



August 25, 2016

Re: Vehement Opposition to Privatizing the  
Alaska Psychiatric Institute

Dear Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority:

This is to register the Law Project for Psychiatric Rights' vehement opposition to privatizing the Alaska Psychiatric Institute (API). Just a week ago, the United States Department of Justice announced it is phasing out privately operated federal prisons after concluding they provide less safety and security than public prisons, while resulting in little cost savings.<sup>1</sup> Why should the state pay for profits on top of costs in operating API?

Most importantly, patient safety and honoring patient rights, the latter of which is already dismally poor, will suffer substantially.

The idea of privatizing API is such an atrocious notion it should be immediately rejected. Any study that concludes otherwise will not be worth the paper it is (or is not) written on.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jim Gottstein".

James B. (Jim) Gottstein, Esq.

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<sup>1</sup> Visit <http://wapo.st/2bgDb9E> for a copy of the announcement.