From: <u>Leigh Copeland</u>

To: Senate Finance Committee
Subject: Testimony for SB 91

Date: Thursday, March 31, 2016 2:58:34 PM

To: All Alaska Legislators

From: Leigh Copeland

RE: Testimony on SB 91

Thank you for hearing my testimony. I am a 2014 graduate of the Anchorage Therapeutic Court. I am in recovery from alcoholism and I am dedicated to maintaining long-term sobriety. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the state of Alaska for providing me with a diversion program and treatment rather than jail time. The Wellness Court saved my life by providing me structure and offering treatment over a lengthy period of time. I drank for 45 years. I am quite sure, as my personal history attests, that I would not have been able to stay sober under other conditions. I am offering testimony to the particular part of SB 91 that deals with the restoration of driving privileges. I have learned the value of being a sober, responsible, committed member of society. I would like to be able to "give back", and I am currently involved in several volunteer activities that concern recovery and giving back to the community. However, the lack of public transportation and our winters make it difficult to obtain and keep gainful employment, as well as participate in the volunteer work that is so vital to recovery. I urge the state to support the limited license initiative.

Thank you for your time.

Leigh Copeland

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