



JUNEAU REENTRY COALITION

*Promoting Success After Incarceration
To Reduce Recidivism and Increase Public Safety*

April 3, 2023

Re: Support for SB 119 – State Identification Cards For Individuals Leaving Incarceration

Senator Robert Myers
Alaska State Legislature
120 4th St, Room 3
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Myers:

Thank you for introducing Senate Bill 119 concerning state identification cards (ID) for individuals returning to their communities after incarceration. The lack of an ID upon release can hinder successful reentry and contribute to the higher risk of recidivism.

Proof of identity in the form of a state ID card is a necessary component for successful community reentry after incarceration. A returning citizen must show a government-issued ID when securing essential life resources such as employment, housing, treatment, transportation, banking, public building entry, and other services.

Delays in securing a state ID may require the released individual to pause reentry-planned pathways such as getting a job, getting an apartment, substance use or mental health treatment, and other essential services. Individuals may wait weeks or months while other documentation, such as a birth certificate, arrives from another jurisdiction. These administratively-induced delays and subsequent inactivity are known to increase the likelihood of recidivism.

SB119 addresses this problem by ensuring that the Alaska Department of Corrections issues, before release, an authorized Alaska ID.

The Juneau Reentry Coalition's mission is to promote public safety within the community by identifying and implementing strategies that increase all justice-involved individuals' success and reduces the likelihood of recidivism.

SB119 dismantles a barrier to successful reentry, and the Juneau Reentry Coalition urges its passage.

Sincerely,



Teri Tibbett
Co-chair, Community

Sincerely,



Don Habeger
Coalition Coordinator