

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**One Anchorage Files Initiative Application for Legal Protections**

The One Anchorage campaign filed an application this morning with the Anchorage Municipal Clerk's Office to place an initiative on the April 2012 ballot asking voters to include lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) Alaskans in the same legal protections already provided to women and minorities in employment, housing, and public businesses.

Arliss Sturgulewski, a former state senator and Republican gubernatorial candidate is the Initiative Sponsor and Co-Chair of the One Anchorage Campaign. Former Alaska Gov. Tony Knowles is the Alternate Sponsor and campaign Co-Chair. Other Sponsors include Alaska Constitutional Convention delegate Vic Fischer, former First Alaskans Institute President & CEO Janie Leask, the Rev. Michael Burke of Anchorage's St. Mary's Episcopal Church, and leaders of Alaska's LGBT community.

"In Alaska, we have a live and let live attitude," said Sturgulewski "However, under current laws, a woman could be fired from her job solely because she is a lesbian. No one should live in fear that they can be fired for reasons having nothing to do with their job performance."

Co-sponsor Rev. Burke added: "In Anchorage, we believe that all residents should be treated fairly and equally by our laws. This initiative ensures that gay and transgender Alaskans who work hard and play by the rules will have the exact same legal protections as other Anchorage residents."

In 2009, the Anchorage Assembly passed a very similar ordinance by a 7-4 majority, but the Mayor vetoed it.

Alaska's LGBT community has been working since then to address the absence of federal, Alaska, or local laws protecting them against discrimination. Leaders of the campaign include Alaskans Together, the statewide LGBT advocacy organization; and representatives of groups such as Identity, Inc., Anchorage's LGBT organization/Community Center; the ACLU of Alaska; and PFLAG (Parent and Friends of Lesbians and Gays).

The Municipal Clerk's Office has 10 days to review and approve the Application and issue Petition Booklets. Campaign supporters will have 90 days to collect necessary signatures of registered voters needed to place the initiative on the ballot.

The full initiative language is attached to this release.

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