

From: Rachael E. Neumann
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Subject: SB127
Date: Sunday, April 15, 2018 7:41:25 PM

To Whom It May Concern:

I understand that SB127 is scheduled for hearing on Thursday, and I am writing to voice my support of SB127 (repeal of SB91).

I lived in Alaska from 2009 to 2013, and then returned again 2016. I have been shocked by how far things have declined in those intervening years. There have been so many break-ins and car thefts here in the Mat-Su Valley that it has become "the norm." I realize drug use is a major reason these crimes are happening, but I believe it is a larger problem than just drug use. Even in 2009 there was a lot of drug use in this state but the crime wasn't as rampant as it is now. I believe that a major reason is that there is a "catch and release" program right now - local law enforcement and the Alaska State Troopers do the best they can with the limited resources available, picking up someone, putting them in jail, and the criminal gets released, sometimes within the hour, only to go and do the same crime again to someone else.

I implore you to repeal SB91. Alaskans are tired of their vehicles and property getting stolen. The victims are the ones paying the heaviest price since there seems to be no real penalties for criminals - especially when they are repeatedly arrested and released. Statistics also show that Alaska is the most dangerous state, including violent crime up 38% (and this data is from 2016....it has only gotten worse since that time). <http://www.ktva.com/story/37361490/alaska-deemed-most-dangerous-state-in-us-in-new-report>

My suggestions for how to fix the crime in this state is as follows:

1. Repeal SB91. The current laws do more for the criminals than the victims. We also need to get rid of that horrible "computerized algorithm" for deciding bail, especially because it doesn't take into account criminal records from other states.
2. We need better judges appointed who give out appropriate sentences and don't merely slap someone on the wrist. This may be part of SB91 - reduced sentences for crimes. However, harsher sentences need to be enforced, not only as a potential deterrent of doing the crime again, but also so that victims feel like a little bit of justice may be carried out on their behalf.
3. We need more troopers and local law enforcement. I hear it all the time that the Troopers "don't care" or "it takes forever for them to respond," etc. I know that they do care, but when they arrest someone and that person gets released within the hour, it is like a hamster running on the wheel. I live in the Mat-Su, which is a gigantic area. There isn't even a Trooper station in the Talkeetna area anymore to respond to issues in the northern part of the borough. It is a case of too few troopers in too large of an area to be effective. They also should be able to take care of "nuisance" houses that are known drug houses or where criminal activity occurs by tearing it down. There are known spots in the Mat-Su where Troopers routinely and regularly arrest people, the people get out of jail, and they all scurry back to the house - rinse and repeat, and the cycle continues.
4. I would advocate also for the state charging room and board for those who are in jail/prison.

Oregon started doing this a number of years ago. I would also recommend workforce programs for those incarcerated, potentially giving the state some revenue or helping to pay for the cost of incarceration. I'm not a business expert by any means, but I do have a number of ideas of potential revenue sources. I also know at one time in Alaska those incarcerated were making jail uniforms for other states prisons. I'm not sure why this stopped, but it may not be a bad idea to think about bringing that back. Heck, the hemp bill was just passed - maybe start a large hemp grow down in Seward, or reopen the Palmer facility and start one there. Alaska would be cutting edge!

I have a few more ideas, but I will wrap this up. The criminals are winning and it is time that Alaskans get some help to combat it, curb it, and get it under control. Victims should not be the one paying the price like they are now, and we should be able to feel safe, which no one does now.

I implore you - please repeal SB91. Alaska should not be a social experiment.

Sincerely,

Rachael Neumann