

Why do these votes matter?

1. Right to Keep and Bear Arms

HA6 would amend SB136, which pertains to limitations on firearms restrictions during a declared disaster emergency, by removing the specified requirement that a person be “qualified under state law” to possess a firearm.

The fundamental right of the American people to keep and bear arms should not be infringed, as guaranteed by the 2nd Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. State government has a duty to secure the individual and unalienable right to self-defense of one's life, liberty, and property, regardless of a declared "disaster emergency."

2. United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement

SJR15 recognizes the "importance of the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement" in providing the "framework for much of [the] bilateral trade" between the "integrated economies" of Canada and Alaska, as well as "important updates to the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)."

The House passed SJR15 on March 16, 2022, by a vote of 37 to 2. We have assigned pluses to the nays because the U.S. should withdraw from the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA)—a dangerous replacement of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) which unconstitutionally seeks to end U.S. national sovereignty by advancing regional integration and establishing a North American Union.

3. Prohibiting COVID-19 Vaccine Mandates

SB156 would prohibit a state agency or political subdivision from requiring an individual to be vaccinated against COVID-19 and protect an individual against unlawful discrimination by a person, employer, or government entity based on their COVID-19 vaccination status.

Vaccine mandates should be opposed, as an individual's non-injurious activities, including personal health care decisions, are not the legitimate object of government, nor should be under federal, state, or local jurisdiction in the United States. To compel American citizens to receive medical treatment would be to violate their fundamental rights protected by the Bill of Rights and the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

4. Excluding Abortion-Inducing Drugs from Telehealth

HA2 would amend SB3006, which relates to telemedicine, to exclude the prescribing of an abortion-inducing drug from telehealth services that can be provided without first conducting an in-person physical examination.

Alaska should act to ban abortion and secure the right to life for all persons. The right to life is the most fundamental, God-given, and unalienable right asserted in the Declaration of Independence and guaranteed by the 5th and 14th Amendments to the U.S. Constitution.

5. Cutting State Spending

HA57 would amend HB69, Alaska's budget bill for fiscal year 2021-22, by directing state agencies to identify additional means of cutting spending so that per capita state spending is reduced to not more than twice the national average by the end of FY 2023.

Alaska routinely has the nation's highest annual per capita state spending, far above the national average. Much of this spending involves the use of federal taxpayer money for purposes not authorized under Article 1, Section 8, of the U.S. Constitution.

6. Limiting the Governor's Emergency Powers

HA4 would amend HB76, which extends the COVID-19 public health disaster emergency declared by the Governor on January 15, 2021, to include the following provisions: the Governor may not declare a disaster emergency unless authorized by a majority vote of the Legislature; and the Legislature may terminate a disaster emergency by a majority vote.

Article II, Section 1, of the Alaska Constitution vests lawmaking power in the Senate and the House of Representatives, not the Governor. Each state, under Article IV, Section 4, of the U.S. Constitution, is guaranteed a republican form of government, which requires a limitation and separation of powers.