

Alaska Regional Coalition

Representing 100 Communities

April 29, 2021

The Honorable Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins
Representative
Alaska State Legislature
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Subject: Alaska Regional Coalition SUPPORT for HB 118 Expanding Prisoner Access to Computers

Dear Representative Kreiss-Tomkins:

As the Alaska Regional Coalition, we write to offer support for HB 118 Expanding Prisoner Access to Computers. Computer access is an essential tool for being set up for success upon reentry into the community. It is necessary for seeking employment, securing reliable housing, and continuing the treatment plan more efficiently.

Many of our organizations operate reentry and recovery programs (via treatment, counseling services, employment opportunities, etc.). We stand by as partners of the State to ensure that our citizens are set up for successful reentry and recovery.

Ana baasee', Gunalchéesh, Háw'aa, Quyana, Quyanaqpak for your work on this important issue.

Respectfully,

PJ Simon, Chief/Chairman
Tanana Chiefs Conference

Melanie Bahnke, President/CEO
Kawerak, Inc.

Tim Gilbert, President/CEO
Maniilaq Assn.

Jan Vanderpool, Executive Director
Chugachmiut

Richard Peterson, President
Central Council Tlingit & Haida
Indian Tribes of Alaska

The Alaska Regional Coalition is a consortium of four Alaska Native regional tribal nonprofits and one regional tribe – Tanana Chiefs Conference, Maniilaq, Kawerak, Chugachmiut, and Central Council Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska. We are all recognized by the U.S. Indian Self-Determination Act to provide medical, behavioral, social, public safety, workforce development, and judicial supports to the State of Alaska through contracts, compacts, and grants. The coalition represents 65,000 Alaskans and 100 communities from Ketchikan to Kotzebue.

