

**HB**

**282**



**North Star Youth Court**

800 Cushman Street  
Fairbanks, AK 99701

(907) 457-6792  
Fax (907) 457-6791

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MEMORANDUM

January 26, 1998

TO: House Judiciary Committee Members:  
Rep. Joe Green, Chair  
Rep. Con Bunde  
Rep. Jeanette James  
Rep. Brian Porter  
Rep. Ethan Berkowitz  
Rep. Eric Croft  
Rep. Norman Rokeberg

FROM: Wendy Leach, Coordinator  
North Star Youth Court

Dear Committee Members:

I am writing on behalf of the North Star Youth Court in support of HB-282.

The North Star Youth Court benefits our community on several levels. Young people develop understanding and a general knowledge about the legal system through classroom education and the administration of justice. The community receives valuable services to address juvenile crime and redress for the wrongs committed. Juvenile defendants resolve their problems without receiving a criminal record, and in a manner that may appear less authoritarian yet equally as consequential. North Star Youth Court also serves to reduce the volume of cases that is currently burdening the Juvenile Court.

NSYC is a community, volunteer based program. All activities are accomplished through student and adult volunteers with just one paid employee. NSYC members and adult volunteers work to maintain services because we believe results show the positive impact a Youth Court can have for our community.

HB-282 represents the interests of Youth Courts throughout Alaska, providing partial, but ongoing, funding for Youth Courts through the imposition of a \$25 surcharge on adult fines and bail forfeiture.

Sincerely,

**NORTH STAR YOUTH COURT**

*Wendy Leach*

Wendy Leach  
NSYC Coordinator