



## Alaska Reentry & Justice Partnership

*A statewide coalition of individuals and organizations advocating for supports and services that promote success for justice-involved Alaskans at all phases of their justice involvement. Members include people with lived experience, family members, reentry coalitions and case managers, community providers, and public agencies.*

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**To:** Representative Kreiss-Tomkins

**Date:** April 12, 2021

**Re:** HB 118 Access to IDs; Digital Technology in Prisons

Thank you for introducing HB 118 to help eligible Alaskans leaving Corrections (DOC) custody to have a state-issued ID before release. HB 118 also promotes safe and secure improved access to digital technology for expanded programming, rehabilitation, healthcare, visitation, education and training, transitional planning, faith-based and tribal support, and more.

Since COVID, DOC has prioritized inmate and staff safety, requiring suspension or reduction of most in-reach and programming opportunities since March 2020. While some programming has continued inside Alaska's prisons, there has not been the full array that was available before COVID, especially from community volunteers and contractors.

Community service providers and reentry case managers are reporting that most inmates are leaving custody without recovery or reentry support, putting them at greater risk for relapse, recidivating, or homelessness.

HB 118 will help address this by allowing for expanded digital methods of programming, like video conferencing for visitation, treatment and recovery counseling and support groups, closed-circuit television channels for delivering education and training classes, secure software for filling out applications for housing, employment, and healthcare, before release, and more.

Thank you for your time and effort to help more justice-involved Alaskans access IDs and digital programming to increase the likelihood of success after incarceration.