

Helen Phillips

From: Joe Michel
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2012 4:19 PM
To: House Finance Legislation
Subject: FW: HB 253 - Testimony

From: Luther [<mailto:tbheluther@yahoo.com>]
To: LIO Kodiak
Subject: Re: SB 140 & HB 253

Dear House Finance Committee Members:

Rep. Carl Gatto
Rep. Steve Thompson
Rep. Bob Lynn
Rep. Wes Keller
Rep. Lance Pruitt
Rep. Max Gruenberg
Rep. Lindsey Holmes
Rep. Mike Chenault

I would like to share some thoughts concerning HB 253.

I am a concerned community member of Kodiak. I have been a foster parent of teenage boys and currently my husband works with teens that are struggling to find their way in society- hence they are making very poor choices that affect them personally, their family and their community. We have seen first hand the affects of drugs/ synthetics and alcohol- its negative affects on youth, families and communities.

1. I would like to know if HB 253 is going to provide means for state agencies to test for synthetics, bath salts and the like? We have found that agencies do not want to or can not afford to test for these drugs. Once youth know they are not going to be tested they will use the drugs all the more, and whats the point of spending the money to make something illegal if we are not going to take the steps to follow thru. If its going to be illegal agencies like Juvenile Probation Officers, State Troopers, hospitals, etc should be required to test for them and Agencies Directors should not be allowed to deny the test due to funding.

2. There needs to be some type of law that allows Police, State Troopers, City and Borough governments to deal with Adult Entertainment shops. This is a serious problem in Kodiak. We have a shop that sells synthetics to minors. Along with this HB 253 needs to be written in such a way that it covers promotion, advertisement, packaging, and ingredients. Currently, when packaging is changed or ingredients are altered laws become null and void and the drug is back on the market. We don't have time for new laws to be developed each time a new synthetic drug is discovered, we dont have time to wait for new testing laws to be approved. Can HB 253 be written in such a way that it covers future changes to Bath Salts or any other synthetic that is developed?

3. I would like to see funding and grant monies be put in place for communities to provide training for parents, schools, assemblies, organizations, youth programs for at risk teens and pre teens,

afterschool clubs etc. These funds may already be in place but there seems to be a serious lack of current information available to community members. I see first hand how parents don't know what resources are available to them or where to go to find out the information they need to help succeed in the healthy fight for their child/teens life.

Thank you for all you are doing, your hard work is appreciated.

Sincerely,
Rebecca Luther
PO Box 376
Kodiak, AK 99615