

From: Heather at Ambience Photography
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Subject: SB-91
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To whom it may concern,

I am writing to let you know how SB-91 has affected my life and the life of my family and community.

My husband is an Alaska State Trooper. Every day he sees good Alaskans lives being ruined by the thieves and underbelly of our society. Good people are having their homes and businesses broken into and their savings, tools and vehicles stolen. Their lives are being shattered by people that are addicted to drugs and that steal to support their lifestyle. Our troopers are actually doing their jobs and catching these criminals and getting them into the system. That is why my husband does this job... to protect families and serve the community. Since SB91 came into law, he feels like all of his efforts are being wasted. Why should he work so hard to get these guys into jail when the courts immediately release them on their own recognizance only to have them break the law again and not show up for court. The risk and cost of doing business for a thief is so low, they commit crime after crime with little or no consequences. Each new crime they commit requires a new set of litigators, costing taxpayers millions. Many times the smaller charges are dropped in court so they can pursue the largest one. When they finally do pin some charges on a criminal, they are often released into outpatient treatment for their addiction in leu of paying their debt to society with jail time. I love that we as Alaskans yearn to rebuild lives and rescue from drug addiction, but criminals are using our good intentions as a "Get out of jail free" card, and then are not learning from their mistakes through natural consequences. They should first do their time and hopefully learn their lesson and THEN we should offer them help in the form of substance abuse treatment. SB91 has created a sense of futility for our law enforcement. Why are they wasting their time when there is no justice? How can we expect our Law Enforcement to protect us when they pursue the same criminals time after time? With SB 91, courts impede justice, and teach criminals that to habitually break the law because there is no consequences.

You, as the senate finance committee, have a chance to change the laws that are so negatively affecting our communities. Please make stealing and burglarizing have some serious negative consequences, so that these criminals can first learn from their mistakes through consequences, get the help they need and then become a productive member of society. Repeal SB91 and replace it with a system that works.

Heather Dunn - Wasilla