



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

Department of Administration

Public Defender Agency

900 W 5th Avenue
Suite 200
Anchorage, AK 99501
Main: 907.334.4400
Fax: 907.334.4440
www.doa.alaska.gov/pda

March 6, 2018

Honorable Paul Seaton
Co-Chair, House Finance Committee
State Capitol, Room 505
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Representative Seaton:

I am writing to inform the members of the House Finance Committee that a portion of my testimony on March 5, 2018 regarding an amendment to the FY2018 operating budget replacing Attorney V positions with Attorney II positions was incorrect.

I stated that the agency has 10 Attorney V positions when the agency has 18 Attorney V positions. This error alters the substance of a portion of my testimony. I stated that deleting these positions would leave the agency with no supervisors regionally or in the Anchorage office. With 18 positions, however, I would likely address this change by eliminating a mix of supervisory and subject matter expert positions to preserve some direct supervision.

Although this would still substantially reduce the agency's capacity to handle high-level, complex cases, there would remain some supervisory oversight regionally and in the Anchorage office, preserving more agency capacity to handle high-level cases than I indicated at the hearing. Nevertheless, maintaining positions at the current class levels remains necessary to maintain agency competence and handle the anticipated high-level caseload on a statewide basis.

I am available to answer any additional questions and welcome the opportunity to correct my testimony on the record if requested.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Quinlan Steiner".

Quinlan Steiner
Public Defender