

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES
DIVISION OF JUVENILE JUSTICE

SEAN PARNELL, Governor

Kodiak District Probation
204 Mission Road, Room 131
Kodiak, Alaska 99615
(907) 486-4788

February 16, 2010

Kodiak Teen Court
Darlene Turner, Program Manager
610 Mill Bay Road
Kodiak, AK 99615

Letter in support of the Kodiak Teen Court,

I am writing to express my strong support for the Kodiak Teen Court and its ongoing efforts to enhance the court's sustainability.

As we all know, Juveniles are highly influenced by their peers. The Kodiak Teen Court takes advantage of this by having juveniles stand in judgment by their peers. Kodiak students make up the membership of the court and act as both attorneys and judges. In doing so, they learn valuable lessons about the legal process while have an opportunity to help their community. In addition, low-level, first-time offenders are given opportunity to have their case diverted from the juvenile justice system. This is a win-win situation.

Over the years, my office has referred a number of cases to the Kodiak Teen Court. The feedback I have received from the juveniles and their parents has been very positive. Few of these juveniles ever return to the system. This has allowed me to focus my attention on those juveniles who pose a more serious risk to the community.

I look forward to continuing the relationship between my office and the Kodiak Teen Court and strongly support your efforts to ensure its long-term sustainability.

Respectfully,



Paul Caldentey
Juvenile Probation Officer II