
From: Rep. Steve Thompson
Sent: Friday, April 22, 2016 8:02 AM
To: Helen Phillips
Cc: Jane Pierson
Subject: FW: No on parole bill

-----Original Message-----

From: Jonathan Butzke [mailto:Jon@talkingcirclemedia.com]
Sent: Friday, April 22, 2016 5:45 AM
To: Rep. Steve Thompson <Rep.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov>
Subject: No on parole bill

Vote No on any Bill that allows any early parole.
Very bad idea of how to save money.

Jonathan Butzke
Owner/DP
Talking Circle Media
907-245-3209 office
907-317-4126 cell
www.talkingcirclemedia.com

From: Rep. Steve Thompson
Sent: Friday, April 22, 2016 8:02 AM
To: Helen Phillips
Cc: Jane Pierson
Subject: FW: SB91 and Amendment 15

From: Nikki Toll [mailto:n.toll2@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, April 22, 2016 7:21 AM
To: Rep. Steve Thompson <Rep.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov>
Subject: SB91 and Amendment 15

Good Morning, Mr. Thompson,

Just over a year ago I wrote you a very similar letter requesting your support for HB 66. The bill has gone through many changes over the course of a year. HB66 is no longer a stand-alone bill. It is now part of the omnibus crime bill SB91 as amendment 15, Insurance for dependents of deceased fire/police. Yesterday, you heard testimony on SB91. Thank you for listening. I am now requesting you support the continued inclusion of amendment 15, Insurance for the dependents of deceased fire/police. Please support bringing a measure of peace to Alaska's law enforcement families.

My late husband was Alaska State Trooper Tage Toll. He was killed in the line of duty when Helo1 crashed outside of Talkeetna during a successful search and rescue mission on March 30, 2013. Tage is an Alaskan hero.

Insurance for the dependents of deceased fire/police remedies an oversight in Alaska's acknowledgement and honoring of its fallen heroes. It covers the cost of medical insurance for the families of those who have lost their lives in the line of duty. The Alaska State Troopers have taken a serious hit the past three years with the fatal losses of Tage, Trooper Gabe Rich and Sergeant Scott Johnson. Now, with budget cuts and the reduction of services, the men and women of your Alaska State Trooper community need the encouragement of knowing their families will be cared for if the worst happens to them in the line of duty.

When Tage was killed, I had one day of insurance coverage before, under current policy, it expired at the end of the month. Tage's body had not even been positively identified yet and my three boys and I were without insurance. It was only after piles of paperwork and corrections to an inaccurate death certificate, four months later, that I was able to have the coverage I have now through Retirement and Benefits, but at 100% of the cost to myself. That is significant not only with the burden of cost but also the quality of coverage. Insurance for the dependents of deceased fire/police is part of the solution.

Help prevent another family from going through the struggle and frustration of doing battle for their medical insurance after their loved one has been killed in the line of duty. My story is not an isolated event. It is an unfortunate reality that men and women in law enforcement are killed in the line of duty, running into harm's way as heroes.

I am not only requesting your support to keep amendment 15, Insurance for the dependents of deceased fire/police, as part of this important piece of crime legislation, but your support for SB91 as a whole. I can make this request because I have the support and encouragement of my law enforcement family.

There are pros and cons to such a large piece of legislation. Not everyone will like or understand it. If the end goal is preventative verse reactive, then not only law enforcement, but our communities as a whole will benefit. This bill is taking the right steps towards that goal.

Thank you,

Nikki J. Toll

From: Rep. Steve Thompson
Sent: Thursday, April 21, 2016 4:59 PM
To: Helen Phillips
Cc: Jane Pierson
Subject: FW: Support for SB 91 - Unclass

From: Jenkins, Jerry [mailto:JJenkins@acmhs.com]
Sent: Thursday, April 21, 2016 4:51 PM
To: Rep. Steve Thompson <Rep.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov>
Subject: Support for SB 91 - Unclass

Hello Representative Thompson,

As Co-Chair of House Finance, I am writing to express support for SB 91 targeting reducing recidivism and ultimately DOC census. I encourage you to pursue efforts with Behavioral Health providers that target seriously mentally ill and serious substance abusers and specifically measure efforts at reducing recidivism.

The reason for this pointed recommendation is results in my Anchorage shop when targeting community tenure as the desired outcome. It is the work of the Institutional Discharge Program also known as IDP. IDP works with the Department of Corrections specializing in seriously mentally ill adults and individuals with co-occurring substance use disorders. Comparing 2014 data with 2015, we had a 95% reduction in DOC days (5,391 v 264). And no, they did not go to the Alaska Psychiatric Institute.

Thank you for considering my recommendation to pass SB 91 and supporting your fellow legislator from Fairbanks, Senator John Coghill.

j2

Jerry A. Jenkins, M.Ed., MAC

President, Alaska Behavioral Health Association (ABHA)
Chief Executive Officer

Anchorage Community Mental Health Services

Fairbanks Community Mental Health Services

4020 Folker Street

Anchorage, AK 99508

907-261-5310- Office

jjenkins@acmhs.com

Our Vision is "wellness for everyone."

Our Mission is to promote recovery and wellness by providing consumer-driven behavioral healthcare services.

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From: Rep. Steve Thompson
Sent: Thursday, April 21, 2016 4:40 PM
To: Helen Phillips
Cc: Jane Pierson
Subject: FW: SB 91

-----Original Message-----

From: Larry Olson [mailto:larryo@ptialaska.net]

Sent: Thursday, April 21, 2016 4:29 PM

To: Rep. Mark Neuman <Rep.Mark.Neuman@akleg.gov>; Rep. Steve Thompson <Rep.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Dan Saddler <Rep.Dan.Saddler@akleg.gov>; Rep. Bryce Edgmon <Rep.Bryce.Edgmon@akleg.gov>; Rep. Lynn Gattis <Rep.Lynn.Gattis@akleg.gov>; Rep. Cathy Munoz <Rep.Cathy.Munoz@akleg.gov>; Rep. Lance Pruitt <Rep.Lance.Pruitt@akleg.gov>; Rep. Tammie Wilson <Rep.Tammie.Wilson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Les Gara <Rep.Les.Gara@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Guttenberg <Rep.David.Guttenberg@akleg.gov>; Rep.Scott.Kawaski@akleg.gov; Rep. Mike Hawker <Rep.Mike.Hawker@akleg.gov>

Cc: larryo@ptialaska.net

Subject: SB 91

Dear House Finance Committee Members,

I am a drug and alcohol counselor in private practice here in Juneau. I see many people who have been involved in the legal system for a variety of offenses. I note that the department they are involved with is the Department of Corrections. Corrections. What leads to corrections in a person's life that gets them to change behavior?

There are some people who need to be locked up for a very long time because they are dangerous. They need to be kept away from the public. They are not going to be "corrected".

However, most people will be released from Department of Corrections custody into our communities. Corrective measures for them involves them developing an inner moral and emotional framework that supports them on the straight and narrow. The high rate of recidivism shows that fear of returning to jail does not prevent further criminal behavior.

Instead, Developing work skills, getting a GED, having supportive housing and case management upon release are the things that I see help people avoid criminal behavior. Separating low level offenders from more serious offenders while incarcerated is also very important. Providing drug rehab in this state where there are so few resources would also be valuable.

The gist of what I'm writing is that SB91, the bill on Criminal Justice Reform looks like a bill that would help the Department of Corrections do the Correcting that are charged with instead of just warehousing people until they are released into the communities in Alaska. I urge you to support it.

Thank you for your time.

Larry Olson, LPC, MAC
P.O. Box 35925
Juneau, AK 99803

From: Rep. Steve Thompson
Sent: Thursday, April 21, 2016 4:40 PM
To: Helen Phillips
Cc: Jane Pierson
Subject: FW: Public Comment for SB91

From: Cara Durr [mailto:cdurr@foodbankofalaska.org]
Sent: Thursday, April 21, 2016 4:39 PM
To: Rep. Mark Neuman <Rep.Mark.Neuman@akleg.gov>; Rep. Steve Thompson <Rep.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Dan Saddler <Rep.Dan.Saddler@akleg.gov>; Rep. Bryce Edgmon <Rep.Bryce.Edgmon@akleg.gov>; Rep. Lynn Gattis <Rep.Lynn.Gattis@akleg.gov>; Rep. Cathy Munoz <Rep.Cathy.Munoz@akleg.gov>; Rep. Lance Pruitt <Rep.Lance.Pruitt@akleg.gov>; Rep. Tammie Wilson <Rep.Tammie.Wilson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Les Gara <Rep.Les.Gara@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Guttenberg <Rep.David.Guttenberg@akleg.gov>; Rep. Scott Kawasaki <Rep.Scott.Kawasaki@akleg.gov>
Subject: Public Comment for SB91

Dear House Finance Committee,

My name is Cara Durr, and I'm submitting this commentary on behalf of Food Bank of Alaska in support of SB91. This bill contains a number of reforms to the criminal justice system including a provision that is very important to Food Bank of Alaska and our partners, which is the repeal of the lifetime ban on formerly convicted drug felons receiving SNAP, or food stamps (Section 181, Pages 110-11). Currently Alaskans with a drug felony conviction after 1996 are banned for life from receiving SNAP benefits. And while this ban is written into federal law, states have the authority to opt out of this, and most have done so. Alaska is one of only six states to still uphold this lifetime ban.

We know that roughly 63% of people released from prison in Alaska will end up back there at some point, many of which are non-violent, Class C drug felons. Repeated incarcerations are very costly to the State of Alaska, and as we look at the prospect of needing to build an entire new prison, it's clear that we should be doing all we can to reduce recidivism, and this starts with the reentry process. Many people come out of prison with very little, and already face an uphill battle trying to reenter society. Without the support of SNAP, which provides the most basic necessity of food, formerly incarcerated Alaskans are left hungry and desperate, which is a combination that makes recidivism far more likely, and post-prison recovery much harder.

Because the federal government funds 100% of SNAP benefits, the State of Alaska incurs little to no cost in implementing this provision. By allowing access to these federal benefits, it would help many Alaskans to get back on their feet and to become productive members of society. They did the crime, but they have already done their time. Ultimately this provision will also save money by reducing incarceration costs.

Thank you for considering my testimony, and if I can provide any additional information, please let me know.

Cara Durr

Senior Manager of Public Engagement

Food Bank of Alaska

2121 Spar Avenue

Anchorage, AK 99501

T 907. 272. 3663

C 907. 232. 8820

W FoodBankofAlaska.org



Spring and summer months are the lowest for food donations, but people are hungry year-round. Consider a food drive with your family, neighbors or fellow employees.

From: Rep. Steve Thompson
Sent: Thursday, April 21, 2016 1:59 PM
To: Helen Phillips
Cc: Jane Pierson
Subject: FW: SB91
Attachments: SB914.21.16.pdf

From: Robyn Langlie [mailto:rlanglie@victimsforjustice.org]
Sent: Thursday, April 21, 2016 11:42 AM
To: Rep. Mark Neuman <Rep.Mark.Neuman@akleg.gov>; Rep. Steve Thompson <Rep.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Dan Saddler <Rep.Dan.Saddler@akleg.gov>; Rep. Bryce Edgmon <Rep.Bryce.Edgmon@akleg.gov>; Rep. Lynn Gattis <Rep.Lynn.Gattis@akleg.gov>; Rep. Lance Pruitt <Rep.Lance.Pruitt@akleg.gov>; Rep. Tammie Wilson <Rep.Tammie.Wilson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Les Gara <Rep.Les.Gara@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Guttenberg <Rep.David.Guttenberg@akleg.gov>; Rep. Scott Kawasaki <Rep.Scott.Kawasaki@akleg.gov>; Rep. Mike Hawker <Rep.Mike.Hawker@akleg.gov>
Cc: Rep. Charisse Millett <Rep.Charisse.Millett@akleg.gov>; Sen. John Coghill <Sen.John.Coghill@akleg.gov>; Jordan Shilling <Jordan.Shilling@akleg.gov>; Grace Abbott <Grace.Abbott@akleg.gov>
Subject: SB91

Dear Representatives and Senators,

Please see my attached letter regarding SB91. I'd like it entered into the public record documents.

Best,

Robyn Langlie

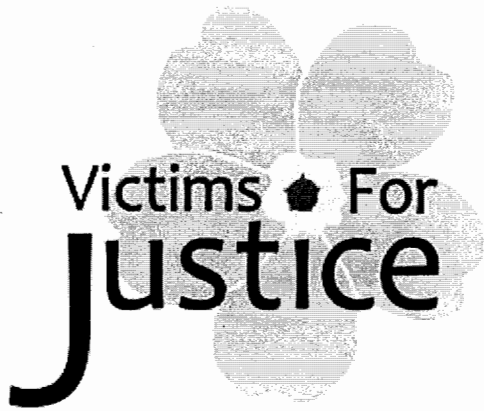
Executive Director

Victims for Justice

1057 W. Fireweed Ln. Suite 101

Anchorage, AK 99503

907.278.0986



From: Rep. Steve Thompson
Sent: Thursday, April 21, 2016 9:14 AM
To: Helen Phillips
Cc: Jane Pierson
Subject: FW: SB 91 - Amendment Healthcare for Dependents of Police/Fire

-----Original Message-----

From: M Litster [mailto:litstermss@hotmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 20, 2016 8:48 PM
To: Rep. Steve Thompson <Rep.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov>
Subject: SB 91 - Amendment Healthcare for Dependents of Police/Fire

Dear Representative Thompson,

I desperately urge you to move this portion of the bill (originally HB 66) forward. Rep Coghill is off base asking for it to be dropped. Already too much time has passed. This bill is an absolute necessity which affects real people who sacrificed everything for the State of Alaska.

Thank you,

Megan Litster

From: Rep. Steve Thompson
Sent: Friday, April 22, 2016 11:10 AM
To: Helen Phillips
Cc: Jane Pierson
Subject: FW: Opposing SB91

-----Original Message-----

From: Diane Schenker [mailto:diane.schenker@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, April 22, 2016 10:43 AM
To: Rep. Mark Neuman <Rep.Mark.Neuman@akleg.gov>; Rep. Steve Thompson <Rep.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov>
Cc: Rep. Lance Pruitt <Rep.Lance.Pruitt@akleg.gov>
Subject: Opposing SB91

Dear Finance Committee:

Please stop SB 91 today. This bill is brought to you as a budget reduction bill based on mistaken assumptions that it is cheaper to leave people out of jail/prison whenever possible for so-called "nonviolent" offenses. It is not cheaper. It is like saying it you'll save money by never going to the dentist. Sure, you will save the money of each basic dental cleaning and checkup, and even some of the more expensive repairs. However, in the long run, you will have to either give up eating solid foods or shell out a fortune for very serious problems, spending more money than you ever saved by eliminating the basic, common sense dental care everyone needs. You will also suffer more pain by failing to prevent and address predictable problems promptly. This bill will increase the already near-unbearable pain already being suffered by crime victims and victims-to-be, and it will not save money.

Jail beds are more expensive than prison beds. In-state beds are more expensive than out of state beds. Having offenders doing life on the installment plan creates more costs for each arrest, involving police, probation officers, prosecutors, defense attorneys, judges and court staff, juries, prisoner transportation, and higher cost pretrial housing. A longer sentence would not only have prevented additional victims, but would have cost less than letting someone out every few days or months to re-offend and repeat the expensive pre-trial and trial processes.

Did you have testimony on the percentage of fines that are paid now? How about the costs of collecting those fines? This is one of the biggest failures of the current system, and now this bill makes fines into the cornerstone of our new, cheapskate criminal justice system. Listen... Can you hear the chronic criminals laughing now? I can. You are turning a near-failure of a system into an even worse joke than it already is. You need to be working to simplify sentencing (a huge waste of money is spent by every agency just keeping track of complex sentencing requirements that have minimal, if any, effect on crime, but waste the time of countless bureaucrats). You need to require criminals to be fingerprinted before bail is set, since otherwise bail is being set on a person whose identity we do not know. Oh. You already passed a law requiring fingerprint ID? Well, how about making sure it is enforced, because it is another major failure of the system. A murderer on the FBI's Ten Most Wanted list has only to give a fake name when arrested in Alaska, then just waltz out the door after a naive judge or magistrate sets bail on the current arrest charge without even knowing who the offender really is. How many sentencing hearings have you attended? None? Try a few, before you redo the laws. I sat in on a probation revocation hearing for a repeat offender who brutally assaulted a relative, nearly choking her to death, while he was already on probation for other assaults. The judge, commenting on the extremely violent nature of the most recent assault charge, said (with a straight face) to the offender: Of all the violations of your probation that you could have committed, this is the very most serious. It is the absolute worst way in which you could violate your probation. I'm therefore revoking half of your probation time. Yes, for the "very worst possible" violation,

our weak system imposes “half” the available penalty. Without a whit of evidence that it would work, this naive judge chose to believe that, after the third violent assault in a short period of time, “hanging time over his head” would change his behavior. That is what this bill is like. How nice it would be if we could protect ourselves from criminals without the cost of incarceration - let’s just believe that even though there are no facts to support it. Basically, let’s just give up. Throw in the towel. Let the offenders have their way because we are just too busy/tired/cheap/lazy to figure out meaningful solutions based on how offenders really act, as opposed to how we wish they would act.

The mere fact that this bill is 127 pages long should cause you to lose sleep at night if you vote for it. It should be broken into very small pieces, each considered separately after ensuring that you and your constituents actually understand them. The strategy of those pushing the bill is to keep it quiet - hold your breath and hope that no one finds out what is in this monstrous attempt to cut jail costs. I think we all know that if there were a detailed story in the newspaper or TV news today that took the time to explain in plain English everything this bill does, you would receive an avalanche of opposition. Try to imagine yourself defending your “yes” vote on this bill to your constituents during a re-election campaign. I don’t know about all the other areas of the state, but in Anchorage, you’re going to find very few voters who have not been victims or known victims of crime.

I stand with the Alaska Peace Officer’s Association, Office of Victims’ Rights, Anchorage Police Department Employees Association, Alaska Association of Chiefs of Police, Victims for Justice, Public Safety Employees Association, and Standing Together Against Rape in opposition to this bill.

Diane Schenker
diane.schenker@gmail.com

From: Rep. Steve Thompson
Sent: Thursday, April 21, 2016 9:15 AM
To: Helen Phillips
Cc: Jane Pierson
Subject: FW: Please make this part of the record for SB91 Requested Amendments and Questions to "V" draft

From: Butch Moore [mailto:sushores@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 20, 2016 7:42 PM
To: Rep. Steve Thompson <Rep.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Mark Neuman <Rep.Mark.Neuman@akleg.gov>
Cc: Rex Shattuck <Rex.Shattuck@akleg.gov>
Subject: Please make this part of the record for SB91 Requested Amendments and Questions to "V" draft

Representative's Thompson & Newman,

Please consider my proposed amendments to SB91 VERSION "V" and please make this part of the record;

The sentencing of Joshua Almeda, who Murdered Bree, was yesterday on April 19. Almeda received 75 years, with no parole restriction. Almeda is eligible for parole in 25 years, the same time he would have received if he only raped Bree while in possession of the same gun.

On 6/26/14, my daughter, Bree Moore, age 20, was Murdered by Joshua Almeda who was on probation with an alcohol restriction and he was not required to surrender his license for one that restricted alcohol. Joshua walked into a liquor store, bought alcohol, got drunk and shot Bree in the head. Josh later told us if he had not been drinking, Bree would be alive today.

1. Please add a section that requires an offender who is on parole, probation or a court ordered "Alcohol Restriction", to surrender their ID/drivers license. The offender must then, at their expense, pay for a new ID/drivers license with the "Red Bars" that say "Alcohol Restricted", thus preventing them from buying alcohol.
2. Discretionary Parole: Sec. 122 AS 33.16.090(a)

Page #78 Line 1, after line #1 and before "or" please add as: (D) and has not been convicted of an unclassified felony offense, a sexual felony as defined by AS 12.55.185, or a crime involving domestic violence as defined by AS 18.66.990."

Page #78 Line 2, change the 55 back to 60, which is what the Senate version had. And after line #5 please add: "and has not been convicted of an unclassified felony or a sexual felony as defined by AS 12.55.185", which is what the Senate version had.

This will not allow murder's (like Almeda) and sex offenders to get out on reduced time.

3. Murder: Please increase the minimum mandatory sentences for murder, by adding 15 years to each minimum sentence, (Murder 2 = 25 years and Murder 1 = 35 years). So that MURDER is equal to Rape sentencing.

Please increase the minimum mandatory sentences for murder, **by adding 15 years to each minimum murder sentence**, so that MURDER is equal to or exceeds Rape sentencing. *Murder 1 – 35 yrs mandatory min. Murder 2 – 25 yrs mandatory min. Manslaughter – 10 yrs mandatory min. Criminally negligent homicide – presumptive range of 5-10 yrs. With a statutory aggravator or a sentence enhancer that would add no less than 5 yrs to any crime in which a firearm was used and the person used a firearm in the commission of the offense and 1) the person could not legally possess a firearm, 2) the firearm used had no identification marks (i.e. serial numbers) or 3) the firearm used had been previously reported stolen.* On 6/26/14, my daughter, Breanna Moore, age 20, was Murdered by Joshua Almeda who is guilty of Second Degree Murder for killing Bree, at his home, with a stolen handgun, while drunk, (he was both #1 & #3 above).

Below and attached is Current Law AS 12.55.125, Sentences of Imprisonment For Felonies.

- **RAPE** "sexual assault" in the first degree if the offense is a first felony conviction and the defendant possessed a firearm, used a dangerous instrument, or caused serious physical injury during the commission of the offense, **25 to 35 years**;
- **MURDER - (a)** A defendant convicted of "**murder in the first degree**" AS 11.41.150 (a)(1) shall be sentenced to a definite term of imprisonment of at least **20 years**. A defendant convicted of "**murder in the second degree**" shall be sentenced to a definite term of imprisonment of at least **10 years**.

The Laws you make now, Will determine the release of Joshua Almeda and other violent offenders like him.

Thank you for considering my request for these amendments,

Butch Moore, Bree's Dad sushores@gmail.com



Helen Phillips

From: Paul Labolle
Sent: Thursday, April 21, 2016 10:57 AM
To: House Finance Legislation
Subject: Public Testimony HB205/SB91

Hi Helen,

Can you add the below to public testimony for SB 91?

Thanks

Paul LaBolle

In the world of criminal justice enforcement, one size does not fit all communities. Rural Alaska requires specific measures to promote and maintain levels of public safety. It is a completely different world than urban Alaska. The behaviors and problems of rural Alaska are not the same as in urban areas.

As a 30+ year veteran of Alaska law enforcement having served with both State (AST) and municipal agencies, I have had the chance to study human behavior from the front line. As a currently serving Chief of Police, my agency works diligently to protect the public and mitigate the severe effects of criminal conduct on our community. We embrace community policing. Our community members know who we are, where we live, and how we live. The procedures we use to maintain order have been developed over a lengthy period and are recognized by the community as standards to not only safeguard the public from undesirable behaviors, but also set parameters for acceptable conduct.

Current policy and procedure focuses on taking action to intervene at the earliest stages. If dealing with a sober, rational person, a summons in lieu of arrest has value. This is a practice that we commonly use. It is also used in circumstances where someone may be slightly intoxicated, but there was no significant foundation for the contact. The person is taken home and advised not to go out or cause any problems. They later appear in court. But the blanket proposition that an officer MUST issue a summons in lieu of arrest in all but a narrow range of offenses takes public safety tools away. There is normally no deterrence to intoxicated behaviors other than to separate those persons from the public until they detoxify. Though some may modify behavior to avoid sanctions; there will also be an element that will not; and another element that will not have the capacity to make rational decisions due to intoxication/altered mental states. This process contains an element of undefined risk that increases when the person remains in the community and continues to have access to alcohol. The outcomes are not pleasant.

Data accumulated over many years clearly demonstrates that Alaska (particularly rural Alaska) suffers from astounding levels of alcohol/substance abuse, domestic violence, and sexual violence. The correlation of

intoxication and/or substance abuse to criminal conduct is undisputed. In my jurisdiction, 42% of the total calls received last year involved alcohol. This may seem insignificant however this total takes into account every case number generated for every call - from a security check to a felony offense. Last year my agency made 599 physical arrests of which 89% involved alcohol. Of the 145 domestic violence related arrests, 92% involved alcohol. Many of the people that are arrested are in heightened states of aggression/altered levels of rationality and are not suitable for a summons- or we would not physically arrest them. Felony arrests are increasing and recidivism is staggering. There is little if any stigma attached to arrest in a rural community. There is no loss of job or social status. In these circumstances when a physical arrest has little deterrence, what deterrence is issuing a summons – frequently to someone who is intoxicated?

Yet, that is what SB91 would require. Issuance of a summons to a person who may not have the mental capacity to understand nor the rational judgment to modify behavior.

Physical arrest is the primary means of assuring safety in the community. It allows the system to hold the person for a period of time to detox and perhaps gain some level of rationality prior to release. The application of conditions at release allows us to take action when the person violates – and hopefully modify behaviors. It also allows us to intervene at the lowest possible level before a situation can escalate. Under SB91, will be reduced to issuing a summons and watching people walk away to consume more alcohol and increase the propensity for violence. There is once again, no deterrence.

How Troopers will implement this in villages is a concern. There would be no authority to arrest up through a C felony. Unlike Nome, there is no full-time law enforcement presence in many villages. Troopers are expected to take the problem out of the village. These bills don't allow for that except in the most egregious of circumstances. If arrested, they will be brought to Nome, released onto our streets – and without a place to stay. The problems with this are exponential.

As the people dealing with the public in our communities, we will have to explain to victims why the arrest was not made. What confidence will the community have that we can protect them? The 'blame' can only be projected towards those who make the laws.

This legislation has nothing to do with public safety. It has to do with dollars and meeting the 'recommendations' of the Justice Reinvestment Report. I've read the report and have done criminal justice research myself. What is missing in this legislation is the planning and forethought that goes into implementation of these recommendations. Undoubtedly prohibiting physical arrests will reduce the number of persons going to pretrial booking. But at what cost to the safety of communities that we are all in the business of protecting? The report goes so far as to reference the reduction of crime in the 1990s – which was partially the result of aggressive enforcement, arrest and incarceration. 'Beyond the crime control benefit, prison sentences can be used to express community condemnation or to isolate the offender'. The premise is the same; arrest, detention and detoxification are tools that are used to isolate the offender and protect our communities. In this legislation, those tools are being stripped away.

I have several pages of notes on this research product. Though the legislation is said to model the recommendations, I see significant variance in the recommendations in the study and SB91 as written. SB91 takes away the very discretion that promotes community policing.

As a member of the Alaska Police Standard Council; board member for the Alaska Association of Chiefs of Police; and member of the Alaska Police Officers Association; I am unaware of any of my colleagues that believe this legislation, as written, promotes public safety. I am unaware of any law enforcement official who has issued support.

I would strongly encourage the critical assessment of SB91. Public safety is not about dollars. It is about people who too frequently become victims. It is about victims who have to reconstruct their lives. This bill does not protect the people and has many long and short term consequences that deserve consideration.

As such, I strongly oppose this bill.

Sincerely,

J. Papasodora

Nome Police Department

Helen Phillips

From: Rep. Steve Thompson
Sent: Wednesday, April 20, 2016 4:09 PM
To: Helen Phillips
Cc: Jane Pierson
Subject: FW: SB 91 - Keeping "Restoring Driving Privileges" in the Bill

From: Helen Trainor [mailto:htrainor@live.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 20, 2016 12:10 PM
To: Rep. Steve Thompson <Rep.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov>
Subject: SB 91 - Keeping "Restoring Driving Privileges" in the Bill

SB 91

Dear Rep Steve Thompson,

April 20, 2016

Dear Rep Steve Thompson

I am asking you to please support and vote to pass the part of SB 91 that deals with providing a pathway to restoring driving privileges for people who have had three DUI's and who have lost their driving privileges for life.

I am a family member of a **Felony DUI Wellness Court** graduate. I can't say enough about how important and life changing this program is to those who accept responsibility for their actions and who want to make lasting changes in their lives.

For the record, it is an 18 month very demanding and intensive program designed to break the cycle of addiction. Participants who are accepted into the program, must **waive their right to plead for a lesser charge** and instead must plead "guilty" as charged. This fact alone carries with it the knowledge that you have lost your driving privileges for life.

My son has been 3 1/2 years clean and sober, is very active in the Wellness Court Alumni Group, is a Board member and a regular Group Facilitator, mentoring others with the same problems he has experienced. He has always held a steady job as a welder/fabricator; he has completely turned his life around but the fact that he is not able to drive to work or to drive his family for the rest of his life, is both very difficult and humiliating. Regaining his driving privileges would give him his life back.

For these reasons I am writing in support of SB 91 as providing a pathway to restoring driving privileges for people who have shown they are rehabilitated, responsible citizens. It is an important step in removing one of the barriers that lead to recidivism in our correctional system. Realistically how can anyone manage their daily lives without their transportation. It is extremely difficult when you have a family. SB 91 is such an important bill! It will enable people to earn back the privilege to drive supervised at first in such a way as not to endanger society and will continue the pathway for people who have changed their lives to continue to be successful. It is my hope that in the future there will be a way for DUI felons to individually petition the court to restore other rights lost and eventually have their felony convictions removed on an individual basis like what can happen in drug conviction cases.

Oregon recently passed a bill, HB 3025 also called the "Ban the Box Bill" that became law January 1, 2016. It removes the criminal background question from job application forms. Prospective employers can ask about criminal background during interviews, but only after the initial screening.

I want to thank Senator Coghill and the Judiciary Committee for their work on SB 91. It is an important start in continuing the rehabilitative process for Felony DUI offenders who have completed intensive programs and shown that they have turned their lives around, to be able to earn back privileges lost and to be full participating members in their families and communities.

Many of us involved in the Wellness Courts have been supporting passage of a bill such as this for three years. Thank you for considering this part of the bill to be included in SB 91 if only part of the bill is to go to the floor for a vote.

Helen Trainor
htrainor@live.com

Helen Phillips

From: Rep. Steve Thompson
Sent: Thursday, April 21, 2016 1:52 PM
To: Helen Phillips
Cc: Jane Pierson
Subject: FW: Letter from ANCSA Regional Association supporting Criminal Justice Reform
Attachments: Criminal_Justice_Reform042116.pdf

From: Allred, Cindy [mailto:Cindy@ancsaceos.org]
Sent: Thursday, April 21, 2016 12:15 PM
To: Rep. Mark Neuman <Rep.Mark.Neuman@akleg.gov>; Rep. Steve Thompson <Rep.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Mike Chenault <Rep.Mike.Chenault@akleg.gov>; Rep. Charisse Millett <Rep.Charisse.Millet@akleg.gov>; Representative.Chris.Tuck.@akleg.gov
Cc: Rep. Dan Saddler <Rep.Dan.Saddler@akleg.gov>; Rep. Bryce Edgmon <Rep.Bryce.Edgmon@akleg.gov>; Rep. Lynn Gattis <Rep.Lynn.Gattis@akleg.gov>; Rep. Cathy Munoz <Rep.Cathy.Munoz@akleg.gov>; Rep. Lance Pruitt <Rep.Lance.Pruitt@akleg.gov>; Rep. Tammie Wilson <Rep.Tammie.Wilson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Les Gara <Rep.Les.Gara@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Guttenberg <Rep.David.Guttenberg@akleg.gov>; Rep. Mike Hawker <Rep.Mike.Hawker@akleg.gov>; Rep. Scott Kawasaki <Rep.Scott.Kawasaki@akleg.gov>; Reitmeier, Kim <Kim@ancsaceos.org>
Subject: Letter from ANCSA Regional Association supporting Criminal Justice Reform

Co-Chairs Representative Neuman and Representative Thompson,


Attached is a letter from ANCSA Regional Association regarding the legislature's consideration of criminal justice reform through HB 205 and SB 91. Please add ANCSA Regional Association's comments to the official record on BASIS for these bills. We appreciate your hard work and thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important issue.

We wish you luck with the remainder of the legislative session.

Best Regards,

Cindy Allred

Cindy Allred
Deputy Director
ANCSA Regional Association



PO Box 240766, Anchorage, Alaska 99524
p 907.339.6052 | c 907.317.0735 | f 907.339.7477

From: Rep. Steve Thompson
Sent: Tuesday, April 19, 2016 8:48 AM
To: Helen Phillips
Cc: Jane Pierson
Subject: FW: Crime bill

-----Original Message-----

From: Shannon Nolder [mailto:nolderskitchen@yahoo.com]
Sent: Friday, April 15, 2016 7:59 AM
To: Rep. Steve Thompson <Rep.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov>
Subject: Crime bill

Dear sir or ma'am,

I am a life-long Alaskan and an Anchorage police officer of thirteen years. I've been following the Omnibus Crime Bill for sometime and have even been asked to speak with Senator Coghill about the subject. I'm writing you now to express my concerns with the legislation as I see the state I love moving headlong into a disaster.

I understand the argument that with prison populations and costs rising we need to do something different, but I believe many assign guilt to the criminal justice system instead of confronting a degrading culture in America where more people are committing crimes than ever before. I also understand the overly simplistic approach of simply diverting non-violent people from prison, however, I believe your approach is flawed for several reasons.

If for example we want to place someone into drug treatment instead of prison simply for possession of drugs then that treatment must already be established, and it is not currently. Alaska has an extreme shortage of treatment beds available. Additionally, treatment is historically low on success with some states actually decriminalizing drugs and allowing for clinics such as methadone clinics because it's cheaper to supply drug addicted folks than continue to try and treat the addiction and society suffer sky rocketing amounts of property crimes often associated with drug addicts. For the record I believe this is not an approach Alaska should try because it simply gives up on the individual. If treatment can be successful however, this bill removes a large incentive for defendants to engage in treatment because they do not have incarceration hanging over their head. As a matter of fact Proposition 47 passed in 2014 by California and not nearly as far reaching as this bill, had this very effect, with treatment rates falling upwards of 60%. Also, the term "non-violent" offender which is often applied to defendants charged with drug crimes and incarcerated is disingenuous because most of our non-DV related homicides are drug related and even more perplexing, many are marijuana related robberies that ended in a death, this is in a state that has legalized marijuana. After California's Proposition 47, which was at least a vote of the people, some cities have seen rates of theft rise 10-20% which has been attributed to drug addicts now on the streets and not in treatment, feeding their addiction by stealing citizen's property, including vehicles. Some cities have seen a rise in violent crime as well. There are many in the country pushing for more lenient sentences and a reduction of personal accountability. However, I doubt these people have ever seen a victim of crime up close and personal and even fewer have seen a defendant in the throws of their crimes. Society often only sees what they know about crime on TV, including politicians. If you want to truly know more about the problems of society ask a police officer or better yet come ride with one.

Much has been said about people languishing in prison because they cannot afford bail, this too is disingenuous because most bails are lower now than they were ten years ago, usually around \$500. Most people can provide as little as 10% of the bail amount to a bail bondsmen and be out of jail in a few hours. The truth is many people decide to simply "flat

time" or simply do time in prison while the case proceeds so once sentenced they are immediately released or have much less time to serve due to the time they've already served.

Just like the lack of treatment, the bill calls for personnel not yet hired to assess the risk of defendants and whether they should be released. I find it strange that in the plan that preceded the bill, it repeatedly points to savings of close to 500 million but never ventures a guess at treatment costs, personnel costs or economic loss due to increased crime which will be borne on the backs of our citizens.

I could go on much further into my concerns with specific portions of the bill but let me get to the point. Because I've been involved, though in a limited fashion, it appears to me the bill is simply a math equation. When suggestions have been made by law enforcement and even amended in the bill, someone has pointed out that there will not be nearly as much money saved and the change is scrapped.

Perhaps this is why law enforcement was all but excluded from the beginning. The inclusion of only one law enforcement officer and from a department with only 30+ officers was inappropriate. Even if this officer was extremely intelligent and could somehow explain the intricacies of a much higher volume of crime environment like Anchorage, Fairbanks or the MatSu how could they have been in three places at once in the case of the three panels convened to discuss these complex issues. Even if you believe as many in the public arena do, that a professional that spends their hours working among crime, criminals and the very system you seek to overhaul is not qualified to render advice or an opinion, you should listen to the prosecuting attorneys.

It's disgraceful that Governor Walker 's administration has muzzled the District Attorneys, Department of Public Safety and exerted pressure over local governments to fall inline or risk the loss of state funds.

I truly believe this crime bill will lead to large increases in crime, an economic cost far outweighing the costs of incarceration, and a decrease in quality of life for the very citizens every law enforcement officer in this state took an oath to protect. I believe this is why you cannot find law enforcement officers to lend support despite offering consideration for bills benefitting law enforcement. I want you to know it is not too late to slow this process down and do it right. We owe it to our citizens to get this right. If this bill passes and our worst fears are confirmed, many will ask who is responsible and it will fall squarely upon the legislatures shoulders.

Josh Nolder

April 14, 2016

Sent Via Electronic Mail

Representative Mark Neuman
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol Room
Juneau, AK 99801

Sent Via Electronic Mail

Representative Steve Thompson
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol Room
Juneau AK, 99801

Dear Committee Co-Chairs Representative Mark Neuman and Representative Steve Thompson,

I am writing as co-chair of the Alaska Federation of Natives and I live in Bethel. I urge you to support Senate Bill 91, the Criminal Justice Reform Bill and I'd like to thank the Alaska Criminal Justice Commission for working on this much needed reform.

SB 91 allows opportunities for reducing the number of people incarcerated, including those being held under pre-trial status. The bill provides tools for more successful reentry of our fellow citizens back into our communities and recognizes the immediate need for the State to reinvest saving from the reform to support the urgent need for treatment facilities in Alaska. This approach addresses underlying substance abuse issues that often lead to incarceration.

Looking locally in Bethel, the Yukon-Kuskokwim Correctional Center was built to house fewer than 100 inmates and for the last four years the population of the Bethel jail has exceeded 200 inmates consistently. There is no longer a gym in the facility, there is no room for anything except for cells, beds and urinals. The jail has been so utterly congested that I have received letters from local correctional officers asking for the community to help raise awareness about concerns related to occupational safety. The facility is holding so many inmates, that inmate safety and incidences of violence is a growing concern. The correctional facility itself is creating an environment that leads to increased recidivism by placing non-violent and misdemeanor defendants into an overcrowded facility where the current circumstances lead inmates to display behaviors that mimic gang violence. As a result, the existing justice system is making our communities less safe. Many of these 200 inmates here are under pretrial status and almost all inmates in the Bethel jail are there with substance abuse related charges against them, this Bill, SB 91 would help address the existing situation in a meaningful way. This bill also protects victim's rights, which is a most critical component.

The State of Alaska has an opportunity here to not only reform but really repair our current criminal justice system to make our towns, cities and villages safer places to live by addressing the needs of our citizens and providing them with access to services for sustainable re-entry.



Ana Hoffman, Bethel