



April 10, 2019

Representative Zack Fields
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol Room 114
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Re: Letter of Support for HB 118

Dear Rep. Fields,

This letter of support is in regards to HB 118 and relating to planning for prisoner reentry.

The Anchorage Reentry Coalition is a local coalition comprised of organizations, agencies, and individuals that are working together to address recidivism and public safety in the Anchorage community. The Coalition was first formed more than ten years ago and has broad representation and participation from more than 40 different organizations and agencies from the Anchorage community representing physical and mental health, substance use treatment, employment, education, law enforcement, private business interests, faith-based programming, behavioral services, and more. Members of the Coalition are intimately aware of the needs of individuals being released back into the community after periods of incarceration and are very attuned to the specific needs of formerly incarcerated individuals releasing back to the Anchorage community.

Anchorage, as a community, has a great deal at stake when it comes to prisoner reentry outcomes. According to 2017 Alaska Department of Corrections (DOC) data, Anchorage is disproportionately impacted by the number of individuals releasing to our community from DOC compared to other communities in the State – 2,200 inmates were released to Anchorage in 2017 representing over all of all inmate releases that year. A great many of these same individuals have also been identified by DOC as both high risk and high need, furthering emphasizing the importance for mindful coordination of the reentry process. Simply put, successful prisoner reentry outcomes will serve to make our communities safer and Anchorage in particular.

On behalf of the Anchorage Reentry Coalition, I would like to voice our support for efforts that would enhance meaningful communication and collaboration between corrections and community-based reentry coalitions for the purposes of lowering recidivism rates, improving public safety, and improving the reentry process for those individuals being released back to our communities from incarceration. The Anchorage Reentry Coalition also support efforts to ensure appropriate and comprehensive reentry planning for inmates releasing to our Anchorage community.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jonathan Pistotnik".

Jonathan Pistotnik
Coordinator,
Anchorage Reentry Coalition