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Governor Bill Walker
STATE OF ALASKA

July 11, 2016

The Honorable Mike Chenault
Speaker of the House
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 208
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Speaker Chenault:

Under the authority of Article III, Section 18, of the Alaska Constitution, I am transmitting a bill to address recently enacted provisions related to the crime of sex trafficking.

This year, the Legislature passed, and I signed into law, an important bill to reform our criminal justice system. This bill is now law as chapter 36, SLA 2016. Overall, the new law is a much-needed improvement to our criminal justice system. Among other measures, the bill limits prosecution of prostitution and redefines certain elements of sex trafficking in the third degree and the fourth degree. Two of the changes made by the bill may have the unintended consequence of allowing a person to operate a place of prostitution if the person claims that they themselves also practiced prostitution in the same location. Accordingly, I propose the repeal of those two provisions (sections 39 and 40, chapter 36, SLA 2016) in order to eliminate possible confusion over the effect of the provisions and to allow time for the administration and the Legislature to work together to propose alternate language for consideration in the next regular legislative session to better address the intent behind redefining sex trafficking in the third and fourth degree.

Without this repeal, there would be confusion over what constitutes sex trafficking in the third degree and in the fourth degree. In order to provide protections for persons subject to trafficking, yet not allow a loophole for persons engaged in sex trafficking, sections 39 and 40, chapter 36, SLA 2016 should be repealed. My bill does that, but leaves the other provisions of chapter 36, SLA 2016 in place.

I appreciate your consideration of this issue, and urge your prompt and favorable action on this measure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bill Walker".

Bill Walker
Governor

Enclosure

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Governor Bill Walker
STATE OF ALASKA

July 11, 2016

The Honorable Kevin Meyer
President of the Senate
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 111
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear President Meyer:

Under the authority of Article III, Section 18, of the Alaska Constitution, I am transmitting a bill to address recently enacted provisions related to the crime of sex trafficking.

This year, the Legislature passed, and I signed into law, an important bill to reform our criminal justice system. This bill is now law as chapter 36, SLA 2016. Overall, the new law is a much-needed improvement to our criminal justice system. Among other measures, the bill limits prosecution of prostitution and redefines certain elements of sex trafficking in the third degree and the fourth degree. Two of the changes made by the bill may have the unintended consequence of allowing a person to operate a place of prostitution if the person claims that they themselves also practiced prostitution in the same location. Accordingly, I propose the repeal of those two provisions (sections 39 and 40, chapter 36, SLA 2016) in order to eliminate possible confusion over the effect of the provisions and to allow time for the administration and the Legislature to work together to propose alternate language for consideration in the next regular legislative session to better address the intent behind redefining sex trafficking in the third and fourth degree.

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I appreciate your consideration of this issue, and urge your prompt and favorable action on this measure.

Sincerely,

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Bill Walker
Governor

Enclosure