

April 7, 2016

Senator John Coghill
Senator Johnny Ellis
Senator Lesil McGuire
Senator Mia Costello
Senator Click Bishop
Senator Peter Micciche
Senator Dennis Egan

State Senate
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Representative Charisse Millett
Representative Gabrielle LeDoux
Representative Geran Tarr

House of Representatives
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

RE: Senate Bill 91 and House Bill 205

Dear Senators and Representatives:

We issue this letter in solidarity in strong opposition to Senate Bill 91 and House Bill 205.

As crime victim advocates, seasoned law enforcement professionals, and fellow Alaskans, we have carefully studied the general public policy underpinnings of this legislation and have closely reviewed the details of both bills. While we appreciate the time and effort invested by the legislature and the Alaska Criminal Justice Commission, we strongly believe that these bills are premised on a fundamentally flawed public policy that seeks to balance the State's budget on the backs of crime victims and local governments. As a Government with the primary duty to protect all Alaskans, it is unconscionable to jeopardize public safety and exacerbate the trauma crime victims endure in the name of fiscal savings; such tactics and policy place all Alaska citizens at risk. At its very core, this legislation represents bad public policy for the crime victims, for law enforcement, and for all the Alaskans we work so diligently to protect.

We feel it is our collective duty and moral obligation to express our opposition to these bills. We urge all legislators to put these bills on hold until a more comprehensive evaluation can be made regarding the impacts these changes will have on our people and communities.

Respectfully,



Sergeant Gerard Asselin
President, Anchorage Police
Department Employees Association



Deputy Chief Brad Johnson
President, Alaska Association
of Chiefs of Police



Deputy Chief Brad Johnson
President, Alaska Peace Officers
Association



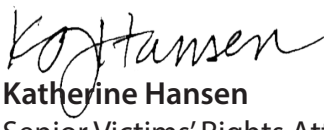
Chief Steve Dutra
North Pole Police Department



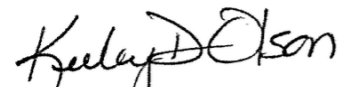
Robyn Langlie
Executive Director, Victims for Justice



Jake Metcalfe
Executive Director
Public Safety Employees Association



Katherine Hansen
Senior Victims' Rights Attorney
Office of Victims Rights



Keeley Olson
Program Director
Standing Together Against Rape