

February 9, 2023

Via email to: Representative.Stanley.Wright@akleg.gov



Subject: Support for HB 28 Access To Marijuana Conviction Records

Dear Representative Wright:

The Alaska Marijuana Industry Association would like to offer our **support** for HB 28.

We believe that this piece of legislation is an incremental but important step in the right direction towards destigmatizing cannabis consumption. While it is hard for us to identify specific individuals whom this legislation would impact due to confidentiality, we do know anecdotally that public records impact an individual's ability to secure fair housing, fruitful employment, and education opportunity.

It is common knowledge that employers, schools, and landlords use CourtView to perform background checks on applicants. In CourtView a simple marijuana possession charge appears similar to this, "Misconduct-Controlled Substance 6A". Very few understand the drug schedule, and most people performing background checks are unlikely to do the next step of discovery to see that VIA is only marijuana. They will simply put the application aside. Therefore, anything that removes even a small barrier to positive life outcomes, we will support.

We want to thank the sponsor and prior session sponsors of similar legislation and urge its support and passage by both bodies.

Respectfully,

Lacy Wilcox, Legislative Liaison
Alaska Marijuana Industry Association

The Alaska Marijuana Industry Association is Alaska's only statewide cannabis industry trade group. Our mission is to promote and advocate for a vibrant and reasonably regulated Alaska-based marijuana industry. The AMIA serves to strengthen and enhance a network of connected, independent, informed, regionally and community directed Alaska marijuana organizations.

www.alaskamia.org