



Alaska Association of Chiefs of Police

March 29, 2018

Speaker of the House, Representative Bryce Edgmon
Chairman House Judiciary Committee, Representative Matt Claman

Honorable Representatives;

This letter is issued with the support and approval of the AACOP Board of Directors and in strong opposition to Senate Bill 172/House Bill 325

It is with great concern that the Alaska Association of Chiefs of Police monitors the actions taken in reference to Senate Bill 172 and the complimentary House Bill 325. These bills in summary, grant the Commissioner of the Department of Corrections the authority to bypass State Procurement Regulations for inmate re-entry and integration services.

Currently, the Department of Corrections contracts for the use of several residential centers located in communities throughout the State. The centers have sufficient beds to consolidate those inmates who qualify for re-entry and integration services in one location. These centers are generally located in commercial areas to comply with local ordinances and due to the location and corporate structures, the need for local law enforcement monitoring is minimized.

This is relevant. As these centers are contract facilities, they are not correctional institutions; and the Alaska Department of Public Safety has declined to respond to incidents occurring in contract facilities. As such, local law enforcement is encumbered to 'police' these facilities whenever an issue arises.

In the recent past, changes due to criminal reform have increased the workload of local law enforcement agencies through the changes to bail conditions, sentencing guidelines and relaxation of consequences of criminal behavior. Coupled with the Department of Corrections policy of declining to accept Title 47 protective holds, rates of arrest have increased as law enforcement has been stripped of the ability to intervene at the lowest possible level before behaviors escalate. Essentially, the response capacity of local law enforcement is stretched thin. The proposed legislation of SB172/HB325 further diminishes that capacity.

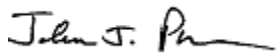
Relieving the Department of Corrections of adherence to State Procurement Regulations will result in the fragmentation of larger residential re-entry and integration centers into smaller units; quite possibly located in residential zones. This will not only increase the number of locations which local law enforcement must monitor and respond to; but also directly affect those persons living near these facilities. It is likely that public resistance to this process could be extreme.

The final issue involved is 'exceptions'. State Procurement Regulations were emplaced to ensure that the State conducts business with integrity; using standard and universal rules to maintain effective delivery of services. The notion that any entity should be exempt from these requirements is contrary to any rational other than a special interest reducing costs by subverting regulation. To exempt one agency sets significant precedent for all State agencies to do the same.

For these reasons, we oppose this legislation.

We appreciate your service to the State of Alaska and concern for our citizens.

With Sincere Regards,



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Chief of Police, Nome Police Department
President
Alaska Association of Chiefs of Police



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Acting Chief of Police, Unalaska Police Department
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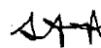
Thomas Clemons
Chief of Police, Seward Police Department
Vice-Chair
State Association of Chiefs of Police (SACOP)



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Captain, C Detachment Commander
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