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Subject: Senate Bill 221

March 15, 2012

Dear Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

At our March 15, 2012 meeting, the Board of Directors of Partners for Progress discussed Senate Bill 221. We voted unanimously to support this bill.

Since 1999 Partners for Progress has been closely involved in the work of Alaska's Legislature, Administration, and the Court System to identify "Smart Justice" measures that better protect the public while reducing the human and monetary costs of incarceration. This year's Legislative Crime Summit highlighted a number of tested and proven measures that achieve this goal. Most involve substance abuse prevention and treatment.

Prevention and treatment of substance abuse is at the core of "Smart Justice". Providing additional funding to address the scourge of alcohol and drug abuse that underlies much of the crime in Alaska is an essential step towards curbing Alaska's ever-growing costs of incarceration while improving public protection. We urge your support for Senate Bill 221.

Respectfully,

Janet McCabe,
Chair, Partners for Progress