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LEGISLATIVE SCORECARD BASED ON THE THE U.S. CONSTITUTION

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Tom Begich

Alaska

Senator, SD-J (D)

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AK Legislative Scorecard 2021-2022

Based on the Principles of the U.S. Constitution

★ Constitutional	✗ Unconstitutional	? Did not Vote	Vote
			YES ✗
1. HB127 Expanding the Alaska Municipal Bond Bank Authority (passed 16 to 1 on 5/17/2022). Permits the Alaska Municipal Bond Bank Authority to issue up to \$1 billion in loans to the University of Alaska and regional health organizations.			
			YES ✗
2. SJR15 United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (passed 17 to 0 on 3/18/2022). 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)."			
			NO ✗
3. SA13 (HB69) Prohibiting Medicaid-Covered Abortions (failed 10 to 10 on 5/19/2021). Would amend HB69, Alaska's 2021-22 budget bill, to prohibit Medicaid-covered abortions or services relating to abortion.			
			NO ✗
4. SA11 (HB69) No State Funds for Employers Mandating COVID-19 Vaccines (failed 10 to 10 on 5/19/2021). Would amend HB69, Alaska's 2021-22 budget bill, to ensure that no state funds be expended on an entity that mandates its employees to receive a vaccine approved under FDA Emergency Use Authorization.			
			NO ✗
5. SA3 (HB69) Defunding Critical Race Theory (failed 9 to 11 on 5/19/2021). Would amend, HB69, Alaska's 2021-22 budget bill, to prevent public funds from being used to teach critical race theory in public schools.			
			NO ✗
6. SA39 (HB76) Limiting the Governor's Emergency Powers (failed 4 to 16 on 4/28/2021). Would amend HB76, which extends the COVID-19 public health disaster emergency, to include the provision that the Governor may not declare a disaster emergency unless authorized by a majority vote of the Legislature.			
			NO ✗

Scorecard Votes: 0%

Why do these votes matter?

1. Expanding the Alaska Municipal Bond Bank Authority

HB127 permits the Alaska Municipal Bond Bank Authority to issue up to \$1 billion in loans to the University of Alaska and regional health organizations.

Municipal bonds are tools of state-sanctioned public debt, which immorally and unconstitutionally coerce future taxpayers to subsidize various projects conceived outside the limited purpose and scope of local government. Alaska ought not to disparage its citizens of their property rights or income.

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 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 Medicaid-Covered Abortions

SA13 would amend HB69, Alaska's budget bill for fiscal year 2021-22, to prohibit Medicaid-covered abortions or services relating to abortion. Alaska should act to ban abortion (not to mention taxpayer-funded Medicaid services) 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.

4. No State Funds for Employers Mandating COVID-19 Vaccines

SA11 would amend HB69, Alaska's budget bill for fiscal year 2021-22, to ensure that no state funds be expended on an entity that mandates its employees to receive a vaccine approved under an Emergency Use Authorization granted by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

Vaccine mandates should be opposed, as an individual's non-injurious activities, including personal health care decisions, are private matters that should not 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.

5. Defunding Critical Race Theory

SA3 would amend, HB69, Alaska's budget bill for fiscal year 2021-22, to prevent public funds from being used to teach critical race theory in public schools.

Education--let alone efforts to indoctrinate children with false, race-based historical narratives--is not the role of government. Rather, a child's education is the responsibility of, as well as a fundamental right of choice retained by, his or her parents. Forcing American citizens to furnish taxpayer money for a compulsory, failing, and government-run K-12 school system violates individual protections guaranteed by the Bill of Rights and the 14th Amendment.

6. Limiting the Governor's Emergency Powers

SA39 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.