



Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. For the record, my name is Kati Capozzi, and I serve as the President and CEO of the Alaska Chamber.

The Alaska Chamber was founded in 1953, and our mission is to advocate for a healthy business environment in Alaska. The Chamber has more than 700 members and represents businesses of all sizes and industries from across the state.

The Chamber believes that Senate Bill 23 is required to maintain the integrity of the signature gathering process for a ballot measure. Once a voter signs their name to specific ballot measure language, their support should be applied only to the exact language to which they lent their name. If any court or courts decides to alter or remove language from the initiative, it cannot be assumed that voter support remains. Should a court sever language from a proposed ballot measure, it should be mandatory that initiative proponents go back and ask voters to support the revised language that would appear on the ballot. Or, alternatively, provide the legislature the opportunity to pass similar legislation.

The Chamber membership voted just last year in favor of a policy position that supports ballot measure reform. The full position statement reads: *Initiative petitions often ask voters to make simple yes or no decisions about complex issues without subjecting them to detailed expert analysis or the opportunity to participate through a public process. Changes in the initiative process should produce more transparency and better public policy in a comprehensive and balanced manner equally benefiting both voters and the legislative process.*

As such, we support SB23 and the bill sponsors effort to correct a deficiency that has been overlooked in the ballot initiative process. We also believe SB 23 will result in fewer protracted legal battles once ballot measure proponents understand that should any section of their initiative not pass constitutional muster, they would be required to revert to the signature gathering stage of the process. This should result in more carefully crafted ballot measures being proposed at the outset, which means a smoother, more predictable, and transparent process for all parties, whether they support or oppose the ballot measure in question.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



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