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Alaska State Legislature

House

Official Business

January 24, 1986

Pouch V
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Representative Niilo Koponen
Representative Max Gruenberg
Co-Chairmen
Committee on Health, Education
And Social Services
Pouch V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Representatives Koponen and Gruenberg:

This letter is to request that you, as co-chairmen of the HESS committee, schedule a public hearing for HB 264 - "An Act relating to marijuana, and providing for an effective date."

This bill addresses changes to the statutes which have been identified as top priorities of the Anchorage Crime Commission, and as it was referred to your committee on March sixth of last session, I have hoped it would receive some attention. I spoke with you, as well as your committee aide, in regard to holding hearings on this issue during the last session, as well as during the interim, but that opportunity seems to have passed you by.

I sincerely hope you will consider opening up the discussion on the marijuana issue by scheduling HB 264 for a hearing as soon as possible. The Anchorage Crime Commission, as well as many other experts throughout the state, would sincerely appreciate an opportunity to present to a formal Legislative committee the most recent scientific and sociological findings on the effects of marijuana on the individual, local communities and the state of Alaska. I realize that many Legislators, for various reasons, want to stay as far away as possible from anything to do with the possible recriminalization of marijuana. However, we can no longer ignore our responsibilities to the public as a whole.

Thank you for your attention to this request.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Terry Martin".

Rep. Terry Martin

TM/jwm

cc: Harold Heinze, Chairman
Anchorage Crime Commission