

# Alaska Criminal Justice Commission



March 9, 2015

Honorable Bill Walker  
Governor of Alaska  
P.O. Box 110001  
Juneau, AK 99811-0001

Dear Governor Walker:

The Alaska Criminal Justice Commission has asked me to write you on its behalf.

As you know, SB 64, now codified at AS 44.19.645, mandates that the Commission “evaluate sentencing laws and criminal justice practices to determine if they provide for protection of the public, community condemnation of the offender, the rights of victims of crimes, the rights of the accused and the person convicted, restitution from the offender, and the principle of reformation.” The commission “shall make recommendations for improving” those laws and practices and may recommend either legislative or administrative changes.

Consistent with those directions, the Commission RECOMMENDS that the Legislature, the Governor and the Court System invite to Alaska and partner with the Justice Reinvestment Initiative (JRI).<sup>1</sup>

The Commission also RECOMMENDS that these same branches of government invite and partner with the Results First Initiative.<sup>2</sup>

The Commission has heard presentations from each Initiative, and has studied their very impressive products, i.e. the results of technical assistance provided to other states. The two programs are distinctly different, but they would each serve to advance the Commission’s own time-limited mission to provide an effective review of our criminal justice system and make recommendations for reform where needed. Not insignificantly, the technical assistance they offer is free.

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<sup>1</sup> JRI is a high intensity, short-term offer of technical assistance. JRI creates a comprehensive picture of incarceration to create a clear picture of the individuals in jail, and which bail, probation and sentencing practices keep them there. Working closely with local stakeholders, the JRI analysts identify evidence-based programs that are recommended specifically for Alaska’s problems and incarceration population.

<sup>2</sup> Results First is a capacity building initiative. The RF team works with states to create a comprehensive inventory of agency programs, assess whether programs have an evidence-base for gauging their effectiveness, and help analyze the costs and benefits of justice system expenditures. RF consultants will train staff within the state to collect and analyze data and communicate findings using RF approach.

*Honorable Bill Walker*

*March 9, 2015*

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JRI's brand of technical assistance begins with a 'deep dive' into a state's data relating to incarceration. Results First shares software and customizes a nationally renowned cost-analytic model to Alaska's needs. What they require, in return, is a commitment to a process through which the various branches of government share information and data and consider, where appropriate, evidence based alternatives to current criminal justice programs and practices.

The Criminal Justice Commission encourages your invitation to Justice Reinvestment and Results First Initiatives, and makes its own commitment, to offer coordination and collaboration to these projects.

Please let me know if I can be of assistance in providing you with any additional information concerning this recommendation or other matters before the Commission.

Sincerely yours,

Alexander O. Bryner, Chair  
Alaska Criminal Justice Commission

# Alaska Criminal Justice Commission



March 9, 2015

Honorable Dana Fabe  
Alaska Supreme Court  
303 K Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Anchorage, AK 99501

Dear Chief Justice Fabe:

The Alaska Criminal Justice Commission has asked me to write you on its behalf.

As you know, SB 64, now codified at AS 44.19.645, mandates that the Commission “evaluate sentencing laws and criminal justice practices to determine if they provide for protection of the public, community condemnation of the offender, the rights of victims of crimes, the rights of the accused and the person convicted, restitution from the offender, and the principle of reformation.” The commission “shall make recommendations for improving” those laws and practices and may recommend either legislative or administrative changes.

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Sincerely yours,

Alexander O. Bryner, Chair  
Alaska Criminal Justice Commission

# Alaska Criminal Justice Commission



March 9, 2015

Hon. Mike Chenault  
Speaker of the House  
State Capitol Room 208  
Juneau AK, 99801

Hon. Gabrielle LeDoux  
Chair, House Judiciary Committee  
State Capitol Room 118  
Juneau AK, 99801

Dear Mr. Speaker and Representative LeDoux,

The Alaska Criminal Justice Commission has asked me to write you on its behalf. I serve as Chair for the Commission.

As you know, SB 64, now codified at AS 44.19.645, mandates that the Commission “evaluate sentencing laws and criminal justice practices to determine if they provide for protection of the public, community condemnation of the offender, the rights of victims of crimes, the rights of the accused and the person convicted, restitution from the offender, and the principle of reformation.” The commission “shall make recommendations for improving” those laws and practices and may recommend either legislative or administrative changes.

Consistent with those directions, the Commission **RECOMMENDS** that the Legislature, the Governor and the Court System invite to Alaska and partner with the Justice Reinvestment Initiative (JRI).<sup>1</sup>

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*Hon. Mike Chenault*  
*Hon. Gabrielle LeDoux*  
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Please let me know if I can be of assistance in providing you with any additional information concerning this recommendation or other criminal justice topics.

Sincerely yours,

Alexander O. Bryner, Chair  
Alaska Criminal Justice Commission

cc: Representative Wes Keller  
Vice-Chair, House Judiciary Committee

# Alaska Criminal Justice Commission



March 9, 2015

Senate President Kevin Meyer  
State Capitol Room 111  
Juneau AK, 99801

Senator Lesil McGuire  
State Capitol Room 121  
Juneau AK, 99801

Dear President Meyer and Senator McGuire:

The Alaska Criminal Justice Commission has asked me to write you on its behalf. I serve as Chair for the Commission.

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*Senate President Kevin Meyer*  
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Sincerely yours,

Alexander O. Bryner, Chair  
Alaska Criminal Justice Commission

cc: Senator John Coghill  
Vice-Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee