



ALASKA CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

"Walking Alaska's Toughest Beat"

March 1, 2012

Senator Bill Wielechowski
State Capitol Room 101
Juneau AK, 99801

Senator Wielechowski,

My supervisor, Brad Wilson, returned from Juneau late last night and probably will not have time before this morning's Senate State Affairs Committee meeting to personally convey his support for the protections Senate Bill 198 would extend to our brothers and sisters serving as Police Officers and Court Service Officers. I know that Brad strongly supports this Bill. I will attempt to speak for him as his subordinate, but also as a retired Correctional Officer. Correctional Officers also fall under Alaska Police Standards' training and certification requirements and they fully understand the need for the protections that SB 198 will afford for our fellow law enforcement agency members.

Correctional Officers know the valuable services that Police Officers and Court Service Officers provide. We know the importance of an Alaska Police Standards certificate and the impact that revocation can have on future employment. We acknowledge that there have been occasions when a certificate needed to be revoked, but we feel **strongly** that a certificate should never be revoked without clear and convincing evidence and due process. SB 198 will provide that protection for Police Officers.

Furthermore, Correctional Officers recognize the very real need to protect members of the law enforcement community from having their personal information publicly released. Most, who have served in this field for any length of time, can recount numerous instances of irate detainees and prisoners defiantly shouting, "*I know where you and your family live and I will get you*". Fortunately, most of the time the person does not know where the Officer lives and the threat is seldom acted upon. However, tragically there have been heartbreaking instances around the nation of just such threats being carried out. Unfortunately, more might have if the officer's personal information had been made public!

We urge the Legislature to quickly pass SB 198.

Thank you,


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