

March 17, 2016

To:
Senate Judiciary Chair Lesil McGuire

From:
Jayce Robertson
1303 Equinox Way
Kenai, AK 99611

Chair Lesil McGuire:

Here is an outline of the testimony I have for the Senate Judiciary Committee meeting on March 18, 2016. I wish I could testify via phone, however I am busy at work on night shift. I ask that you please consider reading the outline of my testimony. I personally met with your Judiciary Aid Dianne during my SB 91 advocacy trip on March 2nd and 3rd. I am very passionate about this bill and the much needed criminal justice reform. Thank you for your time and effort on this bill.

SB 91 Testimony

- I. Introduction
 - a. Thank you Madam Chair and the entire Senate Judiciary 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 and have far exceeded the court's and even my own

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 and traveled to Juneau to advocate for the passage of SB 91 on March 2nd and March 3rd, 2016.
3. I met with many legislatures and aid discussing my sincere interest in the passage of this bill. I would personally benefit from the passage by being able to obtain a limited driver's license allowing me to drive to and from work.

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 Madam Chair McGuire and the entire Senate Judiciary Committee for the opportunity to testify today. The passage of this bill would be life changing for my family and I. This bill would also help 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