



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

Department of Administration

VIOLENT CRIMES COMPENSATION BOARD

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The Honorable Representative Kopp
State Capitol, Room 13
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Re: House Bill, 216 Transfers from the Dividend Fund.

I write on behalf of the Violent Crimes Compensation Board in support of House Bill 216.

In 1988, the Legislature passed a law making certain convicted criminals ineligible for a dividend. The intent was that those funds should be used for the primary purpose of helping restore victims of crime to a pre-offense condition. Senate Bill HB216 will ensure that intent is realized; by establishing a restorative justice account into which the withheld dividends are appropriated, and then appropriating from that criminal fund to specified recipients, with the crime victim compensation fund administered by the Violent Crimes Compensation Board being the first in priority order, this Bill establishes a reliable funding source for the work of this Board, and makes compensation to victims of violent crime a priority in the State of Alaska. We also support the adjunct purpose of the bill: helping victims of crime who have been awarded restitution, to receive outstanding payments more promptly via the intercession of the Office of Victim's Rights.

Thank you for your continued support and for working to ensure that victims come first in Alaska.

Respectfully submitted

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gerard Godfrey".

Gerard Godfrey
Chair, Violent Crimes Compensation Board