

## Konrad Jackson

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**From:** Cm Springer <cmsinak@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, June 04, 2016 5:03 PM  
**To:** House Labor and Commerce  
**Subject:** HB 4002 Insurance coverage for those families of a public servants killed during service to the state

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

I support providing such coverage to the families of fallen law enforcement officers and fire fighters killed in the line of duty.

I would also include coverage to families of those in the volunteer Search and Rescue Community who put their lives on the line for no compensation and die while serving the state.

Thank you

Charles Springer  
Anchorage

## Konrad Jackson

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**From:** Don and Carolyn Gray <dcgray@mac.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, June 04, 2016 12:39 PM  
**To:** House Labor and Commerce  
**Subject:** We support HB 4002, Health Insurance for dependents of peace officers and firemen killed in the line of duty

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear members of the House Labor and Commerce Committee, Alaska House of Representatives

We both support HB 4002 as proposed by Governor Bill Walker. Frankly, we think universal health insurance would be better as a larger pool providing sufficient premiums to cover paying medical expanses could be more efficient and cost less on a per capita basis. That, however, must remain as a longer-term goal which requires cooperation at a national or possibly regional level. Such insurance as described in HB 4002 should provide coverage for at least 24 months as the dependents of peace officers and firemen killed in the line of duty adjust to the loss of their provider.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposed legislation.

Very truly yours,

Carolyn & Don Gray

399 Hillside Drive  
Fairbanks, AK 99712  
dcgray@mac.com

## Konrad Jackson

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**From:** Erica Franjul [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, June 04, 2016 2:33 PM  
**To:** House Labor and Commerce  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB4002

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing in regard to a certain piece of legislature that greatly affects the well being of my family. The particular bill I write of today is bill HB4002; providing insurance to the surviving spouses and children of police officers and firefighters who die in the line of duty. It is with every hope and prayer that I have, that with this particular bill, if passed, will never have to apply to my family. However, if God forbid the unimaginable happened, I would feel much more secure in that we had something like this bill in place for my family to help us through what would easily be the most horrendous, difficult time of our lives. Recently this past year my husband had a very close call while on duty. My husband is a police officer and was intentionally struck by a drunk driver's vehicle while my husband was on foot trying to apprehend the suspect with his partner. Thankfully, only his knee was badly injured during the incident. Since then however, my husband has been going through intense rehab and has been out of work for nearly a year now. I am a stay at home mother to our 1 1/2 year old daughter and my husbands job is our only source of income. If we did not have the benefits his work provided we would be left with nothing. This past year has been an eye opener for us. Growing up the daughter of a policeman as well I am very familiar with the dangers of the job. But, when your husband has such a close call with what could have been disastrous to our family, it is a very big wake up call.

Bill HB4002 is something that I feel is necessary for the families of those who give everything, who risk their lives daily and run towards what everyone else runs away from. They sign up for this job, yes. For many, it is what they were made for and meant to do. These brave men and women willingly risk their lives daily so that others are safe, and in my personal opinion, so that the world may be a better place. My family was lucky that my husband was only badly injured and not fatally wounded. He was able to come home that night and return to our family. Unfortunately, for others, that is not the case. These brave men and women and the families that stand beside and support them day in and day out deserve to have that small sense of security in knowing that at the worst possible time of their lives, they at least have one less worry in terms of being able to take care of the family they have remaining, mourning, and will be taken care of by HB4002.

Please consider all of the families who have lost a loved one in the line of duty. Please consider all of the families of the brave men and women who go to work every day knowing it could very well be their last. Please consider the families who are left behind and the spouses who are left to hold everything together in a time of tragedy. This bill really hits home for my little family and I, and as I write this, with tears streaming down my face, I pray that you please look into all of the factors and vote yes to passing bill HB4002.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Respectfully  
Erica L Franjul  
-Lifelong Alaskan, daughter, and wife to Police Officers for APD

Sent from my iPhone

## Konrad Jackson

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**From:** Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus <fasd@kobukvalleyconsulting.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 05, 2016 9:32 AM  
**To:** House Labor and Commerce  
**Subject:** HB 4002

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Please support health benefits for public servants who die in the line of duty. Their family members have made the ultimate sacrifice, and families have enough to cope with the loss and need ongoing health insurance.

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Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus  
President, Kobuk Valley Consulting  
PO Box 15  
Kiana, AK 99749  
[fasd@kobukvalleyconsulting.com](mailto:fasd@kobukvalleyconsulting.com)  
CELL- 907-412-0419  
FAX: 866-331-2297  
Case Manager- FASD for the State of Alaska  
Member of Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education 2012- Present  
Chair: Developmental Disabilities Committee, Chair: Workgroup on FASD  
Member: Education Committee  
Board Member: SESA; Treasurer: SESA Board  
Trainer: FASD Into Action; FASD 101/201

Because, **"It is better to light one small candle than to curse the darkness!"**

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## Konrad Jackson

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**From:** Jennifer T [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, June 04, 2016 10:23 AM  
**To:** House Labor and Commerce  
**Subject:** HB4002  
**Attachments:** IMG\_6972.JPG

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear AK Legislators,

My name is Jennifer Taylor. Please consider passing this bill.

On behalf of many wives with children...

We kiss our loved one good bye at the beginning of every shift, refusing to believe that each good bye kiss may be our last. Because life goes on the minute he walks out that door. Our kids need breakfast, rides to school, practice etc. Or, need to taken to a doctor's appt for a physical, cold, or unknown symptom.

While we continue life as usual at home, our loved ones are out enforcing Alaska law. Protecting innocent people. Working hard to keep our community safe.

He works long hours.

If he doesn't come home at the end of his shift, because he's doing his thankless job of serving our state's people, how do I continue to our life as usual? I will continue working full time, and doing my best for my children to keep life as usual, But I will not be able to fulfill both sets of parent shoes.

In a time, when law enforcement recruiting is down due to perception, and current officers are leaving due to better benefits elsewhere (I personally know of 3 in the last 2 years), passing this bill is a small token respect and honor for your current officers.

In closing, I'll leave you with this attached photo.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Jennifer Taylor  
Wife to Trp. Glenn Taylor  
Alaska State Trooper of 16 years of dedication

## Konrad Jackson

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**From:** jerry jernigan <polar131@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, June 04, 2016 10:48 AM  
**To:** House Labor and Commerce  
**Subject:** HB 4002

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

I fully Support HB 4002, insurance program for families of fallen peace officers (retroactive - past and future).

Jerry Jernigan  
PO Box 785  
Tok, Alaska 99780  
cell 808-937-9516

## Konrad Jackson

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**From:** Jerry Neubert <jerryneubert@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, June 04, 2016 3:09 PM  
**To:** House Labor and Commerce  
**Subject:** HB 4002

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

I urge the house and Senate to pass HB 4002.  
It's the right thing to do. Legislators should step up and provide the same coverage they get for a far less dangerous job.

Sent from my iPhone



## Konrad Jackson

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**From:** Gmail [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, June 04, 2016 11:52 AM  
**To:** House Labor and Commerce  
**Subject:** Medical Insurance Coverage to surviving spouses of law enforcement

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hello,

My name is Kara Blanton. I am writing to you regarding the current discussion of whether or not surviving spouses of law enforcement officers should be allowed to collect medical insurance coverage of their spouse is murdered in the course of their duty.

I am married to a police officer and we have three children. My husband and I have discussed the issue of what may happen to him in the course of his duties. We both understand the inherent dangers associated with his job. What we have never thought we needed to discuss was if something should happen to him, our children and I will not have medical insurance to depend on.

Medical insurance is just as important as financial security at a time when your spouse has just been taken from you. Adding to the equation children who need to be cared for makes insurance even MORE important. To be forced to pay for private healthcare that is astronomical during a time when you are already being hit with massive financial responsibilities, this should not have to be something else a survivor must deal with.

I urge you to consider the continuing ramifications of not allowing spouses to receive medical care after their loved ones have given the ultimate sacrifice during an attempt to ensure the lives and safety of the citizens of Alaska are intact.

Thank you,

Kara Blanton

## Konrad Jackson

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**From:** planetary.gears@gmail.com  
**Sent:** Saturday, June 04, 2016 10:51 AM  
**To:** House Labor and Commerce  
**Subject:** HB 4002

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Ladies & Gentleman,

Thank you for accepting public testimony.

I wish for you to include EMS survivors, as well. I would further like you to consider language to include survivors of victims of workplace violence and terrorism. NOW, is the time to include the survivors of the tragic feats. This inclusion is of the utmost importance.

Thank you,  
Kris Wilson  
1197 Choctaw Road  
North Pole, Alaska  
99705

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## Konrad Jackson

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**From:** Kristen Buchta [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, June 04, 2016 10:11 AM  
**To:** House Labor and Commerce  
**Subject:** HB4002

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am a 21 year veteran of the Anchorage Police Department. During the course of my career, I have encountered many life changing situations and my family has experienced those same challenges through me. Uncertainty is part of this life I have chosen. That uncertainty extends from the time I leave our home and we are uncertain I will return from that shift, to the uncertainty that I will be able to attend the important family gathering or events because I may be called away for some unforeseen emergency. Please consider removing one of these uncertainties by assuring my family and the families of other first responders will be provided medical coverages in the event of a line of duty death. My sincere prayer is that this provision will seldom be necessary, but we all know our world is changing.

Thank you,

Officer Steven Buchta

## Konrad Jackson

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**From:** Lauren Bentz [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, June 04, 2016 10:00 AM  
**To:** House Labor and Commerce  
**Subject:** House bill supporting family of first line responders

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

My name is Lauren Bentz. I am the wife of a police officer to the Anchorage Police Dept. Stefan is our primary bread winner in the home and provides all the needs and more for our family of 5. I couldnt imagine our lives without him, but given the duty that he has committed his life to protecting and serving, the chance of something happening to him is far greater than the average man or woman. Should something happen, I would be left without medical coverage because in my position, I do not have medical available to me. This would leave our family in a very unfortunate situation with 3 kids and myself without medical coverage of any kind. The stress between the loss of my husband and loss of coverage for our family would be devastating. Adding a financial hardship that my husbands role in our family could not be replaced. I plea, on my own behalf and the behalf of other spouses and families of first line responders, that this bill would be passed- supporting families of fallen responders, to provide medical coverage for them. The job they swore an oath to, is not to be taken lightly, and neither should the thought of the families they suppor and leaving without medical support, should their time end due to the duties they swore to uphold. It's the honorable and just thing to do for such sacrifices made.

Thank you for this opportunity to share my opinion. Sincerely, Officer Stefan Bentz's Wife- Lauren Bentz

## Konrad Jackson

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**From:** Laurie Huckeba [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, June 04, 2016 11:28 AM  
**To:** House Labor and Commerce  
**Subject:** HB4002

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Governor Walker-

As a law enforcement survivor myself, I commend you on taking up this very important piece of legislation.

These families support these officers who risk their lives daily in the service of our communities. They proudly stand with their officer. We need to stand with them.

When an officer loses their life in the line of duty, it is OUR duty to help support these families as they rebuild their shattered lives. Medical insurance, which in my opinion is one of the single largest long term burdens to survivors, is one of the few pieces of the puzzle we can actually help with.

I am a regional trustee on the national board of Concerns of Police Survivors. I would sincerely like to offer my help in looking at this issue further. I believe our organization could help give you more insight into the larger picture of being a law enforcement survivor and the very long term issues that face these families.

When Bruce died in 1997, I was able to receive medical benefits (Tier 1) but his children were not because they were not MY dependents. Our system has been not up to the standard it should be for many years and it's time to correct this oversight.

Naysayers don't understand that we are not asking for anything more than what these officers would receive had they not died and continued their service until retirement.

Respectfully,

Laurie Huckeba  
Surviving spouse of  
Alaska State Trooper Bruce Heck,  
EOW 1/10/1997

## Konrad Jackson

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**From:** Nikita Kuzmin <fishingtimek@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, June 04, 2016 4:14 PM  
**To:** House Labor and Commerce  
**Subject:** On the benefit bill

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hi if you give benefits to people that are surviving from line duty.  
You should consider expanding to people that live in state n are survivors from accidents they are not at fault  
So how is one more important than the neighbors living next to them they did a job no one made him her take  
the job it's a paying job like anyone else's. If you put them people higher than there neighbors I think it's not fair  
The people in government are thinking they are the gods of citezens they should be treated better than the  
regular citizens I think if you pass law pass it for everyone who grieve in loosing there loved one.  
On other hand they are already rewarded for that n now you want more for only them I think it should be fair  
give all who lost loved ones on duty or people who work have accident they are at not at fault.  
Nikita kuzmin

## Konrad Jackson

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**From:** Rachel <rachel.y.covey@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, June 04, 2016 10:36 AM  
**To:** House Labor and Commerce  
**Subject:** HB 4002

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

To our honorable lawmakers,

Before you today is a decision whether to fund the health insurance of survivors for those who have given the ultimate sacrifice. Many of these spouses have given up careers to follow their trooper around the state, all have sacrificed their family's security to face the dangers encountered in this job. It's not like these families haven't already sacrificed and invested enough in our state. If someone is honorable enough to pay for our well being with their blood, then we owe it to them to know that with their last breath, we would stand in their place for their family. This investment in their family will not go unreturned... the family of heroes have the strength to move on and do great things for our state. This is an investment in our future. This is a statement in who we are as a people, that we will take care of widows and orphans. This is not just my opinion, either.

"...the moral test of government is how that government treats those who are in the dawn of life, the children; those who are in the twilight of life, the elderly; those who are in the shadows of life; the sick, the needy and the handicapped. "

~Last Speech of Hubert H. Humphrey

Can you think of a time when a family is in greater need, than when they have lost the head of their household? Choose to pass our moral test. Choose to honor our fallen. Choose to take care of their family in the most basic way possible, keeping them healthy. Choose to provide Healthcare for survivors in HB4002.

Kindest Regards,  
Rachel Covey

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy S® 5 ACTIVE™, an AT&T 4G LTE smartphone

## Konrad Jackson

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**From:** Beverly Churchill <beverlychurchill51@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, June 04, 2016 3:04 PM  
**To:** House Labor and Commerce  
**Subject:** HB4002 Testimony

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear Legislators,

I normally would ballyhoo any legislation that is not directly related to fixing our financial situation this session, but I take exception on this measure. Before another high-risk employee of the state loses their life and leaves their family without health care coverage, let us do this honorable thing. It should be seldom used, but when needed it surely will reinforce our collective gratitude to those who serve.

Beverly Churchill

"So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal"----2 Corinthians 4:16-18



## Konrad Jackson

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**From:** Rhees Burket <Rhees@ak.net>  
**Sent:** Saturday, June 04, 2016 10:56 AM  
**To:** House Labor and Commerce  
**Subject:** HB 4002

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

I agree with the Governor. I understand this will be just one more draw of money in State coffers but, I think the State of Alaska should indeed go the extra mile to help the surviving family of peace officers and firefighters who die in the line of duty.

We seem to be able to cover many other expenses such as credits for the oil industry, expensive fish hatcheries producing incredibly expensive fish for sportsmen and women, an incredibly expensive road to the North Slope which, as I remember it is toll free, and many more items of lessor importance. We spend huge amounts of money to keep miners from destroying rivers and streams, we get almost nothing for the timber that is cut, we spend millions to manage fisheries, we spend huge amounts on Medicaid, and so much more.

When someone dies as a result of their service to the rest of us, we should remember that and do what is right for their surviving family members.

Mr. Rhees E. Burket  
Fairbanks.

## Konrad Jackson

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**From:** Sarah Kehoe <skkehoe@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, June 04, 2016 10:52 AM  
**To:** House Labor and Commerce  
**Subject:** HB 4002

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

I am in favor of HB 4002. Please support and pass this bill.

Sarah Kehoe

Box 765

AK 99676

Sent from my iPhone

## Konrad Jackson

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**From:** Tom Conley <luddite105@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, June 04, 2016 12:39 PM  
**To:** House Labor and Commerce  
**Subject:** Medical Insurance for Survivors of Peace Officers & Firefighters Killed in the Line of Duty

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

I commend and support the Governor's proposal to extend no fee medical insurance to the spouse or significant other & Dependent Children of Peace Officers & Firefighters killed in the line of duty. These men and women are mostly young with young families and the burden on them is particularly great. Providing the bereaved spouse & children with no cost health insurance is both just & charitable and appropriate even in these times of fiscal troubles.

Thomas L Conley MD,FAAP  
Sitka School Board

Sent from my iPhone

2016.6.4

Subject: Testimony in support of HB 4002

Honored Legislators:

I am unable to make it to an LIO this today, but want you to have my testimony in stalwart support of HB 4002. Please, please, please do the right thing and extend medical benefit coverage to the survivors of peace officers and firefighters who die in the line of duty, regardless of Tier of the deceased. Our first responders sacrifice so much to help make Alaska a safer place in which to live for everyone's families. These are the men and women who run towards danger as part of their jobs to selflessly toil to keep citizens safe over 24 hours of every day. How unfair would it be to leave them in the lurch with no coverage for their dependents after they have given their very lives in service?!

Currently, surviving spouses and dependents are not eligible to receive premium-free health benefits until the survivor becomes eligible for those benefits at retirement age. This bill would permit surviving dependents to obtain said coverage upon occupational death of peace officer/firefighter. We owe to our law enforcement officers and firefighters that medical care will be available to their dependents should the ultimate tragedy occur. The sacrifices of a hero's family must not be forgotten in Alaska!

Again, I urge you to do the right thing and pass HB 4002. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Barbara Carlson  
6050 W Dimond Blvd.  
Anchorage, AK 99502