

Daniel George

From: Alaska Food Coalition <afc@foodbankofalaska.org>
Sent: Saturday, February 13, 2016 9:41 AM
To: Senate State Affairs; Sen. Bill Stoltze
Subject: SB 91 Testimony for hearing today

Hello, my name is Sarra Khlifi, and I want to voice my support for Senate Bill 91, the Criminal Justice Reform Bill. I represent the Alaska Food Coalition, a group of about 125 organizations across the state working against hunger and poverty to build food security for all Alaskans. We have prioritized advocating for SB 91, because we believe this bill provides concrete, critical steps to help save the state money, prevent non-violent offenders from re-entering the prison system, and enables access to food for those who want to become productive Alaskans after they have served their time. Removing the lifetime SNAP drug felon ban with SB 91 will not only reduce recidivism and crime, but help rebuild broken Alaskan families and help single adults who are trying to start over. Do you want people who are reentering society to be among us while they're poor, hungry and desperate? Or if there is food money available, don't you want them to have it while they are transitioning into society? The federal money is there, and we can use it to keep from creating more problems – like homelessness and criminal recidivism - in Alaska that we have to pay for ourselves. Thank you, Senator Stoltze and the Senate State Affairs Committee for hearing my support for this bill.

Best,

Sarra Khlifi

Manager | Alaska Food Coalition
c/o Food Bank of Alaska
2121 Spar Avenue | Anchorage, AK 99501
Phone: 907-222-3103
Fax: 907-277-7368

Email: afc@foodbankofalaska.org
www.alaskafood.org

Daniel George

From: Don Suttie <donsuttie@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 7:40 AM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: SB 91

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Senators,

Please DO NOT pass SB 91 as it will increase crime and costs and decrease law enforcements capabilities.

This bill is NOT in the best interests of law abiding Alaskans.

Thank you,

Don Suttie
3210 N. Oronoco Ct.
Wasilla, Ak 99654
907-376-4723

Daniel George

From: ajsupply1@gmail.com
Sent: Saturday, February 13, 2016 9:25 AM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: please support sb91. andy boyle. nihilchik

Sent from Windows Mail

Daniel George

From: Stacey Wright <swrong@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, February 08, 2016 8:38 PM
To: Senate State Affairs; Sen. Peter Micciche
Subject: Senate Bill 91

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Senate Bill 91 MUST STOP! Has everyone gone crazy? Criminals are already essentially getting a slap on the wrist, and you want to go even lighter? Has any of you ever been a victim of crime? What about the law abiding citizens? Where is our protection? This bill will decrease offenses, jail and probabion times, bail, arrests, etc. Why? So they realize that there's really no punishment, essentially just a little vacation from crime (if even that), and they'll be right back victimizing more people? How in the world does this possibly make sense? We work hard for what we have, where is our protection from the criminals? What are you people telling criminals? That it's "not that bad"? Do you realize how traumatizing it is to us, who've been victims? I'll know who NOT to vote for at election time, and will pass this information on to all family and friends, who will pass it on to others, and so on. Will someone tell me when exactly, that the world lost it's sense of justice and common sense?

Stacey 

Daniel George

From: Perry R. Ahsogeak <pahsogeak@fairbanksnative.org>
Sent: Friday, February 12, 2016 4:16 PM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: Omnibus Crime Bill SB 91

As a representative of Fairbanks Native Association we would like to provide our support towards Senate Bill 91. We see this as an opportunity to reforming criminal justice here in Alaska especially considering the rather large disproportionate number of Alaska Natives being confined. We see that the provisions will help reduce recidivism rates and help to create opportunities for Alaskan residents to be productive members of our society. By reducing the number of prison beds we also recognize that this will provide funds for other resources in community services and that's helps returning Alaskans move forward in obtaining a healthy lifestyle and being able to contribute to their community. We ask for your support in moving forward SB 91 and its implementation so that our people have the support to lead stable, productive, and crime free in their communities.

Perry R. Ahsogeak

Director, FNA Behavioral Health

452-6251 ext 6411

fax (907-456-4849

email: pahsogeak@fairbanksnative.org

Daniel George

From: Sierra Hunsaker <shunsaker@hotmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 14, 2016 11:30 AM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: SB91

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Completed

Senators: Coghill, Ellis, McGuire, Costello, Bishop and Micciche

I understand the necessity of prison reform, and the importance of budget restrictions on what we can do to reform it. Your intentions to change a broken and wasteful system are well placed, but your methods are reckless.

Please understand that the cost of crime will not be cut in our great state, but shifted to the shoulders of the victims to whom this bill would offer no aid or recourse. SB91 as you have presented it only addresses the financial implications to the state and is clearly a cost cutting effort for YOU that violates the principles of responsibility and holds no one accountable for anything.

I expect more out of you than this reckless dump of your responsibilities. It is your job to ensure that our laws are in the best interest of our people. Such disregard for my safety, for criminal rehabilitation or for their ability to legally provide for themselves upon reentry into our society is a shortsighted negligence that I cannot and will not overlook.

Many folks agree that the time served and the expense of the current system isn't reducing or deterring crime. I don't know anyone who thinks that it is. So I ask WHY are you watering down the same shit soup and serving it up cold? THIS IS NOT REFORM!

To make a true reform, you must consider the people of the system you wish to change, AND the effects the proposed changes would have on their rights.

This bill is a fail on so many levels that it is offensive. I am offended that my safety and the safety of my children mean less to you than a budget line, and that you are willing to dump thousands of criminals out into my community without holding them accountable for their crimes in any way.

I get it. Time is expensive, but we have already established that time doesn't rehabilitate criminals. So, why is there no attempt in this bill to hold them financially accountable, or physically accountable or at the very least socially accountable?

What guarantee do I have that these folks will have learned anything from being caught, and what recourse do I have as a citizen to protect myself from being a victim again upon their release?

What opportunities and motivations will our prisoners have to reenter our system of laws and function accordingly?

I feel betrayed by this bill, and I am angry. I deserve better from you and I demand better for my children.

Responsibility MUST be a consideration in this bill, and I don't mean the victim's responsibility. If nothing is changed, and this bill passes as it stands, chaos will reign and my rights and the rights of my children will be trampled by your reckless rule.

Please tell me this isn't the best you can do.

Sincerely,

Sierra Hunsaker
(907) 376-3507

Daniel George

From: Saraswatirose <saraswatirose@aol.com>
Sent: Friday, February 12, 2016 4:25 PM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: SB 91

I just received something from a friend saying that there was going to be a hearing tomorrow discussing a change in the usual treatment of Natives when it comes to imprisonment and probation. I won't be able to attend, but I'd still like to voice my support for the change. I've seen first hand (in homeless shelters) what the effects of current laws have had on too many Native ex-cons and I just think they should be better.

Thank you,

Arlene Smith

Daniel George

From: Boyd Muzzana <bmuzzana@live.com>
Sent: Friday, February 12, 2016 10:06 AM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: Attn: Mr. Stoltze, Criminal Reform Bill Testimony

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Mr. Stoltze,

Thank you for this opportunity to have a say in this "groundbreaking" Bill brought forth by Senator Coghill.

I am a 55 year old white male who has had an extensive past record of offenses (mainly DUIs). I am not proud of my past record, but have been held accountable and paid the price for my past episodes of "poor judgment". People can change as long as they have the will to change and it comes from within oneself...I consider myself to be one of those. Life is all about choices, both good and bad ones.

I have not taken a drink of alcohol in over 10 years, I am a productive member of society and co-owner of Mr. Prime Beef in Anchorage, and have fully paid my debt to society. I owe this all to the willingness for change.

I must admit that I do have an ulterior motive for my support of this Bill, shown by the attachments in this e-mail...possible reinstatement of my driving privileges. Maybe there is useful information in these attachments...maybe not.

As we can all recognize, society these days is no doubt plagued by the epidemic proportions of drug addiction, alcoholism, violence, and non-accountability. I am all for any action that can help alleviate these problems in our society and help balance our state budget.

I am impressed with Senator Coghill's credentials...mainly that he has served in Prison Ministry. He has experienced discernment between good and bad in that environment.

Please don't hesitate to let me know if any of this has been of any help to you and if you should need anything that I can help you with. This Bill has my full support as a registered voter and makes perfect sense to me in every way.

I must apologize for the short testimony, but I need to go to work. **The attachments will be in the form of a forwarded e-mail that I sent to Senator Coghill.**

Thank you and God Bless,

Boyd G. Muzzana

Construction/Maintenance Engineer

Mr. Prime Beef

Anchorage, AK

Daniel George

From: channcie bean <channcie@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 13, 2016 11:12 AM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: SB 91 Public Testimony

I am in support of SB 91. I feel that this a good way to reduce the prison population. After reading the Justice Reinvestment Report they are wanting to expand parole for non-sex offenders. Another way that can expand parole is amending how unsuspended jail time is calculated. Per AS 12.55.105(g) offender receives 1/3 of good time, and is eligible to go to discretionary parole once they serve 1/3 of there time, but that 1/3 is calculated off the entire sentence not of the remainder of the sentence after the good time is received. This change would not need legislative approval but a simple change of DOC policies. Under current policy an inmate with a 99 year sentence would serve 32 and half years before they are eligible for discretionary parole. If policy was changed to above recommendation the the inmate would be eligible for parole after serving $((99-32.5)*33\%)$ 21 year and 9 months. Please review this information as a way to reduce prison population.

Channcie Bean
P. O. Box 3797
Palmer, AK 99645
907-745-6711

Daniel George

From: City Of Kasaan Council Seat G <councilseatg@cityofkasaan.net>
Sent: Monday, February 15, 2016 10:16 AM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: Prison reform

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

So far, these proposed reforms look useful, since prison isn't always the best solution for those who offend while mentally unstable. In my home village of Kasaan, we have had a number of such offenders who were threatening and frightening others while experiencing psychotic episodes, and we had difficulty getting one such person to appropriate mental health care, since by the time he was brought into Ketchikan for his court ordered psych evaluation, he was being quite rational again. He returned to the village, and he ended up in another psychotic episode, barged into a neighbor's home, and ended up being shot, but luckily not seriously injured! Thankfully, he ended up moving away, much to our relief!

There have been several cases of people becoming deranged from Delerium Tremens, and in one case, committed arson, but was exonerated as being temporarily insane. He did finally sober up, but died before his time, partly from drinking too much alcohol for too many years. One of his sons went on to be a meth user, and committed Domestic Violence and Weapons Misconduct twice while under the influence of that dangerous chemical.

In the late 1980, another of the sons uncles when under the influence of a dangerous substance shot and killed his small child, his wife, and then himself! He was a 3rd generation alcoholic, and there may or may not have been a women's shelter in Juneau, then, where the family was living. Had there been more help for that family, this tragedy could have been prevented! He was known to be violent toward his siblings, but no one knew what to do about this, in the 1950's . It outlines the need for more women's shelters to be built, and one for Prince of Wales Island, since the need is so great here!

Della A. Coburn

Long time Kasaan resident
Sent from my iPad

Daniel George

From: Don Kingkade <fbksdon@icloud.com>
Sent: Friday, February 12, 2016 10:35 PM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: Senate Bill 91 Testimony

Senate State Affairs Chairman Bill Stoltze,

My son is a graduate of the Fairbanks Wellness Court program. He's turned his life around - - Journeyman Electrician, Home Owner and Father. As an electrician his loss of driving privileges obviously impacts his ability to work and continue on his new life path, especially living here in Fairbanks.

We heard throughout his participation in the Wellness Court program that legislation was in the works to allow graduates to get their driving privileges back. Senator Coghill's office recently informed us that SB91 includes language authorizing limited driving privileges to individuals meeting requirements much like those my son has met.

I'm writing to express my support of SB91. Young men and women with past troubles like my son, who've benefitted from rigorous treatment programs face ongoing problems living, working and being contributing members of the community due to the difficulties of transportation in Fairbanks' arctic climate. The limited license provision of SB91 would allow my son to progress in his profession, grow as a parent and demonstrate to all that he's turned things around.

I'm hopeful SB91 moves forward as written and I appreciate your taking time to read and consider my input in support of the bill.

vr
Don Kingkade
2703 Riverview Drive
Fairbanks

Daniel George

From: Donna Fischer <drfischer2@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 13, 2016 10:22 AM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: SB 91

Hello,

My name is Donna Fischer. I am a convicted felon several times over, with many of my charges being Misconducts Involving Controlled Substance, and other related substance use disorders charges.

Many times, I served my sentences not receiving any treatment to address my issues. Once released, with nowhere to go, I'd go right back to the same people doing the same thing and then I'd be right back in jail with a probation violation, only to repeat the cycle over and over. I spent decades in this vicious cycle.

The last time I was incarcerated (2006), I had the opportunity to do RSAT while incarcerated. My life was forever changed because of it. Not because RSAT is a magic program, but it really did prepare me for the challenges I faced when I got out. Because of all the support that was set in place for me when leaving Hiland Mountain, I have been out since 2008. I was afforded a very long transition from incarceration in the half-way house (22 months), then 18 months on level 5 home confinement from the half-way house. In the half-way house, I was required to do additional out-patient treatment which helped me utilize the skills that I learned in treatment in "real time" life.

Today, I am a college graduate earning my AAS in the half-way house, and my Bachelors while on parole. I'm currently finishing up my Master's in Public Health. I am also a licensed foster-care parent for two of my grandchildren. I facilitate two groups a month at the RSAT program in Hiland Mountain and I serve on two reentry coalitions: Anchorage and Bristol Bay, I am also a steering team member of the Alaska Prisoner Reentry Initiative and advocate for reentry when ever possible. I owe my success to the long transition that I had from incarceration, the added treatment opportunity, and the supports from many community providers in the Anchorage area which include:

Alaska Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
Alaska Women's Resource Center
Akeela Inc.
University Alaska Anchorage
Narcotics Anonymous
Faith Christian Community
Partners for Progress Reentry Program
Alaska Native Justice Center's Adult Reentry Program
Success Inside and Out
Alaska Department of Corrections

I am grateful for the support that was offered to me when I was released, and highly urge you to assist our state in reducing the rate of incarceration in any way possible.

Best regards,

Donna

Daniel George

From: donna stevens <donnaewan@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 13, 2016 11:23 PM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: SB 91

I am in support of SB 91. Please help with this bill. Thank you for your support.

Daniel George

From: Frances Suttie <grandmaak@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 7:44 AM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: SB 91

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Senators,

Please DO NOT pass SB 91 as it will increase crime and costs and decrease law enforcements capabilities.

This bill is NOT in the best interests of law abiding Alaskans.

Thank you,

Frances Suttie
3210 N. Oronoco Ct.
Wasilla, Ak 99654
907-376-4723

Daniel George

From: Craig & Gail Flippo <gsflippo@gci.net>
Sent: Thursday, February 11, 2016 8:31 AM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: Alaska Justice Reinvestment Initiative

Too theft and vandalism In the Anchorage bowl and the Matsu Valley. We have a level of crime increase since the 80's that has affected every business and household the likes of big city in the lower 48. With the limited road infrastructure here in Alaska catching criminals is immensely productive than elsewhere.

Please vote **no** to the Alaska Justice Reinvestment Initiative. It will result in a larger number of criminals that do not have repercussions to their crimes.

Criminals have grown in numbers. And the rest of Alaskan residents are having to become hyper vigilante. We have to check where we are to leave our homes, during the day!!, where we park, who approaches us on our own streets and businesses.

Thank you for your time

Gail S Flippo

Daniel George

From: mdr <mdr@gci.net>
Sent: Friday, February 12, 2016 6:16 PM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: Re: limited drivers license

My name is Margaret E. Hobbs, I am writing because, I have been without my drivers license for at least 5 years. It has been a struggle for me and my family, I have been relying on them to take care of my transportation needs, and I sure would like to be able to take care of myself, I have been convicted as a felon, but, I have been clean and sober. I am now walking with the Lord because, I have learned that this is the only way for me to live, I would sure appreciate it if you would please consider helping me out in somehow being able to get my drive's license back, for work purposes.

Thank you for your time,

Margaret E. Hobbs

mdr@gci.net

907-575-9442

Sent from my GCI smartphone.

Daniel George

From: Mike Coons <mcoons@mtaonline.net>
Sent: Saturday, February 13, 2016 12:16 PM
To: Sen. Bill Stoltze; Sen. Bill Wielechowski; Sen. Charlie Huggins; Sen. John Coghill; Sen. Lesil McGuire
Subject: SB 91

My name is Mike Coons, speaking for myself and a retired Paramedic and several years in law enforcement (Alaska State Defense Force) and security.

I was waiting to speak in another committee, so sadly missed the first hour of this discussion. I'd like to comment on a few things relating to our Criminal Justice System. Sadly it is Criminal, not Victim, or just Justice System.

It is so often that we hear on the news about crime, and that the person caught has a long history of crime and in and out of prison. When I hear the past crimes they served time for, I wonder why they are even out. Lot of that seems to be plea bargaining, DA's discretion by reducing charges based on the workload. So people that are arrested for things like child sexual abuse, we hear far to often out with a short period of time, then are now being arrested for more child attacks! Then we have judges that don't sentence to the maximum. At this time nationally and I understand we here as well, are letting people go early to reduce prison over crowding, with the premise of non-violent. Yet news reports show that many of those had plea bargained from violent crimes, armed robbery, felony assaults, etc. down to "non-violent" misdemeanors or low level felonies. This concerns me greatly!

I agree with Governors Perry and Abbott in Texas where they have been able to close 13 major prisons and use those facilities as real rehabilitation for addiction. We can do the same here, but we have to be smart about it. Looking at community based organizations that have shown a history and performance to turn addicts around for those facilities, with a solid look at performance every 2 years, needs to be the direction vs hiring new State workers. Yet we must be ready for those whom will not rehabilitate to hammer them and put back behind prison bars for full term given by the courts.

Senator Coghill and I have discussed the above as well as one other means to reduce costs of prisons. That being turning over to the Alaska Federal Attorney General for those arrested for firearm offensives, i.e. falsifying Form 4473 which affirms that the buyer is not a felon, not an illegal, not mentally adjudicated, etc. Falsifying that is 5 years Federal Prison, use of a firearm while committing a felony, additional 5 years, banishing a firearm in the commission of a crime, an additional 10 years as just some of many examples. On a day to day basis on the top of the hour radio news or local TV news, we hear about arrests involving "misconduct of a firearm", and many times this is from a convicted felon! Surely we can reduce the number of prisoners in our prisons by turning them over to the Feds for firearms and other Federal crimes and removing them from Alaska for 5 to life terms! Again, sadly, I wonder how many of the above are plea bargained down and back into our lives and thus endangering our lives further!

I have read this bill and will watch this closely and will be in contact with Senator Coghill as this goes along. We need to be smarter about this, yes, but we must do so citizens safety then cost savings.

Mike Coons
5200 Dorothy Drive
Palmer, AK 99645

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Using Opera's mail client: <http://www.opera.com/mail/>

Daniel George

From: Neil Robertson <snohawk49@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 13, 2016 7:38 AM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: SB91

Senate State Affairs Chairman
Mr. Bill Stoltze,

I would like to support the passage of SB91. The reason being I believe that if a person convicted and sentenced by the courts who completes all court ordered mandates should not continue to be punished by the DMV. There seems to a disconnect between departments as to who can sentence and punish and continue to punish. Driving safety is important to me, however I think that a person should not have to be forced to use an ignition interlock system if alcohol was never a factor in a DUI, nor should they have to attend alcohol education unless it is part of a judicial mandate. Also I feel that felony DUI violators can recover and not have their drivers licence revoked for life. A conditional license allows a person the ability to provide for themselves and their family without using public transportation resources that are needed for those who really need it.

Neil Robertson
Soldotna, AK

Daniel George

From: Sharon G Eluska <sgeluska@gci.net>
Sent: Saturday, February 13, 2016 9:41 AM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: SB 91

Dear Senators,
I support SB 91.
Please pass this bill.
Thank you,
Sharon Eluska

Daniel George

From: Therasa Brewer <brewert8@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 13, 2016 7:52 AM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: SB91

I support SB91 for those individuals that have completed all their court-ordered sentencing, rehab, and any other mandated orders. It makes no sense for a person to complete mandated orders and succeed but are not allowed to drive and go to a job to support their family. I feel agencies like DMV should not have a final say as to whether a person can drive if they have completed all orders.

Therasa Brewer
44710 Knight Drive
Soldotna, AK 99669

Daniel George

From: Tony Kingkade <amkkingade@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 12, 2016 5:02 PM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: Driving privileges

Hi my name is Anthony Kingkade. I'm was a graduate of the wellness court program in Fairbanks. And it would be a great help being able to drive myself to and from work. And also to be able take my daughter to and from daycare when needed. So I hope this bill passes and thanks for your hard work.

Sent from my iPhone

185 Dome Road
Fairbanks, Ak 99709
February 15, 2016

Senator Coghill
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 119
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Senator Coghill:

I strongly support SB-91. I understand the many good things this bill will do as well as the positive impact on our state budget and prison population in future years.

As a small business member of NFIB, I received an email this morning urging members to touch an icon which will voice their objection to raising the felony threshold from \$750 to \$2,000. The icon was named Take Action and I assume my name would have been entered on a petition that legislators will be receiving. And possibly that petition could totally oppose SB-91 just because of this one issue.

My business has been a victim of theft more than a few times and it is a serious problem. However, the answer is not in diluting down the stigma of a felony with every theft. I believe the answer in most cases is solving the horrible heroin addiction in our state. We all know the drug problem is the driver behind most theft.

Thank you for sponsoring SB-91 and the significant work you and your staff have devoted to this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gerald D. Timmons". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "G" and "T".

Gerald D. Timmons

To:
Senate State Affairs Committee

From:
Jayce Robertson
1303 Equinox Way
Kenai, AK 99611

Mr. Chairman:

Here is an outline of the testimony I have for the State Affairs Committee meeting on February 13, 2016. I was unable to stay on the phone to testify because I was at work. I ask that you please consider reading the outline of my testimony. Thank you for your time and effort on this bill.

SB 91 Testimony

- I. Introduction
 - a. Thank you chairman Stoltze and the entire Senate State Affairs Committee for the opportunity to testify
 - b. Discuss states fiscal situation
 - i. SB 91 has a zero cost impact statement with tremendous opportunity to save the state immense amounts of money
 - ii. Average costs to house prisoner is \$142/day = \$50,000/year
 - iii. This money could more than cover rehabilitation expenses and bring down Alaska's high recidivism rate of two-thirds
 - iv. Why continue to build \$300 million prisons that cost \$50 million/year to operate when there are much better alternatives like this bill.
- II. Personal Story
 - a. I am a rehabilitated felony dui offender who is constantly held back due to my inability to drive.
 - b. I was arrested and convicted of a felony dui in 2011 due to my substance abuse addition.
 - i. Completed felony supervised probation without any violations
 - ii. Exceeded and completed court recommended treatment
 - iii. Have had to work at least twice as hard as others to get to where I am today
 1. Married, home owner, debt free, completed apprenticeship program, graduated college with honors, and so much more
 2. I have personally raised \$1400 in donations to travel to Juneau to advocate for the passage of SB 91.
 3. I am planning on meeting with legislatures the first week of March

III. Additional Testimony

- a. Besides my court ordered lifetime driver's license revocation, there are many other reasons I am passionate about the passage of this bill.
 - i. Saves the state millions of dollars per year.
 - ii. Improves opportunities for successful reentry of offenders
 - iii. Focusses prison beds on violent and serious offenders
 - iv. Changes pre-trial and bail conditions, making them more evidence based
- b. Every person deserves a second chances, especially when substance abuse is involved. There is an epidemic within our state, and this bill helps bring much needed drastic reform to the criminal justice system.
- c. Example: A 3rd dui in Colorado is only a 2 year driver's license revocation, but I would much rather remain in the great state that I was born in and love.
- d. This bill remains just and fair for both sides while protecting victims.
 - i. No one, or nothing can force anybody to do something they are not willing to do. This bill would place the decision in the hands of the offender to allow them to choose their own fate by holding them accountable. No addict or alcoholic will get clean and sober unless they choose to do so. This bill will help incentivize offenders to make the right choices and become a clean and sober contributing member of society.

IV. In closing, I would like to thank Chairman Stoltze and the entire Senate State Affairs Committee for the opportunity to testify today. The passage of this bill would be life changing for my family and I, along with many other Alaskan's in similar situations that I found myself in. I accept full responsibility for my actions, and have gone above and beyond to be a contributing member of my community and state. I sincerely ask that you consider passing this bill to help start the long overdue change needed within the criminal justice system here in our great state. Thank you for your time.

Best Regards,

Jayce N. Robertson

Alaska Senate Bill 91 Comments

Kyle Brown

Work is critical for successful re-entry – Steady work provides, income, family stability, healthy relationships with co-workers, hope for an improved future, and built in monitoring of a client’s activities and whereabouts at no cost to the government. Without work, re-offending in some fashion is almost guaranteed. It should be one of a PO’s primary duties to nurture, not hinder, communication and co-operation with willing employers.

I have a business in Anchorage and have been employing former inmates, (“DOC clients”) that are out on parole/probation, for the past 8 or so years. All during that time I have spent writing and talking to various legislators about the substantial difficulty I have had over those years fighting with DOC to keep some of these “clients” employed. I was probably somewhat responsible for HB 93 that passed the house last session. That bill “suggests” that DOC parole/probation officers make an effort “when it’s convenient” to make their meeting and appointment schedules flexible so as to facilitate parolees ability to maintain required work schedules. That is a nice thought, but the more I think about it, even if it had become law last year, I realize it had no teeth and parolees certainly have no ability to question their PO’s about such things and most employers are not going to be bothered trying to understand DOC’s system and take the time to deal with secretive and unwilling PO’s, as I have.

The Alaska Dept. of Corrections claims they are there to help former inmates re-enter society and help them find and maintain employment. In the 8 years I have had this unfortunate connection with ADOC, I have seen very little evidence of this. Quite the opposite, unless they are threatened, DOC shows total disregard for the employer, has a total lack of transparency, no ability to communicate directly with PO’s, no ability by the parolee to prove what there instructions were or document their efforts to check in with their PO’s.

The attitude of most PO’s is such that they treat their “clients” (and their employers) with contempt instead of acting as a facilitator trying to help them through a very difficult process that has been established for them by the court system.

If the cost of re-incarcerating parolees for technical violations came out of DOC’s budget instead of being in addition to it, we would be seeing miraculous changes overnight without having to lift a finger or have any of these discussions. As long as the existing system remains in place and it is in DOC’s best financial self-interest to keep as many “clients” under their control, the cost will continue to balloon and the results will continue to be inefficient.

Obviously based on all the time and money spent on parole and probation time, no-one gives incarceration much credit for teaching anyone any lessons. So why are sentences so long? The longer they are in, the less capable they are at managing their lives when they get out. These people were obviously not very good at managing their lives before they were imprisoned and when they get out they are saddled with all kinds of nearly impossible lists of restrictions, limitations and meetings or they go back to jail. And with this we are expecting success??

The new Commissioner of Corrections needs to make it clear to PO’s that employers need to be treated as valuable allies in the re-entry process and provided with a meaningful contact person within DOC that can provide answers and assistance to employers. Everyone recognizes that it is very difficult for most prisoners to find employment upon release but almost no one realizes how difficult DOC makes it to keep a job.

Please feel free to call or email me if you have any questions or would be interested in discussing any details. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Kyle Brown
Discovery Drilling Inc.
Anchorage, Alaska
(907) 344-6431 wk
(907) 360-2911 cell

SENATE BILL 91 LETTER

Attention Alaska State Senate Affairs,

This letter is specifically addressed towards the Alaska Senate State Affairs Committee in reference to Senate Bill 91. As a successful participant and representative of the Fairbanks Wellness Court program, I am speaking on behalf for all our participants – both past and present to testify and gain support for Senate Bill 91. Throughout this letter, you will hear the positive stories outlined in this letter in combination with the phone conversations expected during testimonials scheduled for Saturday, February 13, 2016 at 12:00 P.M. We ask that you listen to each testimonial very carefully as each Wellness Court participant, both past and present, will share their life changing breakthroughs attributed to the Wellness Court program.

Typically, alcoholism is highly regarded as a disease and scientific research has proven this countless times. A large cause linked to alcoholism is depression with others attributed to anxiety, low self-esteem, stress, loss of self-worth, and paranoia. To combat the underlying causes of alcoholism in Alaska, particularly for offenders who have committed multiple driving under the influences (DUIs), Alaska developed the Wellness Court System as a rehabilitative option to substitute jail/prison time to defeat their disease thereby resulting in permanent sobriety. As a newly reinstated member enters the community, they can return to their normal careers and contribute to society again with the likelihood of a relapse largely minimized. A recent statistic has proven the effectiveness of the Wellness Court System. According to Amy Bollaert, the project coordinator for the Fairbanks Wellness Court, only 18% percent of Wellness Court graduates between 2011 and 2015 received new convictions. Thus, this demonstrates that those participants who worked the program extremely hard, graduated, and turned their lives around.

As currently stated under Alaska state law, multiple DUI offenders (>3) have a permanent drivers license revocation. In defense, we Wellness Court participants have invested countless energy and effort to change our lives around. Some participants have returned to their careers to advance in their job market while others have improved their personal connections with their families, regaining confidence. In some instances, mothers and fathers have finally reconnected with their children again which is entirely significant. It has been determined that the chances of the participants' children committing alcohol related offenses are highly reduced due to the understanding of what their parents went through mentally, physically, and emotionally. I myself have benefitted tremendously from the Wellness Court program in which I have achieved 17 months of sobriety thus far which has paid off huge dividends in my field of fisheries. At present, I have had 26 articles published in sport-fishing magazines with 30 more publications scheduled to be released during the 2016 calendar year. Without the Wellness Court program, I know I would have returned to my old drinking ways, destroyed my professional career, and shattered my confidence. Based off my success and others in the program, we are still plagued by a primary consequence that severely limits our ability to either work or advance in the state of Alaska. Most jobs in Alaska

require a valid state drivers license and those who don't possess one will likely lose out in the competitive battle for good jobs. This is a huge challenge facing Wellness Court participants. Therefore, the specifics outlined in Senate Bill 91 will change lives tremendously by giving the opportunity to receive a valid operator driver license. With successful graduates of the Wellness Court program rehabilitated, graduates with a drivers license will receive high percentage shots at competing in the work force again. Most importantly, the likelihood of reoffending is significantly reduced, as represented in the statistic provided from Amy Bollaert.

Although alcoholism has contributed to us hitting our rock bottoms, the Wellness Court program of Alaska for felon drunk drivers has proven that lives can be turned around. We all realize that we committed mistakes, yet we strongly feel that we deserve a chance at proving ourselves worthy of living a successful, sober lifestyle and thus contribute to our local communities in the state of Alaska. Frankly, a life without a driver license is like a bird without its wings - both are necessities to climb the mountain's summit to achieve short-term and long-term goals. The Wellness Court program has given us the fundamentals tools necessary to combat addiction and restore our faith and confidence to live good lives. The Wellness Court program taught us to reinvest our efforts in giving back to our local community. When needed, we volunteer state wide at MADD impact panels, local schools, and other establishments to discuss how alcoholism has impacted our lives and discuss the negativity associated with it. We also strongly believe that if given the chance to receive a drivers license, successful graduates of the Wellness Court will be able to fully function in society and commit acts of goodness. In essence, we thank the Senate Council and other state politicians who have read this letter. Again, the intentions outlined here are to enlighten the positive stories that have been generated, as exemplified in the Wellness Court program. Moreover, we ask for your support for Senate Bill 91 so that rehabilitated individuals can have their lives fully restored to satisfaction.

Sincerely written,

Michael Lunde

Friday, February 12, 2016

This document added to the Public Record / Testimony by Senate State Affairs for SSSB 91 at the request of Frank Biefkord.

http://www.newsminer.com/news/local_news/police-chief-hopes-life-size-cutouts-in-wal-mart-make/article_919dd3c8-d07c-11e5-a3a7-0703c4a9cc57.html

FEATURED

Police chief hopes life-size cutouts in Wal-Mart make thieves think twice about shoplifting

By Dorothy Chomicz dchomicz@newsminer.com Updated Feb 11, 2016

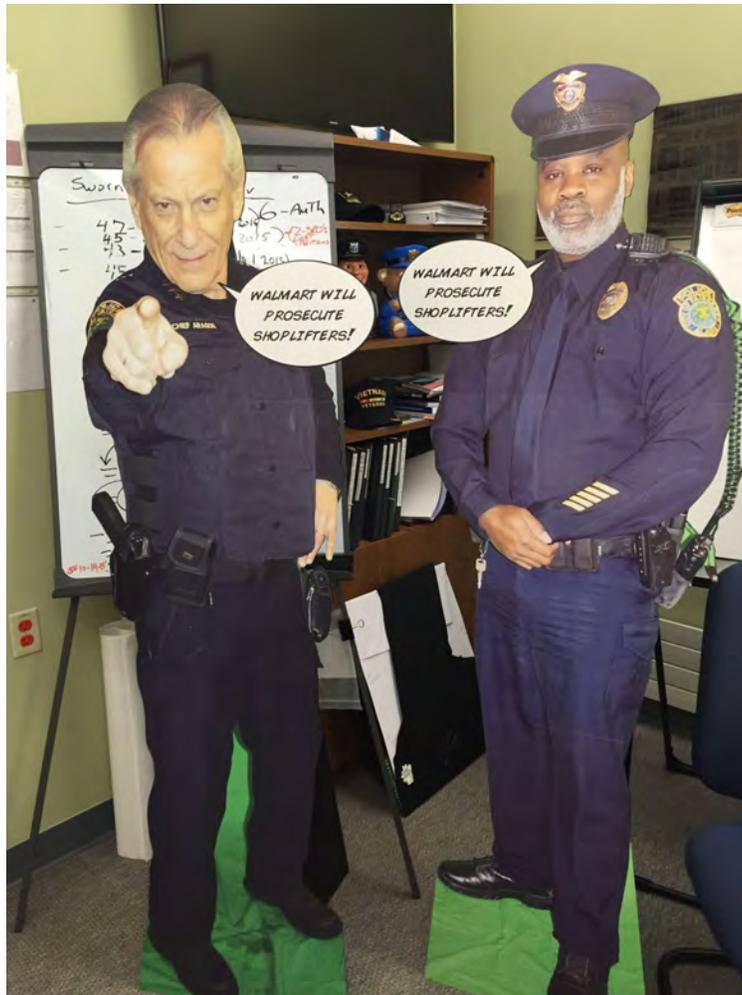


Photo courtesy Fairbanks police

Life-sized cardboard cutouts of Fairbanks Police Chief Randall Aragon and Officer Phil James, shown here at the Fairban were placed in Wal-Mart on Tuesday. The cutouts are meant to deter shoplifters.

FAIRBANKS—In a novel attempt to deter shoplifters, Fairbanks police have outfitted each entrance at the Fairbanks Wal-Mart store with a life-sized cardboard cutout of an actual FPD officer.

The project was spearheaded by Chief Randall Aragon, who read about similar efforts by other police forces and decided he wanted to try it.

“Our purpose is, when you walk by, it gets your attention,” Aragon said after helping install the cutouts Tuesday morning. “To control and prevent crime you have to be creative sometimes.”

The three cutouts — two of Officer Phil James and one of Aragon himself — were a big hit, according to Aragon.

“The greeters were beaming, because now they have a partner there,” Aragon said, laughing.

Aragon said he learned of the cutout idea about two years ago when he was working as a police chief in Texas. The idea “didn’t get any traction” but he kept working on it when he came to Fairbanks in November 2014. He contacted a friend and former law enforcement officer now working for Wal-Mart, who put him in touch with state and local loss prevention managers. Wal-Mart even agreed to provide a grant for the cutouts, which cost about \$200 each, according to Aragon.

Boston Transit Police noticed a drop in bicycle thefts after they began using cardboard cutouts at the Cambridge public transit station in 2013, and police stations in Great Britain have used them with varying degrees of success. Aragon is hopeful the Fairbanks program will work as intended and spread state- or even nation-wide.

“I think it’s worth a shot because anything that can prevent and control crime, and reduce the fear of crime, that’s a magic bullet,” Aragon said. “I feel fortunate and very honored that Wal-Mart is using this as a test.”

Contact staff writer Dorothy Chomicz at 459-7582. Follow her on Twitter: @FDNMcrime.

Daniel George

From: Mr. & Mrs. Troy Hawks <hawksnursery@mosquitonet.com>
Sent: Monday, February 15, 2016 10:08 AM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: Oppose SB 91

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Senator Stoltze,

NFIB/AK members recognize that \$750 is a significant amount to a small business. SB 91 proposal to increase the threshold to \$2,000 is unreasonably generous to criminals intent on taking other people's property. In 2013, the NFIB/Alaska leadership Council worked with the legislature and agreed to remove its opposition to a 50% increase from \$500 to \$750. We still strongly believe the state shouldn't be making it less consequential for thieves to steal from our businesses by raising the felony theft threshold above that level. There is evidence that theft rings are becoming very sophisticated; they are aware of the felony limits and will steal up to that amount. Thus, while there might be potential savings in judicial processes, businesses would see an increase in the amount of theft in goods. Instances of individuals "stealing to feed their families" or "making silly juvenile decisions" are rare, and the courts and prosecutors have enough discretion to handle these circumstances appropriately.

We believe that simply inflation-proofing crime is poor public policy. Our justice system ought to protect citizens and their property, not reduce the level of risk for thieves. Victims of thievery are victims in every sense of the word.

There are several concerns NFIB members have raised. Prices of merchandise and tools have not always followed inflation. The cost of electronics has dropped significantly so that at \$2,000 most TVs can be taken before the theft would become a felony. Taking a TV is not a minor discretion. It takes intent to take what is not yours with the full knowledge that it is wrong. The same is true of tools used in the construction industry. For small businesses, the cost of the TV comes out of the owner's pocket. For the person in construction, the cost comes out the person's pocket and limits the ability to be productive at the job. For the small business, these are very significant issues.

Enforcement is also a concern. While we have no reason to question how anyone does their job and certainly not anyone's intention or honor, the facts are that property crimes get a lower priority and misdemeanors are a lower priority than felonies. When we are talking about your money vs. my money, my money is more precious to me. It is the same with small businesses. The sense of violation remains high and the sense of protection goes down.

Sincerely,

Angela Hawks
2260 Old Richardson Hwy
North Pole, AK 99705

Daniel George

From: Barry Matteson <matteson@alaska.net>
Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2016 10:27 AM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: Oppose SB 91

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Senator Stoltze,

NFIB/AK members recognize that \$750 is a significant amount to a small business. SB 91 proposal to increase the threshold to \$2,000 is unreasonably generous to criminals intent on taking other people's property. In 2013, the NFIB/Alaska leadership Council worked with the legislature and agreed to remove its opposition to a 50% increase from \$500 to \$750. We still strongly believe the state shouldn't be making it less consequential for thieves to steal from our businesses by raising the felony theft threshold above that level. There is evidence that theft rings are becoming very sophisticated; they are aware of the felony limits and will steal up to that amount. Thus, while there might be potential savings in judicial processes, businesses would see an increase in the amount of theft in goods. Instances of individuals "stealing to feed their families" or "making silly juvenile decisions" are rare, and the courts and prosecutors have enough discretion to handle these circumstances appropriately.

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Sincerely,

Barry Matteson
5310 Bishops Castle Cir
Anchorage, AK 99516

Daniel George

From: Bengie Stuart <bengiesbusiness@aptalaska.net>
Sent: Monday, February 15, 2016 3:10 PM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: Oppose SB 91

Dear Senator Stoltze,

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Sincerely,

Bengie Stuart
55 HAINES HWY
HAINES, AK 99827

Daniel George

From: Craig Floyd <craig@dtanc.com>
Sent: Monday, February 15, 2016 9:46 AM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: Oppose SB 91

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Senator Stoltze,

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Sincerely,

Craig Floyd
5522 Woodshire Cir
Anchorage, AK 99516

Daniel George

From: David Bunts <David@sterlingcustomhomes.net>
Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2016 8:28 AM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: Oppose SB 91

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Senator Stoltze,

Dear Senators, I understand the challenges of trying to have a Trooper on every corner. I do not want a trooper on every corner. Since serving on the grand jury, I came to realize that I need to be responsible in doing what I can to protect my personal property and business property. We have made a substantial investment in cameras and other security to do our part. It would not be encouraging to know that while we have done our part, the state turns around and makes it easier for the criminal to get away with taking property that is not theirs. This makes cost to do business increase in cost to my customers. Increase in cost makes it difficult to sell homes and stay in business. Please oppose this bill. Thank you!

Now on to the form letter...

NFIB/AK members recognize that \$750 is a significant amount to a small business. SB 91 proposal to increase the threshold to \$2,000 is unreasonably generous to criminals intent on taking other people's property. In 2013, the NFIB/Alaska leadership Council worked with the legislature and agreed to remove its opposition to a 50% increase from \$500 to \$750. We still strongly believe the state shouldn't be making it less consequential for thieves to steal from our businesses by raising the felony theft threshold above that level. There is evidence that theft rings are becoming very sophisticated; they are aware of the felony limits and will steal up to that amount. Thus, while there might be potential savings in judicial processes, businesses would see an increase in the amount of theft in goods. Instances of individuals "stealing to feed their families" or "making silly juvenile decisions" are rare, and the courts and prosecutors have enough discretion to handle these circumstances appropriately.

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Sincerely,

David Bunts
PO Box 226
Sterling, AK 99672

Daniel George

From: Desiree Hale <dhale@halestechnical.com>
Sent: Monday, February 15, 2016 8:07 AM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: Oppose SB 91

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Completed

Dear Senator Stoltze,

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Sincerely,

Desiree M. Hale
3207 Denali St
Anchorage, AK 99503

Daniel George

From: Dominic Bauer <kingfisherak@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 15, 2016 6:42 AM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: Oppose SB 91

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Senator Stoltze,

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Sincerely,

Dominic Bauer
PO Box 538
Cooper Landing, AK 99572

Daniel George

From: Douglas Riemer <nordicair@gci.net>
Sent: Monday, February 15, 2016 6:17 AM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: Oppose SB 91

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Senator Stoltze,

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Sincerely,

Douglas D. Riemer
PO BOX 1752
PETERSBURG, AK 99833

Daniel George

From: Jeanette Robertson <jeanetteu@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 12, 2016 6:14 PM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: Support of Senate Bill 91

Ladies and Gentleman of the Senate State Affairs Committee,

My name is Jeanette Robertson and I am submitting my email testimony in support of passing Senate Bill 91 - the Criminal Justice Reform Bill. I cannot express the gratitude and relief my family would experience should this bill get passed. I know firsthand the hardships my family has had to face due to the permanent revocation of my husbands drivers license in 2011, stemming from a substance-abuse addiction he struggled with for many years. Having only one driver in the family has presented many obstacles for us, but we've been fortunate enough to work through them with alternate means of public transportation. Thankfully, he has been able to find employment in the past where a valid drivers license wasn't needed. My husband has made dramatic changes in his life since then and has been accountable for his mistakes and has paid dearly for them. He has completed all the necessary court ordered recommendations and has been a HUGE advocate for this Reform Bill. In fact, he will be traveling to Juneau in a few weeks to meet with Legislators regarding SB91.

I believe that we all know someone that has had a family member, friend or colleague with a revoked drivers license and has heard of the many challenges they've had to face because of their faults. This Senate Bill would give any offender a choice to either continue on their path of destruction or seek rehabilitation and be given a second chance. For those offenders who are remorseful for their actions, make positive changes in their lives, continue to do the right thing and are contributing members to society, the passing of Senate Bill 91 would only be one-step closer to making their lives a little bit easier.

I humbly ask you to please consider passing Senate Bill 91. It's time for a change in our criminal justice system.

Thank you for your time.

Jeanette Robertson
Kenai, Alaska

Daniel George

From: Kari Arno <arnocon@xyz.net>
Sent: Monday, February 15, 2016 10:29 AM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: Oppose SB 91

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Senator Stoltze,

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Sincerely,

Kari Arno
61284 E End Rd
Homer, AK 99603

Daniel George

From: Keith Petersen <akwindowinstaller@acsalaska.net>
Sent: Monday, February 15, 2016 9:26 AM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: Oppose SB 91

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Senator Stoltze,

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We believe that simply inflation-proofing crime is poor public policy. Our justice system ought to protect citizens and their property, not reduce the level of risk for thieves. Victims of thievery are victims in every sense of the word.

There are several concerns NFIB members have raised. Prices of merchandise and tools have not always followed inflation. The cost of electronics has dropped significantly so that at \$2,000 most TVs can be taken before the theft would become a felony. Taking a TV is not a minor discretion. It takes intent to take what is not yours with the full knowledge that it is wrong. The same is true of tools used in the construction industry. For small businesses, the cost of the TV comes out of the owner's pocket. For the person in construction, the cost comes out the person's pocket and limits the ability to be productive at the job. For the small business, these are very significant issues.

Enforcement is also a concern. While we have no reason to question how anyone does their job and certainly not anyone's intention or honor, the facts are that property crimes get a lower priority and misdemeanors are a lower priority than felonies. When we are talking about your money vs. my money, my money is more precious to me. It is the same with small businesses. The sense of violation remains high and the sense of protection goes down.

Sincerely,

Keith Petersen
PO Box 84390
Fairbanks, AK 99708

Daniel George

From: Kelly Bennett <user@votervoicenet>
Sent: Monday, February 15, 2016 9:11 AM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: Oppose SB 91

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Senator Stoltze,

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Sincerely,

Kelly Bennett
1718 Selief Ln
Kodiak, AK 99615
bentclan@yahoo.com

Daniel George

From: Laura Saxe <user@votervoicenet>
Sent: Monday, February 15, 2016 6:29 PM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: Oppose SB 91

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Senator Stoltze,

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We own a gas station/convenience store in a very small town. We have a hard enough time trying to get people to pay on their bad checks. By increasing the limit to \$2,000 you are greatly hurting our small business. Please take into account how this will negatively affect our business.

Sincerely,

Laura Saxe
PO Box 1445
Valdez, AK 99686
laurasaxe@yahoo.com

Daniel George

From: mark zeiset, jr <mark@southcentralradar.com>
Sent: Monday, February 15, 2016 7:48 AM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: Oppose SB 91

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Senator Stoltze,

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Sincerely,

mark zeiset jr
4406 Homer Spit Rd
Homer, AK 99603

Daniel George

From: Randy Bostrom <randybostrom@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 15, 2016 1:42 PM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: Oppose SB 91

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Senator Stoltze,

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Sincerely,

Randy Bostrom
39080 Grassy Vale Rd
Soldotna, AK 99669

Daniel George

From: Stacy Oliva <stacy@ljalasja.com>
Sent: Monday, February 15, 2016 11:25 AM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: Oppose SB 91

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Senator Stoltze,

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Sincerely,

Stacy A. Oliva
51155 Island Lake Rd
Nikiski, AK 99611

Daniel George

From: Toni Dickinson <valmak@gci.net>
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2016 3:14 PM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: Oppose SB 91

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

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Sincerely,

Toni Dickinson
2851 N Meadow Lakes Loop
Wasilla, AK 99623

Daniel George

From: Valerie Reece <valerie@boatshopak.com>
Sent: Monday, February 15, 2016 12:11 PM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: Oppose SB 91

Dear Senator Stoltze,

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Sincerely,

V Reece
1100 Woodview Dr
Fairbanks, AK 99712

Daniel George

From: Wendy Oliva <wendy_o@lnwtransport.com>
Sent: Monday, February 15, 2016 6:28 AM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: Oppose SB 91

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Senator Stoltze,

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Sincerely,

Wendy Oliva
10200 Nigh Rd
Anchorage, AK 99515