



Dan Sullivan,
Mayor

ANCHORAGE POLICE DEPARTMENT

4501 Elmore Road • Anchorage, Alaska 99507-1599
Telephone (907) 786-8500



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April 14, 2014

Representative Bill Stoltze, Chairman
House Finance Committee
State Capitol Building, Room 515
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Representative Stoltze:

On behalf of the Anchorage Police Department (APD), I would like to thank you and the bill sponsor, Senator Fred Dyson, for the opportunity to comment on SB 56. As you know, this bill strives to separate hardcore career criminals and drug dealers (who deserve to be in jail) from low-end drug users who are criminals only by virtue of their substance addiction (who deserved to be treated and cured).

When the original bill was introduced, the Anchorage Police Department had serious concerns with the proposed language. APD believed the felony threshold possession amounts were too generous. They included dealer level amounts, meaning that serious criminals would capitalize from this bill along with its intended beneficiaries.

In recent discussions with the bill sponsor, we have come up with some language and suggested amendments that APD can work with and support. It is our hope that you will consider the following suggestions and incorporate them into a revised version of the bill:

- With regard to misdemeanor cases involving Schedule I or IIA drugs, "two strikes" within seven years is now "one strike" within seven years, and we count convictions, not charges.
- The felony threshold for meth possession is reduced from 3 grams to 2/10 of a gram.
- The felony threshold for heroine possession is reduced from 500 mg to 100 mg.
- The felony threshold for possession of LSD is reduced from 300mg to 50mg, if found in liquid form, or 3 dosage units (preparations) if found in solid form (blotter paper, sugar cubes, gelatin).
- The felony threshold for cocaine possession is reduced from 3 grams to .5 grams.
- The felony threshold for illegal pill possession is reduced from 15 pills to four pills.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I truly appreciate you and your committee working with law enforcement to find acceptable solutions.

Sincerely,

Mark T. Mew
Chief of Police