



**Alaska Federation of Natives  
2015 Annual Convention  
Resolution 15-33**

**TITLE:** IN SUPPORT OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM AND REINVESTMENT IN ALASKA

**WHEREAS** the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska, and its membership includes 165 federally-recognized tribes, 146 village corporations, 12 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and

**WHEREAS** the mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and

**WHEREAS** Alaska’s prison population has grown 27% over the last decade, nearly three times faster than the state’s resident population; and

**WHEREAS** Alaska Native men and women are disproportionately confined in Alaska’s prisons; and

**WHEREAS** research on criminal offending and recidivism supports broader use of community-based treatment and interventions as alternatives to prison; and

**WHEREAS** incarceration can have harmful and far-reaching collateral consequences for individuals, their families, and their communities; and

**WHEREAS** effective treatment and interventions can result not only in better outcomes for those who have broken the state’s laws, but also in fewer victims; and

**WHEREAS** Alaska Native families are disproportionately victimized by crime; and

**WHEREAS** the state of Alaska spends over \$300 million each year operating prisons; and

**WHEREAS** the state of Alaska has not sufficiently funded culturally competent and trauma-informed treatment and services for offenders and victims; and

**WHEREAS** the state of Alaska is facing a multi-billion dollar budget shortfall; and

**WHEREAS** Governor Walker, Senate President Meyer, and Speaker of the House Chenault have identified criminal justice reform as a priority for the coming legislative session; and

**WHEREAS** the Alaska Criminal Justice Commission, with representation and involvement of Alaska Native Communities, is developing recommendations for data-driven and evidence-based criminal justice reforms; and

**WHEREAS** AFN is invested in the long-term success and well being of community members involved in the criminal justice system, as well as those affected by crime and violence.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the delegates of the 2015 AFN Annual Convention that AFN publicly supports:

- Criminal justice reforms that curb further growth in the state prison population, improve public safety and the safety of individual victims, and hold offenders accountable; and
- Reinvestment of a portion of the state’s savings from averted prison growth and reduced levels of incarceration into evidence-based and culturally competent treatment and services for offenders and victims.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall be the policy of AFN until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.

SUBMITTED BY: ALASKA CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMISSION THROUGH ITS REPRESENTATIVE GREG RAZO  
COMMITTEE ACTION: PASSED  
CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED AS AMENDED



Julie Kitka  
President