critical that the rights of Alaskans of all sexual orientations and gender identities are protected under the law.

Thank you for addressing this important issue.

Julie Kaufman

Fairbanks, AK 99709

From: Molly Zaleski
To: Sen. Berta Gardner
Subject: Senate Bill 72
Date: Monday, April 10, 2017 9:53:50 AM



Hello,

I am writing in support of Senate Bill 72. I know public testimony is being taken today and wanted to add my voice in support of adding "sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression" to our state's anti-discrimination policies.

Alaska voted for marriage equality before it was federally mandated (same-sex marriage was legally recognized in Alaska on October 12, 2014, and nationwide on June 26, 2015). Alaskans are obviously not opposed to equality for our LGBTQ neighbors. The addition of protections from discrimination for LGBTQ citizens therefore reflects Alaskan values.

Thank you,
Marilyn Zaleski
Juneau voter

From: Shelly Wozniak
To: Sen. Berta Gardner
Cc: Sen. Kevin Meyer
Subject: Statewide non-discrimination
Date: Monday, April 10, 2017 8:48:30 AM

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Dear Sen. Gardner,

I am emailing to write my support for the statewide non-discrimination bill SB72. I am also cc'ing my senator, Sen. Kevin Meyer, so he knows that one of his constituents supports this bill. I cannot overstate how important this language is to LGBTQ Alaskans. It is imperative to support all Alaskans in their right to pursue happiness.

We do not live in a perfect world and we are not immune to history. Until 1974, being gay was considered a mental illness. We just recently won marriage equality, giving us the ability to protect our families and secure generational capital for our children. Despite these advances, there are groups and organizations in this state that actively pursue agendas to suppress the rights of LGBTQ Alaskans/Americans. They've filed an initiative called "Protect Our Privacy," in Anchorage that seeks to strip discrimination protections from LGBTQ Alaskans. They state that it is because they want to protect religious freedom. However, religious freedom is already protected in the First Amendment in the United States Constitution. What they desire is the right to refuse to provide services to other Alaskans based on sexual orientation. That is terrifying to me.

I have personally experienced the negative impacts of bias and discrimination based on the fact that I am a lesbian. I've been denied housing and I was also told by a supervisor not to discuss my private life at work. The fear, anger, humiliation and despair of these experiences still brings tears to my eyes today. I don't know if either of you have ever been intentionally humiliated, but it is a gut-wrenching experience to be made to feel less than. Discrimination allows those who wish to feel superior to attempt to shame others by denying them the basic rights enjoyed by the majority. No one should be made to feel that way, especially in Alaska - a place where hard work, individual contribution to community, and the personal freedom to make something of yourself are valued. The language of SB72 supports those values.

My wife and I have been together for 17 years. We've raised two children in this state. Like many other Alaska parents, we hope they come back home after having their adventures around the world. They are watching to see how our state deals with fiscal and social issues. They want to live, work and contribute to a state that values the same things as their generation. They are well educated and have many choices. If policies are regressive, they won't bring their time and talents home, and our state will continue to experience the brain drain of a generation that can help us secure our fiscal future.

I know that my wife and I want to stay here. She is from here and I've lived here for 22 years. We've been able to make a good life in Alaska despite those who work to ensure we're not included. We've been able to make a good life because good people have stood up next to us and fought with us for our rights. Rights are basically another word for inclusion in the American dream. There may come a day when the rights of minority groups don't have to be articulated so clearly to be ensured. There may come a day when the better angels of our collective nature allow us to see the humanity in each other more clearly. We aren't there yet, but I believe we can get there together.

Please support this bill. It is important to me and it is important to Alaska.

Thank you both for your time. I very much appreciate it.

Michelle Wozniak

P.S. Sen. Meyer, if you don't know any members of the LGBTQ community and you ever want to grab coffee and discuss these issues, let me know. I'd be happy to meet with you as a neighbor.

From: [Rebecca Noblin](#)
To: [Sen. Berta Gardner](#)
Subject: I support SB72
Date: Monday, April 10, 2017 8:45:17 AM

y

Senator Gardner,

I live and work in Anchorage and am raising my children here. I support SB72 because I want to live in a place where everyone feels safe and welcomed. I teach my children that we treat all people with fairness, kindness and empathy, and our laws should reflect those values.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Noblin
Anchorage, AK 99517