

HB 81 Written Testimony
Former Rep. Stanley Wright

Donna Page

From: Stanley [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, January 20, 2026 2:42 PM
To: Rep. David Nelson
Subject: Letter of support/ marijuana convictions legislation

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Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

For the record, my name is Stanley Wright, and I am a former member of the Alaska State House of Representatives. I am writing in strong support of the legislation addressing prior marijuana convictions, now being carried by Representative David Nelson.

During my time in the Legislature, I introduced similar legislation because I believed then, as I do now, that Alaska should not continue to punish individuals for conduct that is no longer illegal under state law. I appreciate Representative Nelson's willingness to carry this effort forward and ensure this important issue continues to receive serious consideration.

This legislation addresses a longstanding inequity in our criminal justice system. Many Alaskans continue to face barriers to employment, housing, and opportunity because of marijuana related convictions that no longer reflect Alaska's laws or values. Maintaining these convictions serves no meaningful public safety purpose and instead places unnecessary burdens on individuals and families.

Alaska's decision to legalize marijuana represented a shift in public policy grounded in fairness and common sense. However, without addressing prior convictions, that shift remains incomplete. This bill offers a responsible path to align past penalties with current law.

I respectfully urge the committee to support this legislation and commend Representative Nelson for advancing it. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony and for your continued service to the State of Alaska.

Respectfully,

Stanley Wright
Former Member, Alaska State House of Representatives