

From: Nikki Toll <n.toll2@gmail.com>

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To: <Representative.Charisse.Millett@akleg.gov>

Subject: HB66

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March 5, 2015

Charisse Millett

State Capital Room 204

Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Ms. Millett:

Thank you for your efforts and sponsorship of HB66. The significance of this bill reaches far beyond the teachers for which it is titled.

My late husband was Alaska State Trooper Tage Toll. He was killed in the line of duty when Helo 1 crashed outside of Talkeetna during a successful search and rescue mission on March 30, 2013. Tage is an Alaskan hero.

HB66 remedies an oversight in Alaska's acknowledgement and honoring of its fallen heroes. It covers the cost of insurance for the families of those who have lost their lives in the line of duty. The Alaska State Troopers have taken a serious hit the past two years with the fatal losses of Tage, Trooper Gabe Rich and Sergeant Scott Johnson. Now, with budget cuts and the reduction of services, the men and women of your Alaska State Trooper community need the encouragement of knowing their families will be cared for if the worst happens to them in the line of duty.

When Tage was killed, I had one day of insurance coverage before, under current policy, it expired at the end of the month. Tage's body had not even been positively identified yet and my three boys and I were without insurance. It was only after piles of paperwork and corrections to an inaccurate death certificate, four months later, that I was able to have the coverage I have now through Retirement and Benefits, but at 100% of the cost to myself. That is significant not only with the burden of cost but also the quality of coverage. HB66 is part of the solution.

Tage and I had chosen Alaska as our home. My boys and I continue to make that choice because it is a truly wonderful place. Tage served Alaska with Loyalty, Integrity, Courage, Compassion, Leadership, and Accountability. Thank you for honoring his service and sacrifice by your sponsorship and support of HB66.

Sincerely,

Nikki J. Toll