



April 4, 2017

The Honorable Anna MacKinnon  
State Senate  
State Capitol Room 516  
Juneau, AK 99801  
[Senator.anna.mackinnon@akleg.gov](mailto:Senator.anna.mackinnon@akleg.gov)

Senator MacKinnon:

On behalf of the Alaska Peace Officers Association (APOA), I am writing to reiterate our strong support of HB23 (rather than SB48) moving forward in its current form as you review this critically important legislation. APOA strongly supports the implementation of medical insurance for the families of fallen peace officers and firefighters.

**Specifically, HB 23 provides a mandatory benefit to all eligible peace officers and firefighters. It recognizes that families of all public safety officers, whether state or municipal employees, killed in the line of duty will receive this benefit and be treated equally.**

Additionally, HB 23 provides medical insurance benefits to spouses of public safety officers killed in the line of duty until they are eligible to receive a major-medical insurance coverage by other means, or the spouse reaches Medicare eligibility, whichever comes first. It does not limit a spouse's medical coverage after a random 10-year period, like SB 48. HB 23 therefore recognizes that families making the ultimate sacrifice will keep this benefit unless they have other medical insurance coverage.

APOA has significant membership within the ranks of municipal peace officers and firefighters, along with those who serve the State of Alaska. It is therefore essential to us that all peace officers and firefighters be assured that their families receive ongoing health care in the event of death in the line of duty.

Please contact the APOA office in Anchorage at 277-0515 if there is anything our organization can do to help with the passage of this important bill.

Sincerely,

Brad Johnson  
State President  
Alaska Peace Officers Association  
cc: Senators Hoffman, Bishop, Micciche, Dunleavy, von Imhof, and Olson

The Alaska Peace Officers Association is a dynamic, professional and non-partisan organization. Our membership consists of law enforcement, corrections, prosecutors, security professionals and others at the local, state and federal levels. APOA represents peace officers and their issues and has done so for over half a century. We are one of the oldest and largest nonprofit associations in the state.