

From: [Sen. Anna MacKinnon](#)
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Cc: [Juli Lucky](#)
Subject: FW: SB 48
Date: Thursday, March 30, 2017 8:39:22 AM

From: Thomas Wescott [mailto:tomwescott@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 9:28 PM
To: Sen. Lyman Hoffman <Sen.Lyman.Hoffman@akleg.gov>; Sen. Anna MacKinnon <Sen.Anna.MacKinnon@akleg.gov>
Subject: SB 48

Senators

I am writing you today to encourage you to schedule time in your committee to work on and pass SB 48. SB 48 is a bill designed to provide medical benefits to the widows and children of public safety employees killed in the line of duty. The bill has 12 co sponsors in the Senate and a version has already passed the house unanimously

Several years ago after the tragic loss of a State trooper in a helicopter crash it was discovered that medical benefits were not provided to his family. In our discussion with the State Retirement and Benefits division we were informed that when the State transitioned to Tier 2 from Tier 1 this language was lost. It was not intentional but rather an oversight. A family member of a tier 1 member lost in the line of duty receives medical benefits. This is one reason why it took so long for the oversight to be discovered. Tier 1 members had to transition out and were then replaced by Tier 2,3 and 4.

Currently these benefits are being provided on a year by year basis. This forces families who have suffered great loss to relive the loss yearly when they need to remind state leaders of the sacrifice they have made. I am sure you have seen Brandi Johnson provide very emotionally painful testimony as she recounts the death of her husband. The time has come to provide a permanent fix and SB 48 comes close to doing that.

Again I ask you to schedule this bill in your committee and begin working on this bill in an effort to pass it this year.

Thank You
Tom

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Thomas A. Wescott
President Alaska Professional Fire Fighters
907 748-6444