



FIRST ALASKANS INSTITUTE
2020 ANNUAL ELDERS AND YOUTH CONFERENCE
RESOLUTION 20-03

TITLE: MAKE GAY PANIC DEFENSE ILLEGAL UNDER ALASKA LAW

WHEREAS: The First Alaskans Institute Elders and Youth Conference is the largest statewide convening of Alaska Native Elders and youth representing our diverse Alaska Native cultures and language groups in order to enhance and perpetuate the unique spirits and identities of our peoples; and

WHEREAS: The purpose of the Conference is to connect Elders and youth for cultural knowledge transmission, strengthen statewide relationships, amplify the power of our participants as leaders today, and advance solutions to challenges faced by our Native peoples and our communities; and

WHEREAS: The Gay/Trans panic legal defense legitimizes and excuses violent and lethal behavior against the LGBTQ+ community. It is a legal strategy that asks the jury to find that the victim's sexual orientation or gender identity is to blame for the defendant's violent outburst, this includes murder; and

WHEREAS: Gay Panic Defense is a loophole that legalizes violence (including murder) against LGBTQ+ people. Then it blames the LGBTQ+ victim for causing the defendant to go into a state of panic; and

WHEREAS: The LGBTQ+ community makes up 3.5% of the United States. Yet one in five lesbians and people who identify as bisexual or gay have experienced hate crimes, and one in four transgender people will as well. Between 2013 and 2017 we know of 102 transgender people who were killed in hate crimes in the United States, 75 of those 102 were African American or a Person of Color. That is only the fraction of the truth, many do not come forward, and not all official sources record them as hate crimes.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the participants of the 2020 First Alaskans Institute Elders & Youth Conference that the Alaska Legislature take action to make Gay Panic Defense illegal under Alaska law; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that this resolution once passed be transmitted to Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) for consideration and passage, Alaska Legislature, and Alaska Native Heritage Center.

SUBMITTED BY: SOUTHCENTRAL REGION AND ANYA TYRELL

CONFERENCE ACTION: PASSED ON OCT. 14, 2020

Information cited from: <https://www.americanbar.org/groups/crsj/publications/member-features/gay-trans-panic-defense/>