

SB

67

HFIN

FILE

HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

(11)

Date Referred to Committee: April 17, 1997

FURTHER REFERRALS:

Date of Committee Action: 4/28/97

The FINANCE Committee considered:

CSSB 67(JUD)

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 67(JUD)

TRUTH IN SENTENCING

“An Act relating to the imposition of criminal sentences; and amending Rule 32.2, Alaska Rules of Criminal Procedure.”

recommends it be replaced with the following committee substitute CS SB 67 (Jud) the same title a new title

additional referral to _____ Committee
 attached amendment(s)

ADOPTS: _____ Letter of Intent

ATTACHES NEW FISCAL NOTE(S): (Dept)

APPROVES PREVIOUS: (Dept/Date)

fiscal note(s) _____

fiscal note(s) SEC 3/13/97

zero fiscal note(s) AK Court Sys

zero fiscal note(s) (2) DPS 3/5/97
(1) LAW 3/5/97

SIGNING WITH RECOMMENDATIONS		DP	DNP	NR	AM
<i>Tom Therriault</i>	Therriault	X			
<i>Alan Nield</i>	MULDER	X			
<i>Henry Martin</i>	martin	X			
<i>John M. Danks</i>	J. DAVIS			X	
<i>Walter M. Moses</i>	MOSES			X	
<i>Tom Danks</i>	G. DAVIS	X			
<i>Tom Kelly</i>	Kelly	✓			
<i>Tom Kelly</i>	FASTER	☉			

CHAIR'S SIGNATURE *Tom Therriault*
 Therriault

1997 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

NO:

Bill Version: CSSB 67 (Jud)

(S) Publish Date: 3-5-97

Revision Date: _____

Dept. Affected: Public Safety

Title: Truth in Sentencing

DPS Statewide Support

Component: Commissioner's Office

Sponsor: Rules Committee

Requestor: S. Judiciary

COMPONENT SERIAL NO. 0523

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars) (inflation not included)

OPERATING	FY 98	FY 99	FY 00	FY 01	FY 02	FY 03
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
CHANGE IN REVENUES ()	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
Code Revenue						

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1006 GF/MHTIA						
Other						
TOTAL	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

Estimate of current year (FY 97) impact: \$ _____

POSITIONS.

FULL-TIME	0	0	0	0	0	0
PART-TIME	0	0	0	0	0	0
TEMPORARY	0	0	0	0	0	0

ANALYSIS. (Attach a separate page if necessary.)

No fiscal impact is anticipated to the Department of Public Safety

Prepared By: Sandy Perry-Provost, Special Assistant to the Commissioner

Phone: 465-4322

Division: Commissioner's Office

Date: 2/20/97

Approved by Commissioner: *Ronald L. Otte*

Date: 2/21/97

Agency: Ronald L. Otte, Dept. of Public Safety

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FISCAL NOTE

No. 4

STATE OF ALASKA
1997 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL N

Bill Version: CSSB 67 (TJD)

(S) Publish Date: 3-5-97

Revision Date: _____
Title: Truth in Sentencing
Sponsor: Sen. Halford
Requestor: S. Judiciary

Dept. Affected: Public Safety
BRU: Violent Crimes Compensation Board
Component: _____
COMPONENT SERIAL NO. _____

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars) (inflation not included)

OPERATING	FY 98	FY 99	FY 00	FY 01	FY 02	FY 03
PERSONAL SERVICES	0					
TRAVEL	0					
CONTRACTUAL	0					
SUPPLIES	0					
EQUIPMENT	0					
LAND & STRUCTURES	0					
GRANTS CLAIMS	0					
MISCELLANEOUS	0					
TOTAL OPERATING	0	0	0	0	0	0
CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
CHANGE IN REVENUES ()						
Revenue Code						

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GE Match						
1004 GE						
1005 GE/Program Receipts						
1006 GE/MHTIA						
Other						
TOTAL	0	0	0	0	0	0

Estimate of current year (FY 97) impact: \$ _____

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

ANALYSIS (Attach a separate page if necessary.)

The Violent Crimes Compensation Board approves of any vehicle which makes the victim more informed.

Prepared By: Nola K. Capp Phone: 465-3040
Division: Violent Crimes Compensation Board Date: February 10, 1997
Approved by Commissioner: *Ronald L. Otte* Date: 2/2/97
Agency: Ronald L. Otte, Dept. of Public Safety

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FISCAL NOTE

No. 5

STATE OF ALASKA
1997 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Bill Version: CSSB 67 (Jud)

(S) Publish Date: 3-5-97

Revision Date: _____	Dept. Affected: <u>Department of Law</u>
Title: <u>*An Act relating to the imposition of criminal</u>	BRU: <u>Criminal Division</u>
<u>sentences; amending Rule 32.2, Ak Rules of Criminal Procedure</u>	Component: <u>Criminal Division</u>
Sponsor: <u>Senator Halford</u>	
Requester: <u>Senate Judiciary Committee</u>	COMPONENT SERIAL NO. <u>2085</u>

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 98	FY 99	FY 00	FY 01	FY 02	FY 03
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
----------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--

CHANGE IN REVENUES ()						
------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--

FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

FUND SOURCE	FY 98	FY 99	FY 00	FY 01	FY 02	FY 03
1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1006 GF/MHTIA						
Other						
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY97) cost: \$ 0.0

POSITIONS

POSITIONS	FY 98	FY 99	FY 00	FY 01	FY 02	FY 03
FULL-TIME	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

The Senate Judiciary Committee Substitute for SB 67 includes a new section stating that the required approximate minimum term statement in the sentencing report is for informational purposes only, and cannot be used as a basis for review or appeal of the sentence imposed.

With this change, the Department of Law no longer anticipates any fiscal impact from passage of this legislation.

Prepared by: <u>Joan M. Kasson</u> <i>Joan M. Kasson</i>	Phone: <u>465-5370</u>
Division: <u>Administrative Services Division</u>	Date: <u>2/27/97</u>
Approved by Commissioner: <u>Bruce M. Botelho, Attorney General</u> <i>Bruce Botelho for</i>	Date: <u>2/27/97</u>
Agency: <u>Department of Law</u>	

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1997 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Revision Date: _____

Dept. Affected:

Public Safety

Title: Truth in Sentencing

DPS Statewide Support

Component:

Commissioner's Office

Sponsor: Rules Committee

Requestor: S Judiciary

COMPONENT SERIAL NO. 0523

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars) (inflation not included)

OPERATING	FY 98	FY 99	FY 00	FY 01	FY 02	FY 03
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
CHANGE IN REVENUES ()	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
Code Revenue						

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1006 GF/MHTIA						
Other						
TOTAL	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

Estimate of current year (FY 97) impact: \$ _____

POSITIONS

FULL-TIME	0	0	0	0	0	0
PART-TIME	0	0	0	0	0	0
TEMPORARY	0	0	0	0	0	0

ANALYSIS. (Attach a separate page if necessary)

No fiscal impact is anticipated to the Department of Public Safety

Prepared By: Sandy Perry-Provost, Special Assistant to the Commissioner

Phone: 465-4322

Division: Commissioner's Office

Date: 2/20/97

Approved by Commissioner: Ronald L. Otte

Date: 2/21/97

Agency: Ronald L. Otte, Dept. of Public Safety

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FISCAL NOTE

No. 4

STATE OF ALASKA
1997 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL N

Bill Version: CSSB 67 (Jun)

(S) Publish Date: 3-5-97

Revision Date: _____
 Title: Truth in Sentencing
 Sponsor: Sen. Halford
 Requestor: S. Judiciary

Dept. Affected: Public Safety
 BRU: Violent Crimes Compensation Board
 Component: _____
 COMPONENT SERIAL NO. _____

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars) (inflation not included)

OPERATING	FY 98	FY 99	FY 00	FY 01	FY 02	FY 03
PERSONAL SERVICES	0					
TRAVEL	0					
CONTRACTUAL	0					
SUPPLIES	0					
EQUIPMENT	0					
LAND & STRUCTURES	0					
GRANTS CLAIMS	0					
MISCELLANEOUS	0					
TOTAL OPERATING	0	0	0	0	0	0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
----------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--

CHANGE IN REVENUES ()						
Revenue Code						

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1006 GF/MHTIA						
Other						
TOTAL	0	0	0	0	0	0

Estimate of current year (FY 97) impact. \$ _____

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

ANALYSIS (Attach a separate page if necessary)

The Violent Crimes Compensation Board approves of any vehicle which makes the victim more informed.

Prepared By: Nola K. Capp
 Division: Violent Crimes Compensation Board
 Approved by Commissioner: Ronald L. Otte
 Agency: Ronald L. Otte, Dept. of Public Safety

Phone: 465-3040
 Date: February 10, 1997
 Date: 2/2/97

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FISCAL NOTE

No. 5

STATE OF ALASKA
1997 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Bill Version: CSSB 67 (Jud)

(S) Publish Date: 3-5-97

Revision Date: _____ Dept. Affected: Department of Law
 Title: "An Act relating to the imposition of criminal
sentences; amending Rule 32.2, Ak Rules of Criminal Procedure
 BRU: Criminal Division
 Sponsor: Senator Halford Component: Criminal Division
 Requester: Senate Judiciary Committee COMPONENT SERIAL NO. 2085

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 98	FY 99	FY 00	FY 01	FY 02	FY 03
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
----------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--

CHANGE IN REVENUES ()						
------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--

FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1006 GF/MHTIA						
Other						
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY97) cost: \$ 0.0

POSITIONS

FULL-TIME	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

The Senate Judiciary Committee Substitute for SB 67 includes a new section stating that the required approximate minimum term statement in the sentencing report is for informational purposes only, and cannot be used as a basis for review or appeal of the sentence imposed.

With this change, the Department of Law no longer anticipates any fiscal impact from passage of this legislation.

Prepared by: Joan M. Kasson *Joan M. Kasson* Phone: 465-5370
 Division: Administrative Services Division Date: 2/27/97
 Approved by Commissioner: Bruce M. Botelho *Bruce M. Botelho* Date: 2/27/97
 Agency: Department of Law

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Revision Date: 3-13-97

Dept. Affected: Corrections

Title: Truth in Sentencing

BRU: ALL

Sponsor: Senator Halford

Components: ALL

Requestor: Senate Finance Committee

Serial # 694.0

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS)

OPERATING	FY 98	FY 99	FY 00	FY 01	FY 02	FY 03
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants, Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	***	***	***	0.0	0.0	0.0
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CHANGE IN REVENUES (1002)	650.0	650.0	650.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
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FUNDING: (THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS)

1002 Federal Receipts	650.0	650.0	650.0			
1003 GF Match	65.0	65.0	65.0			
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other						
TOTAL	715.0	715.0	715.0	0.0	0.0	0.0


POSITIONS:

Full-Time						
Part-Time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (ATTACH A SEPARATE PAGE IF NECESSARY)

see attached analysis

Prepared by: SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE


SENATOR DRUE PEARCE, COCHAIR


SENATOR BERT SHARP, COCHAIR

Date: 3-13-97

Phone: 455-4993

Date: 3-13-97

Phone: 465-3004

Analysis of CSSB 67 (JUD)

As amended, SB 67 should qualify the State of Alaska to apply for and receive federal Truth-in-Sentencing grants under the United States Department of Justice Violent Offender Incarceration and Truth-in-Sentencing Incentive Grants program. These funds are to be used for prison construction or renovations. Congress has authorized funds for the grants through FY 2000. The amount that the State of Alaska would be eligible to receive depends upon how many other states qualify, inasmuch as appropriated funds are divided between qualifying states on the basis of their number of violent offenders. Had Alaska qualified this past year, its share would have been \$650,000 plus a required 10% state match. The Department of Corrections assumes that Congress will appropriate similar sums each year, but that Alaska's share may receive a slight decrease each year as more states qualify.

*** Should these federal receipts materialize they will be available for appropriation by the Legislature for future capital expenditures on correctional facilities.

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
1997 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. CSSB 67 (JUD)

Revision Date: _____
Title: Truth in Sentencing

Dept. Affected: Alaska Court System
BRU: Trial Courts
Component: _____

Sponsor: Sens. Hafford, Green, Donley
Requestor: Senate State Affairs

COMPONENT SERIAL NO. 768

Expenditures/Revenues

(Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 98	FY 99	FY 00	FY 01	FY 02	FY 03
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS & CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
----------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--

CHANGE IN REVENUES (
----------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--

Fund Source

(Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other						
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY 97) cost: None

Positions

Full-Time						
Part-Time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

No fiscal impact.

Prepared by: C. S. Christensen III, Staff Counsel
Agency: Alaska Court System

Phone: 264-8228
Date: 03/10/97

Approved by: Stephanie J. Cole, Acting Administrative Director
Agency: Alaska Court System

Date: 03/10/97

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Alaska State Legislature

Senate

**RICK
HALFORD**

State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska
99801-1182
Phone (907) 465-4958

P.O. Box 670190
Chugiak, Alaska 99567
Phone (907) 694-4958

600 E. Railroad Avenue
Wasilla, Alaska 99654
Phone (907) 376-4958

Brett Huber

Sponsor Statement

SB 67 "The Truth in Sentencing Act of 1997"

When a felon is sentenced to a term of imprisonment the public often receives a false sense of security by believing the criminal will actually be incarcerated for the stated sentence. As a result of "good time", as well as mandatory and discretionary parole provisions, the actual sentence served is virtually guaranteed to be less than which is imposed by the judge.

If enacted, SB 67 would require that a victim of a crime, their family, as well as the public, be provided with an accurate statement of the period of the *minimum* period of time which must be served before the criminal is released. *At the very least*, the victim and their families, as well the public, deserve an honest and accurate assessment of the amount of time a criminal will actually be incarcerated. SB 67 would require that the judge do this.

The enactment of SB 67 would also allow the Department of Corrections to receive *up to* \$650,000 in federal funds which are available to states which meet federal truth in sentencing guidelines.

LEGAL SERVICES

DIVISION OF LEGAL AND RESEARCH SERVICES
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AGENCY
STATE OF ALASKA

(907) 465-3867 or 465-2450
FAX (907) 465-2029
Mail Stop 3101


130 Seward Street, Suite 409
Juneau, Alaska 99801-2105

MEMORANDUM

April 14, 1997

SUBJECT: Sectional Summary of CSSB 67(JUD)
(Work Order No. 20-LS0137\L)

TO: Senator Rick Halford
Attn: Brett Huber

FROM: Gerald P. Luckhaupt 
Legislative Counsel

You have requested a sectional summary of the above-described bill.

As a preliminary matter, please note that a sectional summary of a bill should not be considered an authoritative interpretation of the bill - the bill itself is the best statement of its contents.

Section 1 of the bill provides a short title.

Section 2 of the bill provides language requested by the Department of Corrections concerning authorized sentences.

Section 3 of the bill requires the approximate minimum term a defendant is expected to serve before being released, becoming eligible for mandatory, or becoming eligible for discretionary parole be included in the sentencing report that is required to be prepared under AS 12.55.025(a).

Section 4 of the bill clarifies that the identification of minimum terms in the sentencing report, as required under sec. 3, is for informational purposes only and does not give rise to any right of the defendant to any particular minimum term.

Section 5 of the bill amends Rule 32.2(e), Alaska Rules of Criminal Procedure, and requires judges at sentencing hearings to state the approximate minimum term a defendant must serve before being eligible for discretionary parole and mandatory parole.

Section 6 of the bill provides notice that secs. 3 - 4 amend a court rule.

Senator Rick Halford

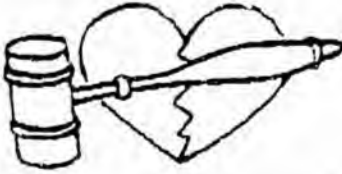
April 14, 1997

Page 2

Section 7 of the bill provides that the bill only takes effect if secs. 5 and 6 receive the two-thirds majority vote of each house as required under the Constitution for amendments to court rules.

GPL:jdr

97-268.jdr

VICTIMS

for Justice 619 East Fifth Avenue • Anchorage, AK 99501
(907) 278-0977 • Fax: (907) 258-0740

February 3, 1997

The Honorable Senator Rick Halford
State Capitol Room 121
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Re: SB 67

Dear Senator Rick Halford,

Victims for Justice supports legislation that demands truth in sentencing. Victims of crime are overwhelmed by the criminal justice system as information is often withheld from families because it might affect the integrity of the case. The victim must struggle with continuances and is often traumatized as they begin to understand the laws protect the defendant's rights at the expense of the victims'. The victim's day in court finally arrives and the victims are permitted to give their victim impact statement as they anxiously await the sentencing. When the judge metes out the sentence, a sigh of relief! Then the victim again becomes victimized when they realize that the defendant only serves a third of the sentence the judge imposes. Why does the court have to give the lay person misinformation? Why isn't the court required to tell the sentence as it is meant. "Truth in sentencing would eliminate another trauma from the victim.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Janice Lienhart".

Janice Lienhart
Executive Director

T.E. Brown
LCDR, USCG (Ret)
Palmer, AK 99645

September 30, 1996

Senator Rick Halford
P.O. Box 670190
Chugiak, AK 99567

RECEIVED

OCT 11 1996

ins'd.....

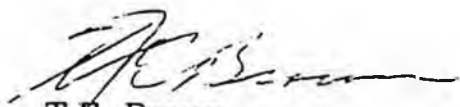
Dear Senator Halford,

The attached letter is pretty much self-explanatory. Perhaps it could have been better composed but it does express a Mothers' grief. To re-fresh your memory, this is about a man who took a girl out the Glenn Highway, stopped by the King Mountain Lodge, then proceeded on northbound. murdered the girl and dumped her body by the river.

This man should serve the entire 1,825 days of his 5 year sentence. To serve less would be an injustice to us all. After all, the crime was murder, although the Prosecution allowed him to plead down.

I am hopeful you will be able to forestall the early release of this convicted criminal.

Sincerely,



T.E. Brown

Dolores M. Johnston
RD #11 Box 873
Greensburg, PA 15601
(412) 834-7823
August 3, 1996

RE: Case 3 PAS.94-1013

To the Alaska Dept. Of Corrections and to Whom it May Concern (and Especially Those Victims of Murder):

This letter is written in total disgust of the Correctional System for asking to place Frank Osborn on furlough and placing him in the public workplace.

I feel he received a light sentence for **Murder**, and this offering of work privileges is a real slap in the face to me as the mother of the victim. I was with the understanding at his sentencing in May that he was to serve five (5) years without parole -- WHAT DO YOU CALL THIS?! Maybe all of the intellectual people have forgotten the basics of conversation and statements. They seem to use "except", "if", "or" and "but" for all of their poor judgments in the court system. Excuses for CRIMINALS.

Concerning the five (5) year sentence, my heart was at ease for a while. How can you even recommend such a placement so soon after the sentence date, May 28, 1996? Doesn't the judge have the real say so?! Why bother having a judge if a lesser educated person is going to override his/her decisions. What a mockery! Go ahead, give Frank Osborn his request. It's your public surroundings, not mine. You can release him if I agree or not. I only hope that the next victim of his crime isn't your relative or daughter. You'll get to know the word "hurt". Do you know the mental anguish this has put me through, plus I've lost today's wages (8/2/96). I also understand a release date has been set for September 1997. This is not five (5) years! If pursuit of this furlough and release date is granted, I fear that a medical disability may occur due to the amount of stress I've endured, punishment more than the criminal Frank Osborn has to endure for **murder**. If work release is needed for finances, let him work in the facility cleaning the restrooms, etc., but he should remain behind bars! He already has three (3) balanced meals, housing, etc. -- better than most poor people -- more than a **murderer** deserves!!! I understand Frank didn't think I would have a problem with the furlough request. Well, "I DO"!!!

In my loving remembrance of Lorie.

Dolores M. Johnston

FEB 03 1997

Senator Rick Halford
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol (MS 3100)
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

30 January 1997

Re: Senate Bill 67

Dear Senator Halford,

Today, I received a Senate Majority Fax regarding your Truth in Sentencing Act of 1997. I heartily support your efforts in this regard. It has long been my belief that if the public realized just how little time convicted criminals were actually incarcerated for their crimes, that same public would be appalled. And being thus appalled, would then rise up in righteous indignation and demand the changes that would return us to some common sense and sanity in our criminal justice system.

While many believe that our criminal justice system is broke and needs fixing or replacing, I disagree. I say there is nothing wrong with our criminal justice system and the principal behind it. The problem lies in how it has been perverted, and in some of the people who apply it.

Our criminal justice system is based on the idea that sufficient punishment deters crime. But that will only work if punishment is, in actuality, sufficient. It must also be both swift and sure. These days, it is none of the above.

Your bill, if passed, will go a long way toward helping to insure that punishments are sufficient by shining the light of public scrutiny on the sentencing actions and decisions of judges. I suspect that they will be less likely to be lenient with the public looking over their shoulder.

Very Truly Yours,



Levi Guide

P.O. Box 240487
Anchorage, Alaska 99524-0487