

Jody Simpson

From: Louis Imbriani <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, March 24, 2021 2:47 PM
To: Senate Health and Social Services; Sen. Elvi Gray-Jackson
Subject: Please Amend SB-99

Chair Wilson, Members of the Senate Health and Social Services Committee and Senator Gray-Jackson,

My name is Louis Imbriani, and I am an Eagle River Resident. I am writing to you regarding Senate Bill 99 (SB-99). Unfortunately, I will not be available for public testimony on 3/25/21 and I wanted my voice to be heard. I do not represent any groups or special interests and I am writing this on my own time.

There are a lot of great points in SB-99 but there is one part I am concerned about. My concern revolves around "repealing a requirement for administrative revocation of a minor's driver's license, permit, privilege to drive, or privilege to obtain a license for consumption or possession of alcohol or drugs." The administrative revocation of the license ensures that the minor or person below the legal age to buy and consume alcohol or marijuana receives some sort of substance use treatment or education.

While the changes to Alaska Statute Title 4 in previous years decriminalized the charges of minor consuming or possession of alcohol or drugs it still retained the substance use treatment or education component. If issued a citation, the minor has 2 options:

Option 1: Pay the \$500 fine and not complete a substance use education or treatment program. Driver's License would be administratively revoked.

Option 2: Pay a \$50 fine and complete a substance use education or treatment program through Volunteers of America (VOA) or the Juvenile Alcohol Safety Action Program (ASAP). Driver's License would be administratively revoked.

Option #2 is the most advantageous and the most beneficial to the person. Why? Because by completing the education or treatment program with VOA they can get a DMV letter from VOA or Juvenile ASAP. They can take this to the DMV and pay a \$100 reinstatement fee and get their driving privileges back.

If they chose option 2 however, they would need to still complete a substance use treatment program or education call to get a DMV letter. Then they would be able to go to the DMV and get their license back. A person choosing option 1 would pay \$450 more than someone who chose option 2.

Furthermore, by revoking the license it holds the person accountable who chose the lesser of the 2 sentences. If they fail to complete treatment or education, then they will not be able to get their driving privileges back until they do complete a substance use treatment program or education.

Why is the referral to VOA or Juvenile ASAP so important? Because a licensed and trained chemical dependency counselor will talk to them. They will be able to evaluate the person and determine if this event is just a one off or if this person has a much more serious problem.

The treatment that is provided is very individualized and specific to each person and their case. In most cases people are recommended to the Alcohol Drug Information School (ADIS) which is a 12-hour class certified by the State of Alaska.

By not requiring a young adult to be screened or at least incentivizing the screening many people may not receive the help that they truly need. For those who don't need help they will be better educated, better prepared and more

knowledge about alcohol and drugs and their impact on their bodies and lives. While for those who do need help they are able to get the services that they need sooner rather than later. For some they dont know where to go for help. This will give them the tools they need to succeed.

I strongly urge you to reconsider the provision in this bill.

Thank you

Louis Imbriani
