

Daniel P. Hoffman  
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March 3, 2015

Dear Representatives Olson, Hughes, Colver, LeDoux, and Tilton:

Hello! My name is Dan Hoffman; I'm a retired police officer, having served the City of Fairbanks for twenty years, where I retired as Chief of Police in 2009. During my tenure as Chief I also chaired the Alaska Police Standards Council, having been appointed by Governor Murkowski and subsequently reappointed by Governor Palin.

From a budgetary perspective, I know that we are entering extremely challenging times for our State. Similarly, I can appreciate the fact that all of your varied constituents want to see cuts made in many areas, except those - of course- which are "special" to them. I'm grateful for the service and hard work that you've undertaken, as I know from experience in public service that you can never make everyone happy.

All that being said, it's come to my attention that HB66 is still under potential revision and debate, where the merits of fully funding the health insurance (i.e. to include Dental and Vision) for the families of law enforcement officers who were killed in the line-of-duty are still being questioned. As a good friend of Alaska State Trooper Scott Johnson, who was shot and killed in Tanana last year (along with Trooper Gabe Rich) I'm at a loss as to why this is even being debated.

Working as a law enforcement executive, I often had to hold fast against union bargaining and benefit proposals that I believed were overly generous, or out-of-line with the private sector. *THIS IS NOT THAT!* These officers – and unfortunately those few that will likely follow in the coming years- have given *EVERYTHING* in their service to the State of Alaska. This includes their *VERY LIVES* and the love, time, and totality of their future with their family members.

It seems a common mantra these days for everyone to talk about "supporting the troops," and "doing what's right for the troops" when it comes to our nation's military. Scott and Gabe were our "local Troops," and his family deserves the same level of respect and support. As distasteful as it is to reduce these matters to numbers, (but which must be done on fiscal matters such as these) I'm also hopeful that you will recognize that officer-involved deaths are (thankfully) an extremely rare occurrence, and as such you will be extending benefits to a very small number of individuals.

I greatly appreciate your time and consideration on this issue; please feel free to call me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

*Dan Hoffman*

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