

Making a Difference in the Last Frontier

February 11, 2016

The Honorable John Coghill State Capitol Room 119 Juneau, AK 99801 Senator.John.Coghill@akleg.gov

Dear Senator Coghill,

In my capacity as President of the Alaska Peace Officers Association, I am writing to express our opposition of Senate Bill 91 "Omnibus Crime Bill." While we feel this bill was well intentioned, we are unable to lend our support to it in its current form. Though there are elements that we view as positive for law enforcement and corrections, there are many elements that are too far reaching and do not serve the best interests of our criminal justice system or public safety.

Secondly, the success upon which these significant statutory changes are based relies completely on the legislature's ability to fund the nearly half billion dollars in reinvestment required to implement the screening, monitoring and diversion components. We are extremely concerned that if the statutory measures were to pass without the accompanying reinvestment, the result would be disastrous for all of the stakeholders, including the public safety of our communities. Given the current budget crisis facing the state, we find this possibility highly likely and if the reinvestment component is not funded, we strongly oppose the passage of the measure.

We want to thank you for your dedication to the people of Alaska and your continued interest in public safety issues. We encourage you to reach out to us by contacting our executive director, Kalie Bell at apoa@gci.net should you wish to further discuss this or any other matter. We would be happy to work with you and your staff toward crafting a more acceptable measure.

Sincerely,

President Alaska Peace Officers Association

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