

From: Michael Boyer
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Subject: Alaska Needs Some Help (Roll Back SB 91)
Date: Wednesday, April 18, 2018 7:28:12 AM

Senate Finance,

It's real simple. SB 91--while well intentioned--was poorly timed.

Unfortunately, we passed this bill during a recession and just as Alaska faces a peak in the opioid crisis (opioid overdose now being the #1 non-accidental killer in the US).

We have both fewer resources to handle crime (police/treatment); more addicts; and the leverage and tools for law enforcement are at an all time low. It is a daily double of misery for many working Alaskans experiencing this train wreck.

With less deterrent, crimes like petty theft and drug use that impact the quality of life in Alaska are rampant. Our robbery rate in Juneau has experienced double digit growth and is setting annual records every year--with no sign of relief.

Every day, a procession of addicts walks past my house. They pass out in junked out cars in the morning waiting for their fix. They watch me leave and I wonder if they will only still items left out front or make their way in--knowing no one is gone. They steal anything not locked down.

It is impacting the productivity of people who have to go to work wondering if they will be robbed today or tomorrow (a real economic problem).

In short--SB 91 was noble in purpose and based on solid theory---but it ran smack dab into a recession and an opioid (and meth) drug crisis and we need to hit the pause button on this program.

The best policymakers are flexible and can adapt to new situations--a strength of our system in America. It is a dark time in the state and we need to provide some light. Help by giving law enforcement the strongest tools to break the cycle of crime.

Thanks

Mike Boyer
Juneau