



ALASKA CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

"Walking Alaska's Toughest Beat"

February 1, 2017

Representative Foster,

My name is Jacob Wilson. I represent the 930 Correctional Officers in the State of Alaska. Last year we provided a letter of support for what was then SB 4002. We were encouraged that Officers' families would no longer be hit twice if their husband or wife was killed in the line of duty: first by the death, and second by the loss of health insurance. The fact is that Correctional Officers put their lives on the line every day, just like any other Alaska Public Safety Officer. Their families are just as important.

A few days ago Correctional Officers became aware that they were no longer included in the new version of this Legislation. While we are happy to see at least some of our public safety families covered, it was a tough blow to see other law enforcement officers in the State covered because they are the ones who ... "run to the fire". With all due respect, Correctional Officers don't run to the fire, they live in it. The dangers Correctional Officers face are the same that every other Officer in the State of Alaska faces. Police Officer and Troopers may arrest the criminals, but it is Correctional Officers who keep them behind bars every hour of every day.

This would not substantially increase the cost of this legislation. While every year Correctional Officers are assaulted, some permanently disabled, we have been very fortunate not to have lost any Correctional Officer in an institution as a result of an assault. Because of this, I believe that the fiscal impact of covering our Officers would be minimal, but the impact on morale for the Officers would be immeasurable. It would give them peace of mind knowing that should they fall in the service of their State and give their life protecting Alaskans, their families would have insurance coverage.

In closing I would like to say we support HB 23 and hope that it passes. That being said, please include Correctional Officers in this legislation.

We also appreciate Commissioner Dean Williams' support of including Correctional Officers in this bill.

Please feel free to contact me if you need any additional information.

Thank you for your time.

Jacob Wilson
Business Agent
Alaska Correctional Officers Association

From: dennis kempen

Sent: Wednesday, February 01, 2017 5:53 PM

To: Rep. Neal Foster <Rep.Neal.Foster@akleg.gov>; Rep. Paul Seaton <Rep.Paul.Seaton@akleg.gov>; Rep. Les Gara <Rep.Les.Gara@akleg.gov>; Rep. Jason Grenn <Rep.Jason.Grenn@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Guttenberg <Rep.David.Guttenberg@akleg.gov>; Rep. Scott Kawasaki <Rep.Scott.Kawasaki@akleg.gov>; Rep. Daniel Ortiz <Rep.Daniel.Ortiz@akleg.gov>; Rep. Lance Pruitt <Rep.Lance.Pruitt@akleg.gov>; Rep. Steve Thompson <Rep.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Tammie Wilson <Rep.Tammie.Wilson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Cathy Tilton <Rep.Cathy.Tilton@akleg.gov>

Cc: info@acoa.us

Subject: Law Enforcement Survivor's Bill

Please include Correctional Officers in HB 23. Our families are just as important as any other Law Enforcement families.

This is real business as we are faced with situations almost daily which we must respond to. We only pray and hope we are not faced with the current on going hostage situation in Delaware as I write you.

More

An inmate inside Vaughn called [@delawareonline](https://www.delawareonline.com) and said those behind hostage situation stabbed cop, made demands

Dennis Kempen

GLENNALLEN LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION OFFICE

Email: Glennallen_LIO@legis.state.ak.us
907-822-5588/ phone, 907-822-5591/fax

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

NAME: Amber Heinbaugh
REPRESENTING: STATE TROOPERS FAMILIES and Self
BILL#/SUBJECT: House Bill 23
COMMITTEE &
HEARING DATE: HFIN Feb. 1, 2017

To Whom it May Concern,

I am unable to attend the teleconference on Feb. 1, 2017 due to other prior duties. I would like to submit a public comment on HB23.

I am a strong supporter of extending health benefits to fallen State Troopers/officers and firefighters, that have died during the line of duty.

As a wife of a STATE TROOPER this is close to my heart. In case of something happening to him in the line of duty, I do not want to deal with worrying about insurance issues for my family when I'd be grieving. In the time of need/grieving I would like to know that my family is being taken care of by my STATE, whom my husband has been protecting.

This is a simple issue and it will affect very few families. It will have very minimal impact on the overall State budget. With that said, I believe this should be put in effect immediately. I strongly believe this should also cover the families who have lost their officer/firefighter in the last 5 years. Thank you for letting me comment.

From: dennis kempen

Sent: Wednesday, February 01, 2017 5:53 PM

To: Rep. Neal Foster <Rep.Neal.Foster@akleg.gov>; Rep. Paul Seaton <Rep.Paul.Seaton@akleg.gov>; Rep. Les Gara <Rep.Les.Gara@akleg.gov>; Rep. Jason Grenn <Rep.Jason.Grenn@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Guttenberg <Rep.David.Guttenberg@akleg.gov>; Rep. Scott Kawasaki <Rep.Scott.Kawasaki@akleg.gov>; Rep. Daniel Ortiz <Rep.Daniel.Ortiz@akleg.gov>; Rep. Lance Pruitt <Rep.Lance.Pruitt@akleg.gov>; Rep. Steve Thompson <Rep.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Tammie Wilson <Rep.Tammie.Wilson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Cathy Tilton <Rep.Cathy.Tilton@akleg.gov>

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Subject: Law Enforcement Survivor's Bill

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More

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Dennis Kempen

PO Box 1231
Delta Junction, AK

February 1, 2017
RE: HOUSE BILL 23

State of Alaska Legislative Committee
Juneau, Alaska

Dear Committee Members:

I am very much in favor of HOUSE BILL 23 for many reasons but I mostly just believe that it's the right way to take care of our peace officers and firefighters who put their lives on the line for us every day. They deserve the assurance that their families will be cared for if they give the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty.

In Alaska, retired state employees receive medical benefits that allow them to receive medical care long after their work careers have ended. These retired state employees rely on this care for health and wellness and they have worked to earn this coverage. Men and women who serve and die in the line of duty deserve no less.

As the mother-in-law of an Alaska State Trooper, aunt of an Anchorage firefighter and sister-in-law of an APD officer, this affects my family directly in many ways.

I have three beautiful grandchildren who would be covered if this bill passes. Our daughter, their mother, would be devastated if our son-in-law was ever killed. The peace of mind knowing that their family would not have to struggle for health coverage as she raises her family would be a small but necessary part of recovering after such a grave and painful loss.

We are truly blessed to have the service and protection granted by our hard-working and selfless peace officers. Let's protect them!

Thank you for your support of HOUSE BILL 23.

Very Sincerely,

Lonnie Miller

February 1, 2017
RE: HOUSE BILL 23

State of Alaska Legislative Committee
Juneau, Alaska

Dear Committee Members:

I am very much in favor of HOUSE BILL 23 and ask that you pass this very important piece of legislation that protects family members of our peace officers and firefighters who put their lives on the line for us every day.

These hard –working public servants deserve the assurance that their families will be cared for if they give the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty.

We are truly blessed to have the service and protection granted by our hard-working and selfless peace officers. Let's protect them!

Thank you for your support of HOUSE BILL 23.

Very Sincerely,



Yelena Kurudimov

February 1, 2017
RE: HOUSE BILL 23

State of Alaska Legislative Committee
Juneau, Alaska

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We are truly blessed to have the service and protection granted by our hard-working and selfless peace officers. Let's protect them!

Thank you for your support of HOUSE BILL 23.

Very Sincerely,



Amy Wheeler

February 1, 2017
RE: HOUSE BILL 23

State of Alaska Legislative Committee
Juneau, Alaska

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These hard –working public servants deserve the assurance that their families will be cared for if they give the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty.

We are truly blessed to have the service and protection granted by our hard-working and selfless peace officers. Let's protect them!

Thank you for your support of HOUSE BILL 23.

Very Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Toni Lee".

Toni Lee

February 1, 2017
RE: HOUSE BILL 23

State of Alaska Legislative Committee
Juneau, Alaska

Dear Committee Members:

I am very much in favor of HOUSE BILL 23 and ask that you pass this very important piece of legislation that protects family members of our peace officers and firefighters who put their lives on the line for us every day.

These hard-working public servants deserve the assurance that their families will be cared for if they give the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty.

We are truly blessed to have the service and protection granted by our hard-working and selfless peace officers. Let's protect them!

Thank you for your support of HOUSE BILL 23.



Very Sincerely,

Jon Fraley PA-C

February 1, 2017
RE: HOUSE BILL 23

State of Alaska Legislative Committee
Juneau, Alaska

Dear Committee Members:

I am very much in favor of HOUSE BILL 23 and ask that you pass this very important piece of legislation that protects family members of our peace officers and firefighters who put their lives on the line for us every day.

These hard –working public servants deserve the assurance that their families will be cared for if they give the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty.

We are truly blessed to have the service and protection granted by our hard-working and selfless peace officers. Let's protect them!

Thank you for your support of HOUSE BILL 23.

Very Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kailee Thomas', written in a cursive style.

Kailee Thomas

Dear House Finance Committee:

I am writing this statement as my substitute for public testimony in support of House Bill 23. I want to thank the Chair of the committee along with all committee members for the opportunity to share my thoughts.

I am a 10.5 year veteran of the Alaska State Troopers under the Department of Public Safety. I have lived in various parts of the state and held various positions with the Troopers during my tenure.

I don't have to explain in great detail why I support House Bill 23, it's obvious. I am a husband and father of two boys, age two and six. My wife and I are personal friends of Brandy Johnson and her family. I knew Sgt. Johnson directly with him while in

Fairbanks. He was a mentor and close friend and I miss him dearly.

Maybe for some or all of you, the core principle behind House Bill 23 does not hit you personally. I ask you take a minute and really think about what this Bill means to the families of those that serve and protect you as Department of Public Safety employees for the State of Alaska.

I cannot begin to try and explain to you what it means to be an Alaska State Trooper. I have been part of some amazing things during my career but I have also endured and witnessed great heartache and tragedy involving those I am sworn to protect.

House Bill 23 is important not only for my family but all families of those that put their lives on line in Alaska.

Please pass House Bill 23, so my wife and two sons are not left "picking up the pieces" when that day comes that I pay the ultimate sacrifice for the State of Alaska.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

IN SUPPORT OF
SENATOR L. M. WILSON
FOR THE TROOPERS AND WORKERS
STATE OF ALASKA

Garrett Frost



Dear House Finance Committee:

I am writing this on not only my behalf, but on the behalf of every Alaska State Trooper family. Public Safety is not just a career; it is a life calling and a lifestyle.

I know my husband Garrett Frost is the best husband and father, and cares deeply for our family. He also cares deeply for the people he has sworn to protect: the State of Alaska. He puts himself in harms way when the rest of us would turn the other direction. He has been honored with commendations and awards. He is (in my mind) 1 in a million. All of these wonderful things being considered, the big picture came full circle when our family friend, Sgt. Scott Johnson was murdered on duty. My husbands honor and daily sacrifices do not compare to the ultimate sacrifice that some officers have had to make.

I hope to never be in that position. I hoped that none of my friends ever have to be in that position. However, they are. The Johnson family, the Rich family, and countless others are in this position today trying to patch a hole in their family that can never be replaced.

House Bill 23 is not a replacement to the missing family member, but it is peace of mind. Please take the time to consider and pass House Bill 23.

We sincerely appreciate your time and commitment to the people who will continue to be committed to serving you.



Very Respectfully,

LT Ashley S Frost
United States Public Health Service Wife of an
Alaska State Trooper

I won't be able to tune in for the hearing today, but wanted to voice my support for lifetime health benefits to the immediate family members of police and fire personnel killed in the line of duty. These public servants pay the ultimate price serving the public and we are responsible for taking care of their family. We cannot lose site of this obligation when considering where to cut the budget.

-Kalin Seaton
Fairbanks, Alaska

From: Dee

Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 9:28 PM

To: Rep. Paul Seaton <Rep.Paul.Seaton@akleg.gov>

Subject: "Law Enforcement Survivors' Bill"

"Please include Correctional Officers in HB 23". Your families are just as important as any other Law Enforcement families.

Thank you

Denise Dickens

From: New Justin
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 9:40 PM
To: Rep. Paul Seaton <Rep.Paul.Seaton@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB 23

My name is Justin Harrell and I am a Correctional Officer at Goose Creek Correctional Center. I am disheartened that some members of the legislature think Correctional Officer families don't deserve insurance if their husband or wife takes the ultimate sacrifice for the public.

On a daily basis we deal with individuals that the public will never see ever see again. Correctional Officers have to remain vigilant and have their head on a swivel daily just so we can come home to our loved ones. We walk the modules with a radio, hand cuffs and pepper spray.

Since some members of the legislature don't think our family's deserve insurance if we die in the line of duty. I challenge you to walk the walk we do on a daily basis. I can guarantee it'll open your eyes to the dangers we face.

Justin Harrell

From: Sarah Green
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 9:49 PM
To: Rep. Paul Seaton <Rep.Paul.Seaton@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB 23

Representative Seaton,

Please include correctional officers in HB 23. Our families deserve to be taken care of as well. Every day we put our lives on the line protecting those in our care and custody. We are part of the Alaska law enforcement team safeguarding our residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best,
Sarah Green
Correctional Officer II

From: Jerrod Andrews
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 10:39 PM
To: Rep. Paul Seaton <Rep.Paul.Seaton@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB 23

I recently found out that Correctional Officers have been removed from HB 23. They need to be added back in. Correctional Officers do have one of the most dangerous jobs and they deserve your respect and support!!! Back those up that TRULLY keep you safe at night!! They are the ones that keep the dangerous criminals locked up in the the most dangerous cities (prisons) that exist. Their families feel and carry the burden of these extremely stressful jobs and deserve to be taken care of if something were to happen in the line of duty!! Please watch out for them too!! Correctional Officers ARE Law Enforcement.

Thanks

Jerrod Andrews

From: Marc
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 10:50 PM
Subject: Law Enforcement Survivors bill

Representative,

I am in full support of HB 23 however, It is a great disappointment to learn that one of the largest groups of Law Enforcement Officers in Alaska has been recently excluded from HB 23. I am speaking of the nearly 1000 men and women who daily place their lives on the line while working in Alaska's prisons, the Correctional Officers.

Correctional Officers work everyday with the worst of the worst. Thieves, drug dealers, rapists and murderers. Many of whom have no problem assaulting, planning to or attempting to murder the Officers whose duty it is to keep the public safe as well as the the offenders in their care. I am one of those Officers.

Those of us who have chosen this profession understand the risks inherent with the job but that doesn't mean we don't worry about our safety or what will happen to our families should the worst occur. We work day in and day out, week after week, month after month for years with offenders, some of whom would have no problem taking our life if given the chance. They know us, recognize our faces, learn where we live, what we drive and who is in our family.

Many Correctional Officers have more than once been out in public with their family and been harassed by a former offender who was upset with them or one of their fellow Officers. Most of us are now hyper-vigilant and try to spot offenders before they see us so we can send our family's in another direction to keep the safe in case we have to confront the offender. We teach our spouses and children the signal to get away from us so we can protect them if needed.

The dangers Correctional Officers face everyday are no different that those faced by any other Law Enforcement Officer on the street. I have been surrounded by a dozen offenders who were angry at me for enforcing the rules of the facility, I have been threatened with physical assault if I were to open a door and let an offender near me. I have more then once been threatened by offenders that they would "find me on the streets" or they would "get me on the outside". We have chosen this career and we aren't afraid but we do want to be able to provide for our families should the worst happen.

I encourage you to rethink the decision to remove this vital group of LEOs from this bill. Our families deserve to be cared for just as much as a Trooper, City Police Officer or any other first responder stationed anywhere else in the State of Alaska covered under this bill.

Please feel free to contact me further on this if you desire.

Respectfully,

Marcus A. Swart
Fairbanks Alaska, 99701

Member-Alaska Correctional Officer's Association "Walking Alaska's Toughest Beat"

From: Micheal Bragg
Sent: Wednesday, February 01, 2017 12:35 AM
To: Rep. Paul Seaton <Rep.Paul.Seaton@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB23

Please include Correctional Officers in HB23!
Thank you for your time.

From: Killian, Ken L (DOC)

Sent: Wednesday, February 01, 2017 8:26 AM

To: Rep. Neal Foster <Rep.Neal.Foster@akleg.gov>; Rep. Paul Seaton <Rep.Paul.Seaton@akleg.gov>; Rep. Les Gara <Rep.Les.Gara@akleg.gov>; Rep. Jason Grenn <Rep.Jason.Grenn@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Guttenberg <Rep.David.Guttenberg@akleg.gov>; Rep. Scott Kawasaki <Rep.Scott.Kawasaki@akleg.gov>; Rep. Daniel Ortiz <Rep.Daniel.Ortiz@akleg.gov>; Rep. Lance Pruitt <Rep.Lance.Pruitt@akleg.gov>; Rep. Steve Thompson <Rep.Steve.Thompson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Tammie Wilson <Rep.Tammie.Wilson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Cathy Tilton <Rep.Cathy.Tilton@akleg.gov>

Subject: HB 23

Representatives,

I received an email last night from my union that was updating me on the "Law Enforcement Survivors' Bill". It was quite disappointing to see that Correctional Officers were removed from the bill. I don't understand why we would be left off. We put our lives on the line every day we put on a uniform. Many of us step into situations where we are faced with a 100 sentenced or unsentenced prisoners every day. The numbers are not in our favor and we have no means to protect ourselves. We are assaulted, spit at, have feces thrown on us, and any number of other things you can think of. We have had broken jaws, broken arms, shoulder injuries, knee injuries, needle sticks and any other thing you can think of. Jamie Hesterberg gave his life for this state during a Prisoner Transport many years ago. I have just entered my 22nd year of service and I myself have had a hand injury, a knee injury, spit on, and assaulted. All of this to provide for my family and to protect the people of Alaska, including yourselves.

I believe the least that could happen is to know that someone cares enough about an officer's family to ensure they are taken care of in the horrific event their life is taken from them by the hands of someone who has been locked up away from society. Everyone else's life will go on as if nothing happened while the officer's family tries to piece together what they have left. Even a small token as being covered by Health insurance would go a long way and ease the financial burden that they may face.

I appreciate your time and hope that the bill can change to include Correctional Officers. We are part of the Law Enforcement Community and we do our part to help keep Alaska's Criminal population in check.

Thank You



KEN KILLIAN
Correctional Officer III

Alaska Department of Corrections
1400 E. 4th Ave. • Anchorage, AK 99501
Office: (907) 269-4218 • Fax: (907) 269-4208
ken.killian@alaska.gov

Pulling Together for Alaska

From: Jeromy
Sent: Wednesday, February 01, 2017 9:03 AM
To: Rep. Paul Seaton <Rep.Paul.Seaton@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB 23

Please include Correctional Officers in HB 23. Our families are just as important as any other Law Enforcement families.

Thank you, Correctional Officer,
J. Crenshaw

From: mike Arnold

Sent: Wednesday, February 01, 2017 10:21 AM

To: Rep. Paul Seaton <Rep.Paul.Seaton@akleg.gov>

Subject:

I am a correctional officer and hope that you will make sure that correctional officers are included in HB 23
thank you



**GENERAL
TEAMSTERS
LOCAL 959
STATE OF ALASKA**

Affiliated with the International Brotherhood of Teamsters
Rick Boyles, Secretary-Treasurer
520 E. 34th Ave., Suite 102, Anchorage, Alaska 99503
Phone (907) 751-8501 • Fax (907) 751-8599

February 1, 2017

Honorable Neal Foster
Co-Chair House Finance Committee
Alaska State Legislature
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Re: HB 23 Creates fund to provide payment for certain health insurance premiums for surviving dependents of certain police officers and firefighters who die in the line of duty

Dear Representative Foster:

On behalf of the men and women police officers that Teamsters Local 959 represents at the Wasilla Police Department in addition to the members at the Kodiak Police Department who recently filed a petition to be represented by the Teamsters Local 959, we strongly support HB 23 which will provide health insurance for those left behind.

Our police officers are expected everyday to protect and serve the citizens in their communities. These men and women do so without question. On the rare occasion that a police officer is killed in the line of duty, we believe their families should not be forgotten. The loss of an officer is devastating for the families that they leave behind. The men, women and children suffer a major life change. The survivors left behind should not be further burdened with the question of where their medical insurance is to come from.

The State and or local Municipalities have a responsibility to the families of those fallen police officers in their time of loss and suffering to provide health insurance. HB 23 will provide some comfort to those families left behind.

In summary, we thank you for hearing this very important bill and ask the support of you and your committee members.

Sincerely

TEAMSTERS LOCAL 959

Rick Boyles
Secretary-Treasurer

c: Co-chair Rep Seaton, Vice-Chair Gara, Rep. Grenn, Guttenberg, Kawasaki, Ortiz, Pruitt, Thompson, Tilton and Wilson

January 31, 2017

Co-Chairs Rep. Paul Seaton and Rep. Neal Foster
Alaska House Finance
5th Floor
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99811

RE: CS for HB 23 – An Act creating a fund in the Department of Public Safety; providing for payment of certain health insurance premiums for surviving dependents of certain police officers or firefighters who die in the line of duty; and providing for an effective date.

Dear House Finance Members,

Firstly, we in municipal government value and honor all of our first responders. They tirelessly commit their efforts by risking their lives to keep our communities safe.

It has come to our attention that HB 23 has changed considerably from last years' version submitted by the Governor. This newer version has set up an unfunded mandate which (under the circumstances of cost transfers from the State to municipalities; the decrease of revenue sources; and the removal of indirect education funds which now must be covered by municipalities), makes it difficult for us to assume another new mandated expense.

We have a few concerns which I will try to line out in this letter.

1. Fiscal note – We are uncertain how this “fund” will work. Will money be deposited by each community on a regular basis or will money only be deposited into the fund if and when there is a public safety accident involving a municipal police officer or firefighter? AML requests that House Finance provide us with a “municipal fiscal note” showing forecasted costs to local governments. Under Section 39.60.020, it is stated that the commissioner shall “determine the amount of money sufficient to pay premiums under AS 39.60.030 and the associated administrative costs. We would like some sort of a fiscal note to allow us to know what kind of costs we are facing. Also, what would be the definition of “associated administrative costs” and what would be the estimated amount of those costs?
2. How would this impact municipalities within the negotiation process of collective bargaining? Isn't survivor health insurance a legitimate collective bargaining item?

Due to the inability of municipalities to plan, as we find ourselves completely unsure of our fiscal situation until the entire session has been completed, without some sort of cost estimate, we cannot support an additional unfunded mandate. The noble impact of the mandates is not the issue. The unfunded mandate IS the issue.

Sincerely,

Kathie Wasserman
Executive Director.

From: Jarod [<mailto:jhpyle@hotmail.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, February 01, 2017 11:01 AM
To: Rep. Paul Seaton <Rep.Paul.Seaton@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB 23

Mr. Seaton,

Please include **Correctional and Probation/Parole Officers with in HB 23** in regards to providing health insurance coverage to the families of officers who are killed in the line of duty.

Thank you for your consideration,

Suzie Pyle

(Correctional Officer, 10+ years)

-----Original Message-----

From: Ron Shriver

Sent: Wednesday, February 01, 2017 1:04 PM

To: Rep. Paul Seaton <Rep.Paul.Seaton@akleg.gov>

Subject: HB 23

Sir,

Please put Correctional Officers back in HB 23, my life is just as important as any other law enforcement officer in the state. I risk my life and the lives of my family everyday I go to work.

Thank you,

Sgt. Ron Shriver

Sent from my iPhone

My name is Justin Harrell and I am a Correctional Officer at Goose Creek Correctional Center. I am disheartened that some members of the legislature think Correctional Officer families don't deserve insurance if their husband or wife takes the ultimate sacrifice for the public.

On a daily basis we deal with individuals that the public will never see ever see again. Correctional Officers have to remain vigilant and have their head on a swivel daily just so we can come home to our loved ones. We walk the modules with a radio, hand cuffs and pepper spray.

Since some members of the legislature don't think our family's deserve insurance if we die in the line of duty. I challenge you to walk the walk we do on a daily basis. I can guarantee it'll open your eyes to the dangers we face.

Justin Harrell

Dear Esteemed Committee Members,

I would like to express my support for HB 23 today. I believe that this bill would be beneficial to all of Alaska as it would encourage more brave men and women to serve our communities via law enforcement and fire fighting.

I myself am not directly related to any law enforcement officers or fire fighters, but I do know many and their families. While I do believe that our communities would rally around and support a family that was left without their provider due to a death in the line of duty, I do not believe it is their responsibility. That responsibility, in my opinion, lies with the State.

I do understand the budget constraints our great State is facing. While the budget cuts have been effective and I look forward to seeing more, in this case, the monies used to fund HB 23 would be well spent, and well deserved.

I am a former City Council member for the City of Delta Junction and sat on the Board of Directors for the Alaska Municipal League. I understand the hard decisions you, as legislators, have to make on a daily basis. I hope that you weigh all the factors regarding HB 23 evenly and make the best decision for Alaska's public safety and its future.

Thank you for your time and your public service.

Sincerely,

SEBASTIAN SAARLOOS
DELTA JUNCTION

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Sebastian Saarloos

From: Micheal Bragg
Sent: Wednesday, February 01, 2017 12:35 AM
To: Rep. Paul Seaton
Subject: HB23

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