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Governor Mike Dunleavy
STATE OF ALASKA

February 18, 2021

The Honorable Louise Stutes
Speaker of the House
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 208
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Speaker Stutes:

Under the authority of Article III, Section 18, of the Alaska Constitution, I am transmitting a bill relating to amending state law to bring the Division of Juvenile Justice into compliance with recent changes to federal law.

Specifically, in December 2018, the President signed the Juvenile Justice Reform Act (JJRA) that amends and reauthorizes the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP Act) which is the principle law governing juvenile justice practices.

This bill brings state law into compliance with new JJRA requirements related to the detention and placement of juveniles under the age of 18 in adult jails or correctional facilities. These new federal requirements go into effect on December 21, 2021. Additionally, the proposal amends AS 47.10 to bring state law into compliance with JJRA provisions related to status offenders (runaways and missing children) being held in secure juvenile facilities without requisite court findings.

I urge your prompt and favorable action on this measure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mike Dunleavy".

Mike Dunleavy
Governor

Enclosure