

April 4, 2019

Representative Fields
State Capitol Room 114
Juneau, AK 99801
rep.zack.fields@akleg.gov

RE: HB118 – Offender Reentry Planning by Corrections

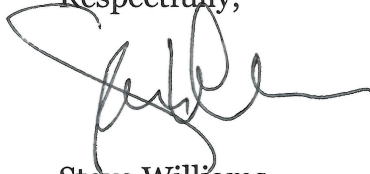
Dear Representative Fields:

The Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority supports HB118.

In Alaska, 95% of all incarcerated adults will be released back into our communities. Often they return without a structured and planned transition to community based treatment services and supports, safe housing, and/or a job or other pro-social activities. Improving reentry planning and implementation of the reentry plans is critical for increasing public safety and reducing Alaska's criminal recidivism rates. To be successful this requires a strong partnership between the reentrant, the Departments of Corrections and Health and Social Services, and community coalitions, non-profit organizations and private business.

This bill will help strengthen current reentry processes by requiring coordination with these and other available community reentry service providers. Furthermore, it places an annual reporting requirement of reentry case plan development and implementation to the legislature that will assist in tracking outcomes over time. The Trust is hopeful that this bill will help move the state forward in the implementation of efforts and a data driven approach to tracking outcomes that will, in the end, increase public safety and reduce Alaska's criminal recidivism rates.

Respectfully,



Steve Williams
Chief Operating Officer