

Joe Hayes

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of Belle Merritt

Sent: Monday, March 17, 2025 8:37 AM

To: Senate State Affairs

Subject: Support parole reform

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Dear Senate State Affairs Committee,

I write to share my support for legislative reform to the Alaska Board of Parole in SB 62. The Board has a critical role in assessing if eligible Alaskans are fit for parole, an alternative to incarceration for people who are ready to safely reintegrate into their communities. The result of parole is lower costs to taxpayers, lower recidivism rates, healthier families, and safer communities. Last year, over 400 Alaskans successfully and safely completed serving their sentences while on parole in 2024, preventing valuable taxpayers' dollars from being used toward their incarceration.

I support SB 62 because it would reform the Board of Parole to include members with backgrounds that can more accurately assess if someone is fit for parole. I support accountability and transparency measures that ensure the Board is operating fairly and giving Alaskans who are eligible for parole a fair shake.

Sincerely,
Ms. Belle Merritt
Palmer, AK 99645-9162