



CITY OF FAIRBANKS

Jim Matherly, Mayor

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March 1, 2017

**The Honorable Andy Josephson
House of Representatives
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182**

Re: Opposition to unfunded mandate in CSHB 23(FIN)

Dear Representative Josephson:

The City of Fairbanks wishes to respectfully inform you of its opposition to CSHB 23(FIN). Specifically, the City is opposed to the mandate for municipalities to participate in the proposed state-run program.

In October 2016, the City of Fairbanks lost hero Sgt. Allen Brandt who was shot in the line of duty and later died after complications from surgery. Sgt. Brandt left behind a wife and four children ranging in age from two to eight years old.

The City supports extending health insurance coverage to the survivors of police and firefighters who die from work-related injuries, and has made it a priority to cover the health care costs for Sgt. Brandt's family. However, the City does not support the state imposing a one-size-fits-all premium payment requirement on all municipalities. Unilaterally usurping local control removes flexibility and prevents local officials from determining the most appropriate course of action to meet the needs of their communities.

The City of Fairbanks urges you to restore local control and make participation in the proposed fund optional to municipalities.

Sincerely,

**Jim Matherly, Mayor
City of Fairbanks**