

**From:** Virginia Eubank  
**To:** [Senate Finance Committee](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony SB 127  
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My name is Virginia Eubank. I worked in two (2) different halfway houses, owned and ran by two different companies, in Anchorage. I have seen many different problems within the Criminal Justice System in Alaska. I have heard from many different inmates/residents, that the Alaska Criminal Justice System is worse than any other system in the U.S. – and some of them would honestly know.

My own observance is that while SB 91 was meant to have positive effects for both society as a whole and the newly re-entering inmate, it has done nothing but allow what used to be the petty criminal, to take over Alaska as an entirety. The Criminal Justice System in Alaska is completely broken and needs to be rebuilt from the ground up. That takes people from within the criminal justice system, the public at large and representatives of law enforcement. This should not be done by any elected official. Rebuilding the system only becomes difficult when elected officials who are more concerned about their positions and benefits of being an elected official than in what really works, steps in to the middle of what has now become a heated battle in this State.

One of the biggest factors in repeat offenders is the simple fact that any convicted felon, no matter how hard they have worked on being a better person is met with the same resistance at every corner. At some point, the offender that has served every single day of their sentence, met every single requirement for parole or release, completed every required class and jumped through every hoop that the State of Alaska has placed in front of them, has no choice but to go back to the crowd and ways that led them down the path to incarceration. This is because they can't get their license back for 10 years, they can't get a decent job because they are a felon, can't find decent housing because of parole requirements that keep them in living situations with other convicted felons that the felon is not allowed to be associating with due to conditions of release.

On the other hand, the State of Alaska has now deemed that those that used to be petty criminals can commit numerous crimes – vehicle theft, burglary, theft, shoplifting, assault after assault – unless it is on a police officer, and many more crimes. These criminals walk away with no bail, no jail time, no limitations and then don't show up for court and commit more violent crimes. These are crimes that cost all of society, not just a single person or family and they are walking away knowing that they are untouchable. There is something very wrong with this system.

All of the politicians need to step back and let some rational people that have nothing to lose dig in and fix this system. I don't mean, let the right people do the leg work and set the politicians up to be wonderful re-electable people. I mean let the right people do the job, see it through until the end – with the support and trust of the politicians that will obviously have to approve it .

It is obvious to any honest, sane Alaskan that SB 91 has not saved a dime and no single bill or multiple bills at this point are going to fix that. I implore the State of Alaska Governing Bodies to step back, allow real people – not your appointees that you owe favors to or have been promised appointments – to dig in to this matter and fix it. I promise you, you will not be sorry and may very well be surprised at the outcome these people can produce.

Thank you for taking the time to hear me out. I do appreciate it and hope that it will, at the very least, be a source of thought for all of you.

Sincerely,

Virginia Eubank

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