



February 28, 2014

Senator John Coghill, Jr.
Alaska State Legislature
120 4th St., State Capitol, Room 3
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

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Anchorage, AK 99503-3953
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Gateway Center for Human Services
3050 Fifth Avenue
Ketchikan, AK 99901
907-225-4135
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Substance Abuse Programs:
Akeela House Residential
907-561-5266

Stepping Stones Residential
907-569-0097

KAR House Residential
907-225-3510

Akeela Co-Ed Outpatient
907-562-7483

Women & Families Outpatient
907-279-5000

Gateway Outpatient
907-225-4125

D.O.C. Prison Programs
907-328-9196

Mental Health Programs:
Anchorage Family Mental Health
907-562-7438

Gateway Outpatient
907-275-4135

Gateway Drop Inn Center (CSP)
907-228-6534

Prevention/Intervention Programs:
Anchorage - 907-565-1200

Alcohol Safety Action Program (ASAP)
Kenai - 907-283-6586
Ketchikan - 907-228-6504

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Membership:
Therapeutic Communities of America

Dear Senator Coghill:

This letter serves to demonstrate Akeela's support of SB 64.

Nearly two thirds of all Alaska inmates reoffend within three years of being released from prison. Inmates often reoffend because of the failure of the correctional system to habilitate – not rehabilitate – prisoners. These individuals have often never been habilitated; therefore, the term “rehabilitate” does not appropriately depict the services that this population desperately needs.

An essential need of this population, one that too often the correctional system is not equipped to meet, is behavioral health treatment to address the underlying issues that precipitated their crimes. These individuals have addiction issues and mental health problems that are not being dealt with while they are behind bars. In fact, according to the Indian Law and Order Commission report, more than 95 percent of all crimes committed in rural Alaska can be attributed to alcohol. Therefore, by not providing these individuals with the tools that they need to be successful, we are setting them up for failure.

Furthermore, community based substance abuse and culturally appropriate reentry services are desperately lacking in Alaska. If not treated, and not habilitated, this population will continue to reoffend and the recidivism rate in Alaska will continue to rise. Reentry programs are intended to assist offenders in acquiring the life skills needed to succeed in their communities and become law-abiding citizens. The implementation and use of prisoner reentry programs will, in turn, reduce the overall occurrence of offender recidivism. This will result in safe communities, more productive citizens, and less money spent on reoffenders.

SB 64 not only encourages residential substance abuse treatment in lieu of incarceration by giving individuals credit against time served in a residential

treatment facility , but it also creates a recidivism reduction to fund grant money for transitional re-entry programs.

We ask for your thoughtful consideration of SB 64.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Rosalie Nadeau", is written over the printed name.

Rosalie Nadeau
Chief Executive Officer
Akeela, Inc.