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Governor Mike Dunleavy
STATE OF ALASKA

February 12, 2025

The Honorable Bryce Edgmon
Speaker of the House
Alaska State Legislature
Capitol Building, Room 208
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Speaker Edgmon:

Under the authority of Article III, Section 18 of the Alaska Constitution, I am transmitting a bill addressing organized theft, mail theft, and the theft of medical records and medical information. The impact of property theft on individuals, businesses, and the community is often underrated. When theft occurs in retail establishments, it can, over time, total in the millions of dollars. These costs can make it difficult to do business and, many times, are passed down to the paying consumer. Alaska needs to do more to address this conduct. Accordingly, this bill creates the new crime of organized theft, which will be a class A felony. Organized theft will target those individuals who coordinate with a group of three or more persons to commit felony level thefts. These individuals are operating on a larger scale and the penalty should reflect the massive damage they cause to our communities.

The bill also establishes the crime of mail theft, which can lead to identity theft, credit card fraud, and the loss of valuables. Because Alaska relies heavily on mail service, we should not depend solely on federal prosecution to address this widespread problem.

Finally, the bill classifies the theft of medical records or medical information as a class C felony. Just as current law protects credit cards and identification documents, it should also protect sensitive medical information from misuse.

By closing these gaps in current law, this bill will strengthen our ability to address crimes that wreak havoc on our communities. I urge your prompt consideration of this legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mike Dunleavy".

Mike Dunleavy
Governor

Enclosure