

ALASKA LEGISLATURE

1848

HOUSE and SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE FILES, 1997-1998



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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

Very Opposed to this Resolution
 This is very much a Pending Issue and
 does not belong in the state Statues.

SIGNED: Michael J. Wandman
 Testifier

Self and all other people of this great state
 Representing

1440 Lacey Street Fairbanks AK 99701
 Address / Phone Number



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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

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

SIGNED:

David A. Wells

Testifier

Self

Representing

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



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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

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

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

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

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

SIGNED: Stephen H. Kauling over
 Testifier

Myself
 Representing

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



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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

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

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

SIGNED:

Kathleen E. Watt

Testifier

KATHLEEN E. WATTUM

Representing

Box 84397 Ft's AK 99708

Address / Phone Number



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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 Committee on SJR 42 Committee Name
 Bill / Subject Dated 3/24/98

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

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

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

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

SIGNED:

Peter Penney
 Testifier

Representing

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

CORRECTION

THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENT(S)
HAVE BEEN REFILMED TO
ASSURE LEGIBILITY OR PAGINATION



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Central Microfilm Services
Department of Education
State of Alaska



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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Committee Name
 Committee on SJR 42 Dated 3/24/98
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 Testifier

myself
 Representing

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

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



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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

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

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SIGNED:

Kathleen E. Watt
 Testifier

KATHLEEN E. WATTUM
 Representing

Box 84397 Fof's AK 99708
 Address / Phone Number



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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

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SIGNED:

Peter Penning
 Testifier

Representing

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



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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

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

SIGNED:  Patrick E. Marlow
 Testifier

Representing

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



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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

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

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

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

I REQUEST THAT THE MATTER BE CLOSED TO RESIDENTS OF
 THE STATE UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF OUR CONSTITUTION.

SIGNED:

Testifier

Representing

Address / Phone Number

TERRY FAUTH

76 SULLY BL. ST. 2-136 FAIRBANKS AK 99701
478 6115

• Ilena Lee Cramer

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

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

Re: SJR 42

Dear Senator Leman

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely
Ilena Lee Cramer

cc: All Alaska Legislators



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

Attn: all AK Senators

State Capitol, Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182.

3/24/98

Dear Senators,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,


Lisa Peñalver

CC: All Alaska Legislators

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

3-24-98

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

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

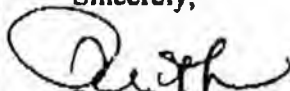
RE: **SUPPORT SJR42** A proposed constitutional amendment to define marriage as a union that can only be entered into only by "one man and one woman"

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

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

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

Sincerely,


Ruth Ewig

**REPUBLICAN PARTY OF ALASKA
DISTRICT 35**

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

March 22, 1998

To: Members of the Senate Finance Committee

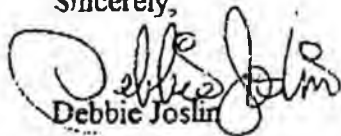
Dear Senator,

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

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

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

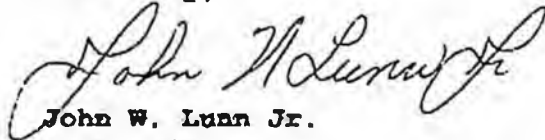

Debbie Joslin

March 22, 1998

Dear Senator:

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

Sincerely,



John W. Lunn Jr.
PO Box 406
Delta Junction, AK 99737

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

Dear Senate Members,

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

2 votes for SJR 42

Earnestly,
Mike Pelto and
Regina Pelto
Regina C. Pelto

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

Dear Senator:

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

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

Thank you!

Sincerely,
Jo E. McBrien

FAX - 465-2187

Kenwyn George
5935 Woods Street
Juneau, AK 99801

Subject: SR 42

March 23, 1998

To whom it may concern/ Senate Finance:

I would like to express my support for SRJ 42

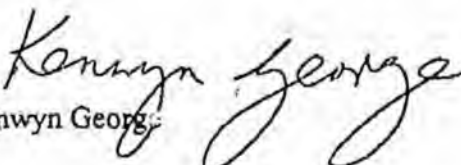
One reason I support this Bill is because I believe that the institution of marriage was to bond a man and a wife legally such that there would be security for the raising of any children from the union. This would save society from having to bear the burden of raising these children, and the problems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

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

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

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

Sincerely,


Kenwyn George



TELECOPY COVER SHEET

Fairbanks Legislative Information Office

Office - (907) 452-4448

Fax - (907) 456-3346

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

FROM: _____ PHONE: _____

INSTRUCTIONS: RE SJR 42

RECEIVED: Date 3/24/98 Time _____

SENT: Date 3/24/98 Time _____

DISPOSAL OF ORIGINAL: Discard _____ Hold for Pickup _____

NUMBER OF PAGES: 8 (Not counting cover sheet)

SENT BY: Wally



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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Committee Name
 Committee on Resolution No 42 Dated 3/24/98
Bill / Subject

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SIGNED: Michael J. Wardman
Testifier

Self and all other people of this great state
Representing

1440 Lacey Street Fairbanks AK 99701
Address / Phone Number



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Representing

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



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SIGNED: Stephen H. Kauling over
 Testifier

myself
 Representing

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



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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 Committee on SJR 42 Marriage Committee Name
 Dated March 24, 98
 Bill / Subject

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SIGNED:

Kathleen E. Wath

Testifier

KATHLEEN E. WATH

Representing

Box 84397 Fairbanks AK 99708

Address / Phone Number



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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 Committee Name
 Committee on SJR 42 Dated 3/24/98
 Bill / Subject

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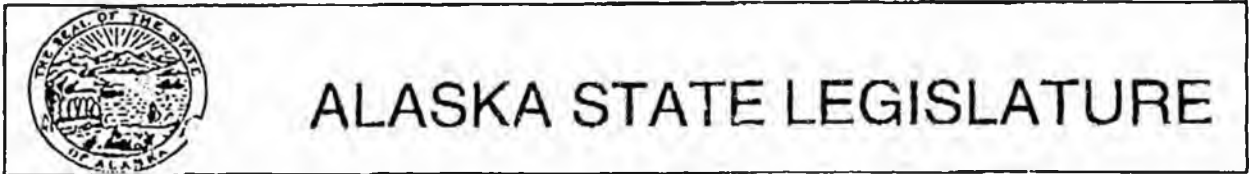
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SIGNED:

Peter Pinn
 Testifier

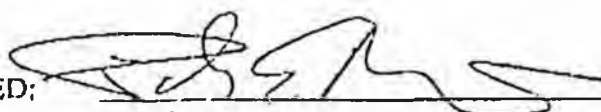
 Representing

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



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

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 Testifier

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



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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 Committee on SJR 42 Committee Name Dated 24 MAR 98
Bill / Subject

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

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

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

SIGNED:

 Testifier

 Representing

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

• Ilena Lee Cramer

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

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

Re: SJR 42

Dear Senator Leman

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely
Ilena Lee Cramer

cc: All Alaska Legislators



To Whom it May Concern:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you for your time

Andrea Petrifils

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

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



TELECOPY COVER SHEET

Fairbanks Legislative Information Office

Office - (907) 452-4448

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TO: SENATE FINANCE FAX: _____ PHONE: _____

FROM: FBX LIO PHONE: _____

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

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NUMBER OF PAGES: 15 (Not counting cover sheet)

SENT BY: Fran

01 April 98

To whom it may concern,

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

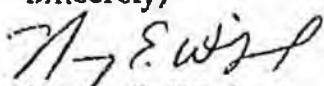
As difficult as it is at times, I try to trust the parameters that are set forth by our national and state constitutions. The judicial branch of our state government determined that it was unconstitutional on a state level to not allow to people of the same sex to marry. The state has been asked to present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

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

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

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

Sincerely,



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

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

31 March, 1998

To Whom It May Concern:

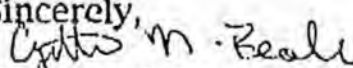
I am writing to urge you to vote against SJR42. I have many concerns about this bill.

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

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

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

Please vote against SJR42!

Sincerely,

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

Please direct this to the Senate Finance Committee.

Hello,

I am opposed to SJR-42 for several reasons.

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

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

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

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

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

Respectfully,

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



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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

I OPPOSE SJR 42.

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

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

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

 TERRY A. FAURAL

SIGNED:

Testifier

Representing

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mari Galereave
PO Box 212
Ester, AK 99725

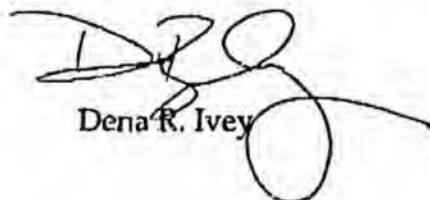
religion, protecting civil rights, and granting equal protection under the law. Legislation to restrict marriage runs counter to these positive public policy concerns.

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

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

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

Sincerely Yours,



Dena R. Ivey

Public Opinion Statement

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

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

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

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

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

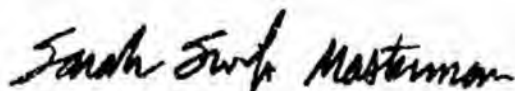
The not so obvious are reasons why this legislation should be struck down, that is to say, what compelling arguments I could assert which would support same-sex marriage in Alaska. They are as follows:

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

Testimony on SJR - 42

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

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



Sarah Swift Masterman
Fairbanks, Alaska

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

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

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

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

Testimony for April 1, 1998--Jeff Walters

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

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

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

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

- 1 -

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

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

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

Thank you.

2454 K...
01/01/98



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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

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

SIGNED: Kathleen LEITNER

Self
 Representing

831 Chena Hills Drive Fairbanks AK
 Address / Phone Number

907-479-0686 99709

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

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

Dear Senators,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Marc Dumas, M.D.

CC: All Alaska Legislators

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

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

Dear Senators,

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

Would you please explain to me:

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

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

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

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

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

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

cc. all legislators

Sincerely,

Lisa Penalver



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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

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

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

SIGNED:

Gregg Ritter
 Testifier

Gregg Ritter
 Representing

work phone 458-4235
 Address / Phone Number

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

April 1st, 98

Public testimony on SJR-42

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

March 31, 1998

Honorable Senator:

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

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

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

Thank you for your time.

Sandy King
Sandy King

March 31, 1998

Honorable Senator:

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

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

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

Thank you for your time,

Sandy King
Sandy King

To Whom it May Concern:

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

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

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

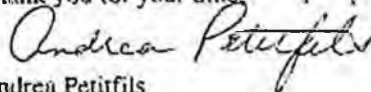
There is room for all and for all beliefs. That's what this country was built upon. That's what our forefathers fought for. Please remember that we ALL have the same rights provided by the constitution. We cannot allow the majority to change that simply because they may not agree with the minority.

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

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

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

Thank you for your time.



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



TELECOPY COVER SHEET

NOME Legislative Information Office

Office - (907) 443-5555

Fax - (907) 443-2162

TO: Senate Finance Committee

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

FROM: NORME LIO PHONE: 443-5555

INSTRUCTIONS: Written Testimony by Andrea Pettifils

SENT: Date 4/1/98 Time 9.20am

NUMBER OF PAGES: 1 (NOT counting cover sheet)

TRANSMITTED BY: A Gray

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

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

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

Thank you.

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

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

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

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

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

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

ROBERT D. BOWERS
BEVERLY L BOWERS

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

FAX

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

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



Alaska State Legislature

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

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

Signed: *[Signature]*
Testifier

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

Address
555-0159

Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

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

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

Pass SJR42.

Signed:

Debra A. Smith, Chairwoman

Testifier

Republican Party of Alaska, District 35

Representing (Optional)

Box 377, Delta Jct, AK 99737

Address

(907) 895-4565

Phone No.



Alaska State Legislature

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

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

Signed:

Joe McBride
 Testifier

Representing (Optional)

Address

P.O. Box 779 Delta Jet, AK 99737

Phone No.

907-895-4009



Alaska State Legislature

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

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

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



Alaska State Legislature

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

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

Signed:

Marlin L. Stearns

Testifier

Self

Representing (Optional)

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

Address

(907) 895-4631

Phone No.



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

Official Business

To: Senate Finance

Fax: 465-2187 Phone: _____

Testimony

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

Thank You,

Elizabeth A. Sarver
Information Officer

FAX TRANSMISSION

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

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

COMMENTS:

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

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

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

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

MARCH 31, 1998

Alaska State Legislature
Senate Finance Committee
Juneau, Alaska

Re: SJR 42

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

March 31, 1998

Finance Subcommittee
Alaska State Senate
Juneau, AK 99811

Re: SJR 42

Dear Finance Subcommittee:

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

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

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

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

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

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

- 2 -

March 31, 1998

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Allison E. Mendel

Re, SJR 42

From Frank H Gardner, Kodiak, AK

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

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

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

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

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

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

March 31, 1998

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

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

Thank you,

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

SENATE FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE TESTIMONY

SJR 42

March 31, 1998

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

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

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

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

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

Marsha Buck
8445 Kimberly St.
Juneau 99801

March 31, 1998

Testimony on SJR 42 -- Senate Finance Committee

by

Sidney D. Heidersdorf

P.O. Box 020658

Juneau, AK 99802

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Please pass SJR 42.



Committee for Equality PO Box 34202 Juneau AK 99803

Date: March 28, 1998

To: All Legislators

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**HOMOSEXUAL MARRIAGE
SAME SEX MARRIAGE
SJR 42**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Art Mathias
563-3188 ph. 563-7416 fax

Dear Representatives,

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

Suzanne Calkins

567-3373

Ninilchik Alaska 99637

Pastor of The Calvary Baptist Church
in Ninilchik

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

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

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

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

Vicky Daniels

Box 614

Ninilchik, AK 99639



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the

STFIN

committee name

committee on SJR 42

, dated 03-31-98

bill # / subject

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

Elmer Overpeck

Signed:

Elmer J. Overpeck

Testifier

(GOD'S CHILDREN OF ALASKA)

Representing (Optional)

P.O. Box 393 STERLING, AK 99672

Address

(907) 262-8821

Phone number

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

-- Wesley Veatch



Committee for Equality PO Box 34202 Juneau AK 99803

Date: March 28, 1998

To: All Legislators

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

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

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

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

cc:Mail for: Senator Bert Sharp

Subject: SJR 42

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

To: Senator John Torgerson at LAA_STOR

To: Senator Drue Pearce at LAA_SPEA

To: Senator Bert Sharp at LAA_SSHA

To: Senator Sean Parnell at LAA_TRANS

To: Senator Randy Phillips at LAA_TRANS

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

To the Senate Finance Committee:

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

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

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

Jim and Dorine McCall

cc:Mail for: Senator Bert Sharp

Subject: SJR 42 and SJR 37

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

To: Senator Bert Sharp at LAA_S3HA

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

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

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

Phil Fagerstrom

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

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

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

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

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

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

3700 McGinnis Drive
Juneau, AK 99801
March 30, 1998

Dear Senator:


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

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

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

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

LET THE PEOPLE DECIDE.



Bill Elkinton

cc:Mail for: Senator Bert Sharp

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

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

You don't need to buy Internet access to use free Internet e-mail.
Get completely free e-mail from Juno at <http://www.juno.com>
Or call Juno at (800) 654-JUNO [654-5866]