



JUNEAU REENTRY COALITION

*Promoting Public Safety &
Strengthening Our Community*

April 18, 2018

Alaska Senate Finance Committee
Alaska State Legislature
120 4th Street, Rm 3
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: SB 127: Criminal Law; Parole; Probation; Sentencing.

Dear Senate Finance Committee:

The Juneau Reentry Coalition (JREC) opposes SB 127 and supports Alaska's continued efforts to resolve our public safety issues through the smart justice system commenced through the passage of SB 64 (28th Legislature), SB 91 (29th Legislature), and SB 54 (30th Legislature). Clearly, Alaska has invested a significant amount of time and resources to address our criminal justice issues and to go back at this juncture and start over seems incomprehensible.

We ask that you neither forget that 95% of those incarcerated return to the local community, nor forget that one of the issues we said we'd tackle prior to the implementation of our smart justice strategy was the 68% recidivism rate. In order to reduce our high return to prison numbers, the continuation of reentry services as envisioned by our reforms should continue. Addressing criminogenic behaviors through the delivery of evidenced-based reentry services pre- and post-release is the only sure way we know of at accomplishing this goal.

JREC agrees with the sponsor of SB 127 that public safety in our communities is paramount. However, we do not agree that repealing years of smart justice systems work is the answer. We would rather see the Legislature stay to course, and if we need to make additional fixes to our smart justice system we do so when it becomes clearer what those tweaks might be.

Sincerely yours,



Kara Nelson

Co-Chair

Juneau Reentry Coalition