

From: [Eric Olsen](#)
To: [Sen. Shelley Hughes](#); [Sen. Anna MacKinnon](#); [Sen. Natasha Von Imhof](#)
Subject: Requesting your support for HB23
Date: Saturday, April 15, 2017 11:04:31 AM

Begin forwarded message:

From: Eric Olsen <alaskaenforcer@gmail.com>
Subject: Requesting your support for HB23
Date: April 15, 2017 at 10:58:10 AM AKDT
To: Senator.Anna.McKinnon@akleg.gov, Senator.Click.Bishop@akleg.gov,
Senator.Donald.Olson@akleg.gov, Senator.Peter.Micciche@akleg.gov,
Senator.Gary.Stevens@akleg.gov, Senator.Lyman.Hoffman@akleg.gov,
Senator.Shelly.Hughes@akleg.gov, Senator.Natasha.vonImhof@akleg.gov

Good morning,

My name is Eric Olsen and I am a 20-year law enforcement officer in the State of Alaska.

I understand that HB 23, legislation to provide medical benefits for dependents of law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty, is going to be heard today at 1:00 pm.

I would like to say that several of my coworkers have been killed in the line of duty. Some of those officer's I have shared offices with them, I have attended their birthday parties, our children have played together, I have responded to calls with them, I have flown with them while conducting search and rescues, or I have worked with them while investigating homicides while trying to bring justice to those victims and their respective family members.

I strongly believe if anything fatal were to happen to any State or municipal law enforcement officer, medical coverage for spouses and dependents of police officers killed in the line of duty should be a mandatory benefit provided by all state or municipal police departments.

I work hand in hand with my municipal law enforcement officer counterparts and I know they risk their lives on the job just as much as I do. Their lives and their family members are no less important than myself, my family, my co-workers or their families.

Family members who support our role as a law enforcement officers, sacrifice their time with their loved ones during holidays, birthdays, anniversaries, and other once in a lifetime events on a daily basis so that we as law enforcement officers are able to go out and protect the public and our resources every single minute and hour of the day, 7 days a week.

Without the support from the home front, namely our dependents, spouses and loved ones; we would not be able to do our job. Their support is critical and it should be reciprocated if a law enforcement officer is killed in the line of duty. Continued medical benefits for surviving family members is a way for the legislature and the residents of Alaska to say they are thankful for all of the hard work, time and effort those officers literally gave with their lives.

We strive to work hard and unfortunately, due to the extreme hazards that are particular to our job, law enforcement officers are killed in the line of duty. That risk won't go away and as such, I respectfully ask that you give your full support for HB23.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and for your service. It is greatly appreciated.

Eric Olsen

Kodiak