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Senator Lesil McGuire

SB 195 "An Act establishing a maximum caseload for probation and parole officers."

SB 195 will put into statute a maximum of 60 cases for probation and parole officers at any given time.

Currently parole officers in the Anchorage area are often responsible for over 100 cases. That is not an appropriate amount of time to manage their caseload and protect the public. The ability of a parole officer to monitor an individual closely can reduce recidivism rates and help offenders return to our community as productive members of society.

Felony offenders are given the greatest amount of attention. These interactions include home visits, office visits, employment checks, and frequent contact with other agencies including law enforcement and social service programs. Officers use a range of sanctions and treatment interventions to reduce the chance an offender will commit a new crime. Research shows that this approach is more successful and cost-effective than relying on jails or prisons as the only response to criminal behavior.

SB 195 is intended to start a conversation about the effectiveness and systemic costs of our corrections system.

I greatly appreciate your support of Senate Bill 195.