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**From:** Mike Coons <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 01, 2023 2:46 PM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Subject:** Support HB 66

I strongly support HB 66

As a Paramedic, I have had to treat many patients on drugs. We have had to use Narcan on patients that were on the verge of dying, then having to deal with them fighting us since to took away their fix.

Those same patients all got this poison from a pusher. The pushers know this can and will kill. Thankfully I didn't have to deal with the new more deadlier drugs of today, Fentanyl and others. All not just kill the user but put EMS and Law Enforcement at risk of dying having to touch even small quantities of drugs like Fentanyl!

In reading the bill, I don't see an attempted murder charge in pushing this poison. Maybe we can't get to that level, but we should be able to make an attempted murder charge involving EMS and Law Enforcement if they are harmed by exposure to these drugs.

These pushers of this poison should be behind bars for life, if I had my way, but this is a great start. Maybe when we have a stronger legislature in the future, this can be elevated to first degree and life with no chance of parole!

Mike Coons  
Palmer AK

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**From:** Jonathan Pistotnik <jpistotnik@nwalaska.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 02, 2023 10:52 PM  
**To:** House Finance  
**Subject:** HB 66, Section 5

House Finance Members,

HB 66 proposes to eliminate good time credits for particular drug-related offenses. Please remove this Section from the bill as it removes a tool that can be leveraged by the State of Alaska Dept. of Corrections to promote rehabilitation, encourage good behavior within our correctional facilities, and help contribute to safe environments for corrections staff.

The removal of good time credits in this instance is a punitive measure, and is intended to serve as a deterrent from engaging in certain criminal acts. However, this form of a sanction occurs too far in the future from the time of the crime to have any meaning or weight. It presupposes that people engaged in these behavior are rational thinkers. As Professor Dr. Mark Keleiman stated in his book *When Brute Force Fails: Strategic Thinking For Crime Control*, many criminal offenders are not rational thinkers but rather "impulsive, myopic, and ill-informed."

As it pertains to the removal of good time credits, the bill sponsor is miscorrectly applying a sanction to a behavior that is not proximate, and therefore is likely meaningless as a crime deterrent. It would further solidify Alaska as a state interested in purely punitive policy actions, rather than substantive and smart solutions to crime prevention.

In this instance we are talking about good time credits that would be applied as an incentive inside a prison years after a conviction and sentence has been handed down. Good time credit is a tool in the tool box of DOC intended to promote safety inside Alaska's prison. Do not further inhibit the use of this tool, and remove this language from HB 66.

Respectfully,

Jonathan Pistotnik

**Jonathan Pistotnik (he/him), MPH**

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# JUNEAU REENTRY COALITION

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

May 3, 2023

Alaska State Legislature  
Housing Finance Committee

Dear House Finance Committee:

The Juneau Reentry Coalition urges the Alaska House Finance Committee to delete Section 5 of CSHB 66 (JUD) related to Good Time.

Good Time is positive reinforcement for correct behavior. Using positive reinforcement to incentivize acceptable behavior is a well-established physiological concept and method for changing behavior. Many effective behavioral treatments and services are founded on this principle.

Incarcerated individuals demonstrating reformatory behavior in the Alaska correctional system are incentivized with Good Time. Conversely, incarcerated individuals that display unwanted institutional behaviors lose Good Time. The idea of incentives and sanctions for violations within the correctional setting is so profound that former DOC Commissioner Nancy Dahlstrom implemented Policy 901.16 in the department, providing that all Probation / Parole Officers shall investigate and respond to positive and negative behaviors swiftly and in proportion to the behavior.

Good Time helps make communities safer. When an individual is released under the Good Time provision, they do so under parole supervision. It is commonly understood, backed by research, that effective rehabilitation and incentives to engage in rehabilitative activities (such as substance abuse treatment, education and training, etc.) are more effective strategies for reducing criminal behavior than longer sentences. Removing Good Time is effectively the opposite of this understanding.

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. The coalition supports strategies, such as Good Time, for meeting these goals.

Please amend CSHB 66 (JUD) by removing Section 5.

Sincerely yours,



Teri Tibbett  
Community Co-chair



Don Habeger  
Coalition Coordinator