
From: Lauren Silva
Sent: Wednesday, February 01, 2017 4:36 PM
To: House Finance Legislation
Subject: HB 23

To Whom It May Concern:

My husband has been an Alaska State Trooper for nearly four years. Prior to that he was a tank commander in the US Army. He is a combat veteran and the idea that he does a dangerous job is one I lived with the seven and a half years we have been married. When my husband deployed with the Army, I worried about him and wondered if and when he would come home safe. Now that he is a state trooper, I worry about him, if and when he will come home safe and I also worry about what I would do for health insurance for myself and our two young children if he were not to come home.

Our daughter was born last week on Tuesday, February 24. We live in a rural village without many job opportunities for myself and no childcare. Providing insurance myself isn't an option because of the post we have taken. The past few months when my husband went to work I wondered how I would continue my medical care for this pregnancy if something happened to him. When you're pregnant, these are not the kind of things you should have to worry about. When your loved one goes to work, these are not the kind of things you should have to worry about. If your loved one is killed in the line of duty, these are not the kind of things you should have to worry about. House Bill 23 would resolve this and do right by public safety officers who serve, protect and put their lives on the line for their community every single day.

Thank you for this opportunity to share what House Bill 23 would mean for me and my family.

Sincerely,
Lauren Silva
907-232-4230

HB 23

I am writing to advocate for survivors of our LEOs to receive health benefits. As a 20 year Alaska State Trooper wife with 2 children, I have witnessed first- hand the struggles other families have had to go through after losing their loved one. I cannot imagine also having to worry about health insurance for my children while grieving. Health care is the least that the state could do for families that sacrifice every day. Our Troopers miss Holidays, Birthdays, school events and tucking their children in at night. They should be able to know that when they leave for work that their families are safe and have all needs met should they die while on duty. With the anti-police culture right now; I worry daily if my husband will make it home safe. You have the power to do the right thing. Please do the right thing!

Thank you, Dorie Johnson

HB 23

I am writing to advocate for survivors of our LEOs to receive health benefits. As a 20 year Alaska State Trooper wife with 2 children, I have witnessed first- hand the struggles other families have had to go through after losing their loved one. I cannot imagine also having to worry about health insurance for my children while grieving. Health care is the least that the state could do for families that sacrifice every day. Our Troopers miss Holidays, Birthdays, school events and tucking their children in at night. They should be able to know that when they leave for work that their families are safe and have all needs met should they die while on duty. With the anti-police culture right now; I worry daily if my husband will make it home safe. You have the power to do the right thing. Please do the right thing!

Thank you, Dorie Johnson

Helen Phillips

From: Amy Lantz
Sent: Wednesday, February 01, 2017 11:38 AM
To: House Finance Legislation
Subject: In support of HB23

Hello,

I am writing in support of HB 23 as a wife of an Alaska State Trooper. He is our sole provider as we have chosen to have me stay at home and raise our 2 beautiful daughters. He puts his whole heart into his job every day (whether on the clock or on standby as we are in a rural area) and has done so for 19 years this month. The last few years have been extremely sad and shocking with the way the world views LEO's and how our state is set up to help these men/women that serve their great state. We have learned first hand how short the state falls when caring for the fallen's family.

These men and women risk their lives on a daily basis to help serve and protect the citizens of this state. The very least we can do is help them/their families when/if that horrible moment happens and they can no longer provide for their families. I worry daily of all the "what if's" and I feel we have set ourselves up fairly well, but there isn't anything that can help ease the burden of the healthcare situation like HB23 could.

Please consider and pass HB23 to help out the men and women that would risk it ALL to help you if you called. It's the least you could do. I would want the very best for your family as well.

Thank you for your time and service.

Amy Lantz (along with her daughters, Ashleigh and Hayleigh)

Helen Phillips

From: Ophelia Barlow >
Sent: Wednesday, February 01, 2017 12:13 PM
To: House Finance Legislation
Subject: HB 23

Hello,

I am writing to advocate for survivors of our LEOs to receive health benefits. As an AST wife with 2 young children, I have witnessed first hand the struggles other families have had to go through after losing their loved one. I cannot imagine also having to worry about health insurance for my kids while grieving. I am completely shocked that Alaska has not and is not honoring our fallen troopers in this way! They deal with enough stress on a daily basis and to add worrying if their families will be taken care of after they die is absurd!

My husband and all our public safety officers risk their lives daily to protect our community. Especially with the anti-police culture right now; I worry daily if my husband will make it home safe. You have the power to do the right thing. Please make it right this time.

Thank you,

Ophelia Lozano Barlow

To Whom It May Concern,

I would like to thank the committee for taking the time to listen to me today. My name is Shaun Kuzakin, I am a resident of Juneau, Vice President of the Public Safety Employees Association DPS Chapter (represents Troopers and Court Service Officers), and a husband and father of 2. I am here today in support of HB 23.

"Officer shot and killed when she tried to confront a murder suspect of a local Walmart".

"Officer shot and killed while responding to a 911 call about an armed man outside a home in the Dallas suburb of Little Elm".

"A Louisiana Officer was shot and killed after he stopped to check on what he thought was a car accident".

"A Deputy Sherriff was shot and killed following a vehicle pursuit of a stolen vehicle".

These are actual headlines of in the line of duty deaths thus far in 2017. Reading these headlines cut through me like a dull blade. There is the anxiety of knowing that this can happen to any officer during the course of their career and a far deeper anxiety of knowing that your family must worry for you every day you put on the uniform and badge.

I have proudly worn the badge of the Alaska State Troopers on my chest for more than 15 years. Every day the men and women of Law Enforcement in our great state must have the courage to face dangerous calls. Those men and women will run towards the danger when others do not. They do it every day regardless of the danger because of a commitment to the service of the people of Alaska. In our profession we talk about a warrior mentality, we train continuously, but we also know when certain calls are very dangerous. Honor, duty, and the drive to help others are what drive peace officers into that danger.

When an officer dies in the line of duty, families must adjust to life without their loved one. Often, the family is faced with the loss of the primary breadwinner. While there is no amount of money or financial support that can compensate for the loss of a loved one, we can honor their service and ensure their families are not forgotten by providing survivor benefits.

Please show your support for the men and women peace officers of our great state by passing this bill.

Sincerely,

Shaun Kuzakin

Helen Phillips

From: Cody litster
Sent: Wednesday, February 01, 2017 2:12 PM
To: House Finance Legislation
Subject: HB23

My name is Cody Litster. I am a member of the Public Safety Employee's Association union. I want to urge you to support HB23. I have seen the direct impact of first responders dying in the line of duty, and the aftermath that further devastated the families of our fallen heroes. This bill represents the State of Alaska supporting the families that keep our state a safe place. It represents a small token from the state that means so much to the very few families that it would impact. Families who have paid the ultimate sacrifice for serving our great state.

Than you for your consideration on this issue.

Cody Litster
Petersburg Alaska
PSEA member

Sent from my iPhone