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Kelly, AFA have a stated connection with religion

Sen. Pete Kelly and Alaska Family Action's Jim Minnery are disingenuous at best to suggest their effort to change the way we select judges has nothing to do with religion.

AFA has long billed itself as the voice for conservative Christian values, and has



targeted the judiciary for many years because of judicial decisions with which it disagrees. It has organized anti-retention campaigns against well-respected judges who had the integrity to do their jobs, and it has made no secret of its desire to reshape our judiciary in a manner that would give its own interpretation of conservative Christian values a greater chance of prevailing in the courts. Two of AFA's seven policy briefings address judicial selection and retention.

And AFA has long been one of Sen. Kelly's stalwart political supporters, campaigning on his behalf in 2012 and extolling his legislation to change judicial selection as "one of the best government reform proposals we've seen in years."

If the current Sen. Kelly-AFA campaign to amend our constitution isn't intended to advance their particular views on religion, then why is AFA — which purportedly exists to advance a religious agenda — so excited about it? Alaskans should not be fooled: The amendments sought may not speak specifically to religion, but they are motivated by a narrow religiosity that has little patience for the fair, impartial and secular demands of the rule of law.

— Barbara Hood
Anchorage