

April 1st, 2025

**Re: Letter of Support, SB 62
Substitute Board of Parole Membership**



On behalf of the Anchorage Reentry Coalition—a collective of social services providers, reentry programs, transitional housers, state departments, stakeholders, public safety, court representatives, those with previous Criminal Justice Involvement and community members—we write in strong support of SB 62's proposed reforms to the Alaska Board of Parole.

Enhancing diversity within the Parole Board could significantly improve transparency, elevate process standards, and incentivize treatment, rehabilitation and educational programming across correctional institutions statewide within the inmate population. Since 2020, the board has held 75% fewer hearings and released 79% fewer people compared to pre-pandemic levels, and only 5% of parole decisions involved discretionary parolees, while 95% involved mandatory parolees.

The proposed expansion of Alaska's Board of Parole from five to seven members aims to enhance rehabilitation-focused decision-making with diverse and specialized expertise. Key seats could be designated for Alaska Native Tribal representatives, victim rights advocates, professionals with backgrounds in providing substance or alcohol misuse treatment, behavioral and mental health professionals, or those with social service experience within the general reentry and rehabilitation workforce.

This bill also aligns with the emerging reforms that are becoming national trends advocating for parole boards with diverse, rehabilitation-oriented membership, who can offer different perspectives on criminogenic needs and behaviors.

By incorporating these perspectives, Alaska can finally begin to take productive steps towards increasing both parole approval access and post-release success rates while prioritizing the need for public safety in all our communities.

Always Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christina Shadura".

Christina Shadura, *Coordinator*
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