

James S. Stoneking #137139
Wildwood Correctional Complex
10 Chugach Ave
Kenai Alaska 99611-7099

2-26-2024

Senator Jesse Bjorkman
State Capitol Room 9
Juneau Alaska 99801

RE: SB 176, 2023

Senator Bjorkman,

My name is James S. Stoneking and I'm a constituent from Kenai. I'm writing to you to express my support for SB 176 to reform the Alaska Board of Parole, it's long overdue.

I have been incarcerated at Wildwood Correctional Complex for over 10-years and been incarcerated for just over 37-years. I have completed all available programs and accomplished getting a MA degree in 2019. I have served more than my 1/3rd needed for parole eligibility. I went before the board in Nov. of 2019. The board denied my parole and told me to do 10 more years. I am currently in the COA A-13993. The board used non-statutory criteria to deny my parole: "they felt I had not served enough time and that it would be too harsh on the victims" these are not statutory criteria.

I believe SB 176 will give the board a better representation of the population of the state. Also it will give better qualified people to set on the board. The Board needs more transparency and accountability, the same as required by other boards.

Please support the passing of SB 176. This bill will help give us a better system. Every two prisoners set-off for ten years costs the state over 1 Million Dollars.

Sincerely,



Senator Jesse Bjorkman

My name is Ariel Patrick, I have been in prison for over fourteen years. I am writing to encourage you to support and pass SB 176.

I have been eligible for discretionary parole since 2020 but remain incarcerated. I am a first time offender with a strong support network eagerly awaiting my release. I have been seen by the parole board twice and filed many reconsiderations. Through my lengthy incarceration I have proven my dedication to recovery and rehabilitation. Because I have ; remained employed, mentored, volunteered, and stayed out of trouble the parole board had no valid reason to deny my parole. In 2023 I won a post conviction appeal of the parole boards action. Superior court judge Christina Rankin found in her ruling the parole board abused their discretion and ordered them to see me again. Unfortunately even after being seen again the board ignored the judges order and chose to deny me again. Their only explanation being "early release would diminish the seriousness of the crime". If you would like more info about my situation please contact my attorney public defender Doug Merrit 907-334-2180.

The passage of SB 176 would better equip the parole board to serve the community.

Thank you for your time.

Ariel Patrick