



Partners Reentry Center

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April 5, 2019 (sent via email)

Rep.Zack.Fields@akleg.gov; grace.kubitz@akleg.gov

Representative Zack Fields

House State Affairs Committee

Alaska House of Representatives

Juneau, Alaska 99801

Re: Letter of Support for HB 118

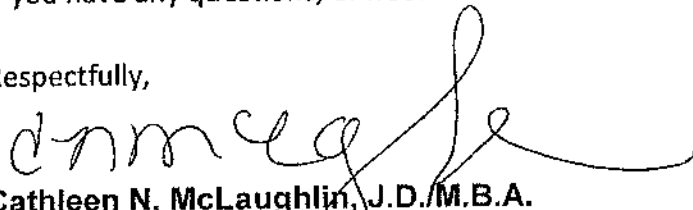
Dear Representative Fields,

As the Director of the Partners Reentry Center, I am writing in support of the passage of HB 118. Since August 2013, Partners Reentry Center has worked with over 7000 reentrants, both pre- and post- release, who would have otherwise released to homelessness. Through the past 5 years we have learned that pre-release reentry planning is integral in preparing high risk offenders to release back into the community in a more positive way. For that reason, the mandates of HB 118, which in part require pre-release planning to begin within 90 days after a person is sentenced, would enhance the likelihood of more successful release planning, and in turn, reduce recidivism.

The Department of Corrections and Partners Reentry Center has historically stated that release planning should begin the day an individual enters into the corrections system. Although this is a laudable goal, it has not always been put into practice. HB 118 is a step forward in operationalizing a more focused pre-release planning process.

If you have any questions, or need additional information from me, please contact me directly.

Respectfully,



Cathleen N. McLaughlin, J.D./M.B.A.
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