

**Subject: Victim Notification letter to Irene Lee**

Dear Ms. Lee,

I, Thomas J. Benz, am the father of Kathleen N. Benz who was fatally injured on May 29, 2010 because of the criminal conduct of Alfred C. Jones. My wife, five sons and I have had to suffer a tortuous and agonizing process which took 4 and 1/2 years culminating in a sentencing of Jones for criminal homicide and for assault against the other victims. I trust that you, and whomever is involved in the decision making process, will have read the transcript and order of Judge Anna Moran from the sentencing hearing that took place on February 12, 2015. One of the reasons we had to wait so long was the fact that Jones was a subject of a federal conviction for conduct which is very much related to my daughter's death, a fact which I will discuss below as being of critical importance.

Against this background, I was shocked, dismayed and appalled to receive a victim notification to the effect that Jones, after only one year, is being considered for "possible early furlough". Nevertheless, I wish to make a number of points which I wish the decision makers to consider most carefully:

1. During the tortuous process leading to Jones' sentencing one year ago, I and other victims never understood that there was any possibility of an early release for Jones, other than for a possible medical emergency. It was clearly my understanding that he would not be entitled to release until the earliest date of consideration for parole, which is in a number of years. To discover now that there is some side-door release program, which is being given significant attention by the state of Alaska, eviscerates my rights and the rights of the other victims to the justice which we thought had been accomplished one year ago at the final sentencing by Judge Moran. The fact that the state of Alaska may have a financial and budgetary crisis which has given prominence to this program of furlough should not now be allowed to rewrite Judge Moran's sentencing order. Budgetary crises and the price of oil should not strip victims of the justice which we witnessed in reliance of the legal process in the state of Alaska.
2. I do not understand how this idea of a "furlough" can now be introduced to accelerate the release of Jones ahead of the parole terms in his mandatory sentencing. A furlough is customarily used to describe a leave of absence from "a duty" particularly in the military. I did not know that it is a side-door means for acceleration for parole. In the lengthy process leading up to Jones' sentencing, we victims were well aware not only of the timing and place of significant events, but of the persons who would be involved in the criminal judicial process. We victims knew the identity of the Judge and the identity of the District Attorney. I, as a victim, was permitted and did participate on several occasions via teleconference in certain procedural hearings, including bail applications, where I was allowed to listen and, if I so desired, to comment. I was allowed to attend the sentencing in Kenai, Alaska, and I gave the opening victims' statement. My closing remark in that statement, commenting on Jones' sentence, that my wife and I do not want the phone to ring again for someone else, as it did for us on that fateful morning. Now that we are faced with a new procedure for "possible early furlough", we have no idea how the process works and who are the individuals involved. The

Victim Notification says that "a hearing will be conducted or a decision made on or about 3/3/16". It does not explain whether a hearing will in fact be conducted or, by whom, and what judicial, legislative, or other terms will govern the conduct of the hearing. The above phrase suggests that a hearing might not be conducted at all and a "decision made" without identifying by whom or by what criteria. I do not mean to question the professional competence or personal integrity of the Department of Correction who may be involved. Nevertheless, I am confronted with an alien procedure by unknown persons, which is in stark contrast to the judicial proceedings which we experienced up to the sentencing of Jones one year ago. I refer you again to the order of Judge Moran. In addition to lengthening the sentence of Jones, she very carefully elaborated the specific terms of his probation, which I felt were appropriately strict in the circumstances. I am at a loss to understand whether those strict terms and guidelines as mandated by Judge Moran would apply to a "furlough" or what new terms and conditions would be established by the decision makers. Needless to say, I am baffled by this process. While my wife, my sons or I will never have true closure on the unlawful killing of our daughter and sister, last year's sentencing at least gave us some comfort that the lengthy and tortuous process of bring Jones to justice had come to an end with the knowledge of the terms of his mandatory sentence and the timing and conditions of his parole. I find it incredibly distressing today to have to undergo yet again a new anguishing process, which I do not understand.

3. In any hearing or other deliberations leading to a decision regarding a "furlough" for Jones, I trust that those involved will carefully read the comments made by Judge Moran one year ago regarding Jones and his conduct. I find it shocking that in one year's time, all has changed such that he is now eligible for any form of release, short of his entitlement for consideration for parole in several years' time. Judge Moran rendered her carefully worded judgement after having participated in the pre-judgement process including the guilty plea three months earlier. Her judgement was made after she had considered the written and oral submissions by the defense counsel, prosecuting District Attorney, other transcripts from the record of the entire process, as well as over 70 statements made by family and friends of our daughter. As the recent Victim Notification indicates, a "furlough" would be granted well ahead to any entitlement to parole under a mandatory sentence. I, therefore, trust that any new decision makers would carefully consider as much as the information concerning Jones' prior history and the other factors which were referred to in Judge Moran's sentencing order. What was so frightening from Jones' prior record and his criminal conduct relating to the death of my daughter and the assault on the other victims is callous indifference to the well-being of others. This incident on May 29, 2010 was not an isolated, exceptional moment. It was part of a long and dangerous pattern of abuse involving controlled substances. As I said in my victim statement to the Court, and stated orally in the Courtroom, Jones consciously, deliberately and knowingly ingested multiple controlled substances which were found in his system. He consciously, deliberately and knowingly entered his vehicle, and by doing so he consciously, deliberately and knowingly caused himself to become an instrument of death, while he did not know the identity of my daughter, Kathleen, as his victim. It was only a matter of time before my daughter or some other innocent victim would become his fatal victim. This careless and callous disregard for others is further demonstrated by the conduct of Jones shortly after causing my daughter's death. It is my understanding that only six weeks after causing my daughter's death, Jones was observed depositing the proceeds of criminal drug money in a local bank on at least two occasions. I trust you are aware that this ultimately led to his arrest and conviction for a federal money laundering

charge in relation to a drug smuggling ring involving one of the controlled substances to which Jones admitted he was addicted and which substance was found in his system at the time of my daughter's death. It is appalling and striking that so soon after my daughter's death, instead of realizing the horrible consequences of his ways, he continued his path of criminality involving controlled substances which caused my daughter to die. There was no remorse, there was no cry of forgiveness to his victims. There was just the self-centered desire to continue criminal involvement in drugs. It should be noted, as well, that part of the delay in obtaining justice at the state level was the result of the federal indictment and conviction and subsequent jail sentence in Nevada. Rather than release Jones, you should carefully consider the circumstances of his bail in the federal proceeding. His total disregard for the law and disrespect for its procedures is demonstrated by the fact that he jumped bail in the federal proceeding. He was later returned from Tennessee to the federal authorities where he eventually pleaded guilty to the federal charges. All of this occurred between my daughter's death and what satisfaction we could take from his sentencing one year ago. It caused further grief, anguish and turmoil to my family that this man had no sympathy, no caring, no bond of human dignity with others, and no respect for the law.

I do not believe Jones is a man deserving of any form of early release. Further, no state budgetary crisis and no new program should deprive me, my wife, my five sons, and the other victims of the justice which we received one year ago and what we thought was its underlying commitment to us from the state of Alaska. Finally, the dignity of my daughter's memory deserves that the original sentence be respected in its entirety.

I thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas J. Benz

**Alaska Mental Health Board  
Advisory Board on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse  
431 N. Franklin St. Suite 200  
Juneau, Alaska, 99801**



February 9, 2016

Senator Bill Stoltze, Chairman  
Senate State Affairs Committee  
Alaska State Capitol, Room 125  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

BY HAND-DELIVERY

Re: Letter of Support for SB 91

Chairman Stoltze,

The Advisory Board on Alcohol and Drug Abuse and the Alaska Mental Health Board commend the work of Alaska Criminal Justice Commission and the sponsors of Senate Bill 91. We support the spirit and the specifics of SB 91.

The Boards are charged with advising the State of Alaska on issues concerning alcohol and drug abuse and mental health. Behavioral health treatment works for individuals experiencing substance use and mental health disorders. This legislation will allow the courts to deal with offenders with underlying substance use and mental health disorders in a manner that encourages them to achieve recovery and contribute to the community and their family. Court ordered care, with appropriate probation conditions, can achieve public safety goals while protecting disabled individuals from conditions that may worsen their condition. Behavioral health treatment and access to social supports, rather than incarceration, is a sustainable long term solution for the individual and for the state.

The Boards encourage funding of treatment and recovery programs that will be tasked with increased responsibility when the system redirects people to care in the community rather than being incarcerated. The court system and probation and parole divisions must be trained and their caseloads adjusted to allow for effective management of the complex needs of offenders experiencing behavioral health disorders. Communities and corrections officials will have to work together to reduce recidivism. Therefore, we support reinvestment of savings from reduced incarceration in community supervision services, victims' services, violence prevention, treatment services, and re-entry services.

SB 91 is a critical component in the criminal justice reform and reinvestment effort. We encourage the State Affairs Committee to support passage of the bill.

Sincerely,

Charlene Tautfest, Chairperson AMHB

Gunnar Ebbesson, Chairperson ABADA

cc: Senator John Coghill  
Senator Lesil McGuire  
Senator Peter Micciche



## Tanana Chiefs Conference

February ~~29~~<sup>18</sup>7, 2016

To: Senate State Affairs Committee Members  
Re: Tanana Chiefs Conference Support of Senate Bill 91 (SB 91)

Dear [Senate State Affairs Committee](#) Members,

~~This letter is to Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) fully support Senate Bill 91 SB 91. Alaska is in desperate need of criminal justice reform because the current system is broken and new solutions to an issue that not only costs our state millions of dollars are being wasted during our unprecedented budget deficit. but continues to churn out unemployable, untreated criminals. Similar legislation passed in other states has proven to be a successful model for criminal justice reform and savings on state resources.~~

~~The criminal justice system in our state just isn't working. Unfortunately for Alaska Natives, we are disproportionately represented in the criminal justice system. This issue is, unfortunately, one that touches Alaska Natives more acutely than any other group in the states. Although Alaska Natives make up about 14% of Alaska's our state's population, we but exceeds 40% of the our prison population. Tanana Chiefs Conference TCC supports creative solutions that focus on treatment and community work service.~~

~~SB 91 is a great step in this direction contains many of these aspects. First, the provision within the bill that allowing a courts to suspend entry of a judgment against a youthful or first time offender (AS 12.55.078) will reap benefits far and wide is valuable because. So many low level criminals convicted of petty crimes offenders have extreme have a hard time difficulty obtaining gainful finding meaningful employment and entry into education / vocational programs, because they have a record. If offenders have meaningful employment, the less likely they are to commit future crimes. This saves our state; there is no cost to re-arrest, charge, prosecute, and imprison people who can be reformed. That provision alone will assist Alaskans significantly in getting back on their feet and out of the system.~~

~~SB 91 also changes the structure of criminal sentencing for driving offenses. SB 91 and rewards good driving and successful completion of treatment programs with license incentives that help offenders get out of the criminal system. Many good paying jobs are not on the bus lines. If offenders cannot obtain driver licenses, they cannot get to work to support themselves and their families. Another substantial barrier to employment is lack of a valid driver's license. Often times a person can get caught in the system for years because of their lack of a license and their need to drive to support themselves and their family. SB 91 changes the structure of sentencing for driving offenses and rewards good driving and successful completion of treatment programs with license incentives.~~

~~As an employer, diversion and licensing solutions will allow us to assist the state in reintegrating our people back into a healthy, working lifestyle.~~

~~Ultimately Finally, Alaska's drug and alcohol problem is not a criminal issue, but, although at times it may feel that way. It is a public health issue. Treatment of drug and alcohol abuse; one that must be needs to be approached from the perspective that addressed by counseling and treatment that actually target the disease rather than non-reforming may better address the ultimate culprit than incarceration. As~~

our current system has demonstrated, incarceration does not work. Our jails are overcrowded, recidivism is high, and our state cannot afford financially to continue down this road.

Tanana Chiefs Conference believes that criminals should be held accountable; however, it should be done in a system that is responsible, cost effective, and gives offenders a genuine second chance. SB 91 provides this opportunity for our state. Many would argue that addiction and criminal behaviors are personal choices, and while this is true, on a public policy level the continued practice of mass incarceration as a solution is no longer financially feasible for Alaska.

Thank you for supporting criminal justice reform. This is about making all of our citizens strong, healthy and safe.

Sincerely,



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TCC President and CEO

## Daniel George

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**From:** Nikki H <reentry@iacnvl.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 12, 2016 10:04 AM  
**To:** Senate State Affairs  
**Subject:** Senate Bill 94

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

Good day,

As the Prisoner Reentry Coordinator, I find Senate Bill 94 to be pivotal in justice reform. The proposed changes will help reduce recidivism and provide for a safer community. I fully support the bill and would be glad to provide real-world examples of how this bill could affect the prison population in the future.

Thank you for your hard work!

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Nikki Hines, MHR  
Reentry Coalition Coordinator  
[www.fairbanksreentry.org](http://www.fairbanksreentry.org)  
(313) 737-1193

## Daniel George

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**From:** Angela Hall <sologrouplady@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 07, 2016 9:09 AM  
**To:** Senate State Affairs  
**Subject:** SB 91

Angela Hall

Supporting Our Loved Ones Group [S.O.L.O.G.]

Email: [Sologrouplady@gmail.com](mailto:Sologrouplady@gmail.com)

<http://sologroupofalaska.weebly.com/>

(907) 315-2573

Dear Senator Stoltze and members of the Committee:

My name is Angela Hall and I am writing on behalf of myself and *Supporting Our Loved Ones Group [S.O.L.O.G.]*, a support group for the families and friends of Alaska inmates. As family members of incarcerated individuals, we want to lend our voice to the criminal justice reform issues currently being discussed in the Senate and eventually the House.

We are in support of SB 91. We feel the 21 recommendations made by the Alaska Criminal Justice Commission and the Pew Charitable Trusts organization, are an excellent *start* at repairing and reforming Alaska's fractured Corrections system, but there is much more work to be done.

While we support our incarcerated loved ones on their path to recovery and rehabilitation, we understand the need and desire for public safety, and the importance of respecting the opinions and rights of the victims. We believe the efforts of the Legislature and the Department of Corrections in collaboration with the many stakeholders involved will come to a safe and healthy resolution to many of the concerns being shared by the public.

It is important that we set aside our emotions and focus on evidence based facts. The State of Alaska's Department of Corrections cannot continue to function without reform of its policies and procedures. The State is facing a huge budget deficit. It cannot afford to build another prison to house the projected number of inmates flooding the system, but more importantly, families cannot afford to lose more loved ones to crime nor the prison system.

No one is winning the War on Drugs. No one is winning the Tough on Crime argument. All that rhetoric has accomplished over the years is a burgeoning prison system full of aging inmates. We as a society have been



placing Band-Aids on the disease and the disease is spreading. We have several generations of families incarcerated, sometimes in the same facility at the same time! If you have a viral infection, a Doctor prescribes treatment. Drug and alcohol addiction requires intensive treatment and follow-up care. Prison in its current state is not equipped to provide that treatment. More programs and treatment centers are needed to address the underlying source of most criminal activity; *not* longer prison sentences.

It is absolutely necessary to hold people accountable for their crimes. It is not always necessary to condemn that person for the entirety of their life for prior bad acts if they demonstrate their heartfelt remorse, desire for change, and willingness to adhere to the laws that govern our society.

The passing of SB 91 will begin the process of implementing cost saving procedures that can then free up future funding for further treatment based programs and centers.

Change is necessary and it must begin somewhere.

Thank you for taking the necessary initial steps towards that change.

Angela Hall

S.O.L.O.G.

[Please enter our comments into the permanent record. Thank you.]

## Daniel George

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**From:** Dennis McCormick <user@voterveice.net>  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 20, 2016 7:03 PM  
**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,

Dennis McCormick  
23377 Big Sky Dr  
Chugiak, AK 99567  
theedge1971@yahoo.com

## Daniel George

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**From:** Helen Trainor <htrainor@live.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 29, 2016 2:39 PM  
**To:** Senate State Affairs  
**Subject:** Senate Bill 91 (SB91) Public Testimony

Dear Senator Coghill and members of the Judiciary Committee.  
Thank you for your work on this very important Bill.

I am testifying on behalf of myself, a family member of a Felony DUI Wellness Court graduate. I can't say enough about how important and life changing this program is to those who accept responsibility for their actions and who want to make lasting changes in their lives.

For the record, it is an 18 month intensive program, where participants who are accepted into the program, must waive their right to plead for a lesser charge and instead must plead "guilty" as charged. This fact alone carries with it the knowledge that you have lost your driving privileges for life.

My family member has been 3 1/2 years clean and sober, is very active in the Wellness Court Alumni Group, is a Board member and a regular Group Facilitator, mentoring others with the same problems he has experienced. He has always held a steady job as a welder/fabricator; he has completely turned his life around but not being able to drive to work or to drive his family, and to have to depend on others is both very difficult and humiliating.

For these reasons I am writing in support of SB 91 as providing a pathway to restoring driving privileges for people who have shown they are rehabilitated, responsible citizens. It is an important step in removing the barriers that lead to recidivism in our correctional system. Realistically how can anyone manage their daily lives without their transportation. It is extremely difficult when you have a family. SB 91 is such an important bill! It will enable people to earn back the privilege to drive supervised at first in such a way as not to endanger society and will continue the pathway for people who have changed their lives to continue to be successful. It is my hope that in the future there will be a way for DUI felons to individually petition the court to restore their rights lost and eventually have their felony convictions removed like what can happen in drug conviction cases.

Oregon recently passed a bill, HB 3025 also called the "Ban the Box Bill" that became law January 1, 2016. It removes the criminal background question from job application forms. Prospective employers can ask about criminal background during interviews, but only after the initial screening.

I want to thank you Senator Coghill and the Judiciary Committee for your work on SB 91. It is an important start in continuing the rehabilitative process for Felony DUI offenders who have completed intensive programs and shown that they have turned their lives around, to be able to earn back privileges lost and to be full participating members in their families and communities.

Thank you for providing this opportunity for me to testify on SB91.

Helen Trainor (and Jerry Trainor)  
4065 Hood Court  
Anchorage, AK 99517

907-223-5612

## Daniel George

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**From:** Julie England Tanner <julie.tanner99@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 07, 2016 9:12 AM  
**To:** Senate State Affairs  
**Subject:** SB91

My name is Julie Tanner.

I strongly support SB 91, and I am thankful for all your efforts to get this bill passed.

The reason for my email to you today is because of your concern and compassion for prisoners, the extremely harsh and lengthy sentences handed down by Alaska Courts, and your work to try to change the current situation in Alaska.

My sister, Cindy Galvan, was sentenced to 60 years, with possibility of parole in 30. She has just completed year 28. She will turn 60 years old on April 10 of 2016.

Cindy has been a model prisoner; unlike many prisoners, Cindy made use of her time, doing her best to live as productive of a life as possible. Cindy has been a leader in the dog training program, earned and utilizes a degree in horticulture to grow plants in the prison greenhouse that generate revenue for the prison each year through the annual public plant sale. Cindy is responsible to supervise other inmates at the greenhouse. A portion of Cindy's time in prison was spent in an institution in Shakopee Minnesota. Cindy earned a degree in publishing and was very involved in training many dogs for handicapped children and veterans. Cindy is fluent in Spanish, so tutored many short-time inmates so that they could get their GED's. Her list of accomplishments is lengthy.

This past December, I was fortunate to be able to travel to Hiland Mountain to attend the violin concert. After the concert, I was able to spend some time visiting with Superintendent Gloria Johnson. Superintendent Johnson shared how much she appreciates my sister, for in her words "the concert would not have happened without Cindy's supervision and management". Ms. Johnson also shared with me that National Geographic had contacted the prison about doing a series on women incarcerated. She told me that she was to pick three inmates to participate and that Cindy was her number one choice.

Senator, both Cindy and I lost our sons to random murders. We have endured illness, cancer, deaths, divorces, and the loss of everything that most hold dear. Cindy does not own her own coat, at almost 60 years old, any possessions she may now have were issued by the prison. While we are thankful for all things, it is time for her to come home.

I do not know how parole boards are formed, or how the individuals that get those positions are chosen. I would think that the highest and best use of that position would be to utilize the position to honestly evaluate the progress of the inmate with the ultimate goals of release. Over the past 5 years, Hiland Mountain has individuals in that position, who are in the position for power and further punitive actions. I do not know who reviews this, but it should certainly be looked at for correction.

Sir, if in your pursuit of justice and reform, there would be anything that you could do to expedite the process of releasing my sister from Prison, well, there are no words that can possibly describe our thankfulness.

I thank you for your time.

God bless your efforts.

Julie Tanner

17117 SW Versailles Lane

Tigard, OR 97224

[Julie.tanner99@gmail.com](mailto:Julie.tanner99@gmail.com)

[503-351-7033](tel:503-351-7033)

## Daniel George

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**From:** K Taylor <kraylor@alaska.net>  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 06, 2016 4:10 PM  
**To:** Rep. Mike Chenault; Rep. Matt Claman; Rep. Jim Colver; Rep. Harriet Drummond; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Neal Foster; Rep. Les Gara; Rep. Lynn Gattis; Rep. Max Gruenberg; Rep. David Guttenberg; Rep. Mike Hawker; Rep. Bob Herron; Rep. Shelley Hughes; Rep. Craig Johnson; Rep. Andy Josephson; Rep. Scott Kawasaki; Rep. Wes Keller; Rep. Sam Kito; Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins; Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux; Rep. Bob Lynn; Rep. Charisse Millett; Rep. Cathy Munoz; Rep. Benjamin Nageak; Rep. Mark Neuman; Rep. Kurt Olson; Rep. Daniel Ortiz; Rep. Lance Pruitt; Rep. Lora Reinbold; Rep. Dan Saddler; Rep. Paul Seaton; Rep. Louise Stutes; Rep. David Talerico; Rep. Geran Tarr; Rep. Steve Thompson; Rep. Cathy Tilton; Rep. Chris Tuck; Rep. Liz Vazquez; Rep. Tammie Wilson; Rep. Adam Wool; Sen. Click Bishop; Sen. John Coghill; Sen. Mia Costello; Sen. Mike Dunleavy; Sen. Dennis Egan; Sen. Johnny Ellis; Sen. Berta Gardner; Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Charlie Huggins; Sen. Pete Kelly; Sen. Anna MacKinnon; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Kevin Meyer; Sen. Peter Micciche; Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Gary Stevens; Sen. Bill Stoltze; Sen. Bill Wielechowski; wmmas@muni.org; mayor@muni.org  
**Subject:** Stealing and fraudulently charging credit cards is not really illegal in Alaska

### State Legislators, Anchorage Assembly members, Governor, Mayor,

Last summer my credit card number was stolen and my account received three prison related charges. Through one of those prison related charges I was able to track down that the charge had been made by a person named Elaine Muai who made the charge for the benefit of a Utuva Alaelua, an inmate at Goosecreek Correction Facility in Wasilla.

Researching the internet I found Elaine Muai's résumé which identified her line of work as in the hotel industry in Anchorage. From this information I was then able to confirm she had been employed at Aspen Suites, a hotel I stayed at just two days before the first fraud charge showed up on my credit card.

The total charges were under \$300 and I was able to get it all credited back to my account. Police reports were made with the Alaska State Troopers and then the Anchorage Police Department but neither law enforcement unit would/could pursue charging her because it's not a high priority. The hotel would not pursue holding their former employee accountable because they had not heard from anyone else who had linked the theft of their credit cards numbers with their stay there.

I do not believe my credit card number was the only one this hotel employee stole and charged on, I just think I was the only victim who was able to track her down. And I believe victims were out singled out for being out of town/out of state hotel guests. I say this because my local law enforcement referred me to contact APD because the crime occurred in Anchorage, but APD's online police report website only allows Anchorage residents to set up the online police reports. Even though I did the work tracking it down and solved the theft, and have the proof, neither law enforcement unit will charge her. Charging her is the only way I'm aware of for this to get on her court record, preventing future hotels from hiring her into positions that handle guest's sensitive credit card data.

What this means is that in Alaska the act of stealing and fraudulently charging on someone's credit card is NOT illegal, as long as the thief doesn't charge too much. And these thieves are enabled to go job to job stealing thousands of credit card numbers to take with them and use after they leave their employment because they are exempt from prosecution.

I wish there was some way I could file the theft/fraud charge of mine just to get it on her criminal record and stop this free reign to continue stealing all of our credit card numbers.

Thank you.

**Kellie Taylor**

**Alaska State Trooper case # AK15056979**

**Anchorage Police Department case # 15-37645**

## Daniel George

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**From:** Beth Hazen <bhazen27@gci.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 07, 2016 12:03 PM  
**To:** Senate State Affairs  
**Subject:** SB91 Testimony

Attn: Senate State Affairs Chairman Bill Stoltze

We hope you can consider our public testimony at Tuesday's hearing on SB91. We realize that e-mails were to have been received before Saturday, but I received notice of the hearing today. One of us will try to call on Tuesday, as well. We feel that this is a very important issue, and that public input is important.

We are in strong support of Senate Bill 91, and the goals that it is designed to accomplish. We have reviewed SB91, and feel that it is not only an important tool in reducing tax-payer costs, but will be an effective way to reduce recidivism, and ease the burden of prison over-crowding. We have reviewed the recommendations of the Alaska Criminal Justice Commission, and find them to be sensible, just, and practical for both public safety and for criminal rehabilitation and re-entry into society as productive individuals.

Regarding the Parole provisions included in SB91, we strongly support making the effective date inclusive of inmates currently serving sentences. Granting parole to inmates currently serving their sentences will result in more tax-payer cost savings in the immediate future, as well as giving inmates an opportunity to become contributing members of society rather than a drain on society. Many inmates may be incarcerated for either committing a non-violent crime, and/or making a bad decision, but are not habitual offenders, and they should be given the opportunity to prove that they can be law-abiding, productive members of society through parole.

Thank you for your consideration of our opinion, and our support of SB91.

Richard and Beth Hazen

1925 Brandilyn St.

Anchorage, AK 99516