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**From:** Hannah Laird [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 26, 2022 11:17 PM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Subject:** Please Support HB 246 "Access to Marijuana Records"

Dear Members of the Alaska House of Representatives Finance Committee,

My name is Hannah Laird, and I am a lifelong Alaskan who cares deeply about policies that affect our state and its residents. I am writing this letter to ask you to support and pass HB 246 "Access to Marijuana Records," which I believe can only help Alaskans.

In 2018, this bill's predecessor, HB 316, passed the House, so a precedent for its merits has already been set. However, I will do my best to highlight a few reasons why I support this bill. The first being that Marijuana has now been legalized in our state for about eight years in Alaska and thus prior possession of something that is no longer considered illegal should not persist. Furthermore, according to the ACLU, before legalization in 2014, Black Alaskans were 1.6 times more likely to be arrested for marijuana possession than their Caucasian counterparts. It's time to abolish the lingering racism many of these convictions are tainted by. Ex-offenders already have many barriers to finding employment and housing, this bill could be a step in the right direction to support ex-offenders and to potentially reduce recidivism. Also, many other states in the country have already passed measures either sealing or expunging previous marijuana records. I believe those states have set a good example and Alaska should follow suit.

Finally, today there is even more reason to pass this bill. Alaska's economic experts and business owners alike will reaffirm that Alaska is currently facing a labor shortage due to the combination of the COVID-19 pandemic and Alaska's already high labor churn rate. If HB 246 "Access to Marijuana Records" were to pass both houses and be implemented legislatively, many job seekers and employers would have better outcomes. More job seekers who would otherwise be turned away or overlooked due to their public marijuana conviction records would become eligible for employment opportunities.

I strongly encourage you to support the passing of HB 246 in the next House finance committee hearing. I intend to write another letter supporting this bill should it be passed to the Senate. Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,  
Hannah C. Laird  
[REDACTED]