

From: [REDACTED]
To: [House Community and Regional Affairs](#)
Subject: HB 35
Date: Monday, February 24, 2025 10:34:18 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

I am Cindy Yeager, the Program Coordinator for the Mat Su Reentry Program at Valley Charities Inc. I am writing to state I am in support of HB 35 and the efforts shown by Department of Corrections. It is vitally important to connect incarcerated individuals with the trainings, programming that is needed and be able to facilitate this with the use of tablets. This could also unify the programming offered to individuals across multiple facilities can participate together, which could also minimize the number of staff needed on certain trainings/programming. The use of tablets would also benefit the long term incarcerated individuals in training them in computer and technology skills that would be needed when released, especially for employment seeking.

I have meet many individuals at out of state conferences whom work with incarcerated individuals who have been able to utilize tablets while incarcerated and were able to complete programs to seek gainful employment before release, creating a system of more success and reducing recidivism. Thank you for your time and consideration on this matter.

Cindy Yeager

Program Coordinator
Mat-Su Reentry Program
Valley Charities, Inc.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wasilla, Alaska 99654

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From: [REDACTED]
To: [House Community and Regional Affairs](#)
Subject: House Bill 35
Date: Monday, February 24, 2025 4:03:17 PM

Greetings,

My name is Barbara Mongar. I live in Palmer, Alaska. I am the coordinator for the Mat-Su Reentry Coalition. I have been the coordinator for the Mat-Su Reentry Coalition for the last five and a half years. Our coalition consists of state agencies (such as the Alaska Department of Labor and the Alaska Departments of Corrections), community substance treatment centers (such as Set Free Alaska and True North Recovery), Mat-Su Health Services, Tribal Agencies, non-profit and private community service organizations. The close community partnerships we have through our Reentry Coalition has made it easier to provide wrap-around services for the formerly incarcerated individuals that come to us for assistance.

I am writing representing the Mat-Su Reentry Coalition in support of House Bill-35. This bill would help to remove barriers that restrict inmates inside correctional institutions from utilizing certain electronic devices that could give them access to rehabilitative programs, education, vocational training, treatment, and reentry services while they are still incarcerated. This type of early access to services would increase the likelihood for individuals to successfully reintegrate into the community once they are released from incarceration.

Thank you for taking your time to listen to me.

Barbara Mongar

Mat-Su Reentry Coalition Coordinator

Valley Charities, Inc.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



Access to Digital Technology to Better Serve Justice-Involved Alaskans

The Alaska Reentry Partnership supports the Department of Corrections (DOC)'s efforts to expand opportunities for inmates to access digital technology for access to rehabilitative programming and activities—vocational training, education, treatment and recovery services, reentry and transitional planning, housing and employment assistance, peer support, faith-based, tribal, and visitation—all of which increase the likelihood of reduced recidivism and success in the community after release. Successful reentry means safer communities.

Since COVID, Alaska's prisons and halfway houses have been challenged with staff shortages. Improved access to digital technology will offer more options for rehabilitative programming and activities when staff aren't available. Additionally, access to technology will support continuity of care across the state when inmates are transferred. Finally, in today's world, people need to be 'digitally literate' for basic functioning—filling out applications, applying for jobs, banking, communication, etc. People who have been incarcerated for decades may not have the skills needed to operate in a digital world, all critical for reentry success.

[HB 35](#) (Rep. Himschoot) and [SB 19](#) (Sen. Myers) have introduced identical bills that will remove a barrier in state law that restricts inmates inside correctional facilities from utilizing certain electronic devices, such as computers or digital tablets.

Recommendations:

- Support HB 35 / SB 19 to update Alaska statutes related to inmate access to technology.
- Update institutional policies related to digital technology.
- Expand infrastructure inside Alaska's prisons, halfway houses, and therapeutic court settings to better provide safe and secure video conferencing, closed circuit education channels, digital tablets, computer labs, software, and more.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [House Community and Regional Affairs](#)
Subject: Support for HB 35
Date: Tuesday, February 25, 2025 8:15:31 AM

I support [HB 35](#) - Access to Digital Technology in Alaska's Prisons

- I support limited access to digital technology in prison.
- I support the controlled access of inmates to educational digital material.
- I believe this access may assist prisoners in their efforts to rehabilitation.
- This access should be limited and controlled.

Sincerely,

Dave Rose

[REDACTED] -

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Dave Rose
Coordinator
Mat-Su Coalition on Housing and Homelessness
[REDACTED]



JUNEAU REENTRY COALITION

*Promoting Success After Incarceration
To Reduce Recidivism and Increase Public Safety*

March 10, 2025

Representative Rebecca Himschoot
Alaska State Capitol Room 411
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: Support of House Bill 35

Dear Representative Himschoot:

Increased access to digital technologies for incarcerated Alaskans leads to more opportunities for those working on their successful reentry. Such access would allow the Alaska Department of Corrections (DOC) to expand treatment and recovery support, vocational training, general and advanced education, reentry planning, faith-based, and Tribal activities, prosocial community connections, and other recidivism-reducing programs and activities.

In addition, increased secure digital access means support and education can continue, irrespective of DOC and service provider staffing challenges. Using digital devices, such as tablets, means a few can simultaneously deliver essential programming to many in DOC facilities. This leads to cost savings and improved reentry outcomes as more inmates take advantage of community support and educational opportunities in state custody.

Digital technology is used nationwide in prisons, using safe and secure equipment and practices to prevent breaches and unauthorized access.

Juneau Reentry Coalition's mission is to promote public safety within the community by identifying and implementing strategies that increase the success of justice-involved individuals and reduce the likelihood of recidivism. Increasing access to digital technology so more justice-involved Alaskans can participate in rehabilitation and reentry support does precisely that.

Therefore, the Juneau Reentry Coalition supports the passage of House Bill 35 this session.

Sincerely yours,



Don Habeger
Coalition Coordinator