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Official Business

Alaska State Legislature

Senate

Judiciary Committee

Pouch V
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99811

April 25, 1981

Mr. Dean K. Otteson
Assistant Principal
Soldotna High School
P.O. Box 3009
Soldotna, Alaska 99669

Dear Mr. Otteson:

Thank you for your letter in support of SB 177. That bill has been assigned to the Judiciary Committee for hearing; however, due to a heavy backlog of legislation to be heard, it is doubtful at this point that it will be scheduled this session.

I will make your comments a part of the committee's permanent file for future consideration of this proposed legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Pat".

Senator Patrick M. Rodey
Chairman

PMR/ods

*The language in SB 177
is to be incorporated in
a drug bill I expect the
Senate to pass fairly soon.*



SOLDOTNA HIGH SCHOOL

P.O. Box 3009
SOLDOTNA, ALASKA 99669

262-7411

JAMES A. STRANDLIE
PRINCIPAL

DEAN K. OTTESON
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

April 1, 1981

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Senator Pat Rodey
Chairman, Judiciary Committee
Pouch V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Senator Rodey:

I am writing in support of Senate Bill #177, an act providing that a person of 17 years of age be charged, prosecuted and sentenced in the same manner as an adult if accused of selling a drug on school property.

As Assistant Principal of Soldotna High School I have come in contact with numerous drug violations involving young high school students. It has been my experience that the most difficult cases involved discovering the pushers or dealers. I have worked around high schools for the past 16 years and have seen a steady increase in the use of drugs among teenagers, especially marijuana. The profits to those who are selling, in all cases, outweighs the penalty. Seventeen year old dealers know the penalty is not severe and therefore continue their activity.

We are trying to keep drugs out of the school and keep younger students from being influenced. When young dealers are turned loose in a school with very minor consequences, we are only adding to the problem. I feel that every effort should be made in dealing with the teenage drug problem. We need more drug education programs at all levels and involving the total community, but we also need stronger laws.

The Kenai Peninsula Borough School Administrators Association voted unanimously to support this bill.

Sincerely

DEAN K. OTTESON
Assistant Principal

DKO/jm