

Stuart Relay

From: Donna Anthony [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 5, 2026 8:21 AM
To: Stuart Relay
Subject: Opposition to HB 250 – Officer Safety Concerns

Dear Members of the Alaska Legislature,

My name is Donna Anthony, and I write today in strong opposition to HB 250.

I have served in law enforcement in Alaska for more than two decades and currently serve as a Chief of Police. During my career I have worked patrol, investigations, and served for six years on a statewide drug task force, working alongside federal partners including the DEA, FBI, and U.S. Marshals Service. My experience has shown me firsthand the real and ongoing dangers faced by law enforcement officers and their families.

HB 250 raises serious officer safety concerns.

Alaska is a small state when it comes to population. Criminal organizations, drug traffickers, and violent offenders often know where officers live, where their families work, and where their children go to school. Removing tools that help protect an officer's identity in certain operational environments can create significant and lasting risk.

During my time assigned to the drug unit, I personally experienced this danger. At one point there was an active contract placed on my life and that of another DEA agent. The suspect responsible was incarcerated at the Anchorage jail and was attempting to recruit other inmates to carry out the killing. Two separate inmates reported the plan to jail security staff. Because of the seriousness of the threat, the U.S. Marshals Service had to remove the suspect and transfer him to a federal facility in Seattle where his communications could be closely monitored.

For years after that incident, I had to take additional precautions. I changed my mailing address to the police department and lived with the constant awareness that someone might attempt to follow through on the threat. Unfortunately, those threats are not hypothetical for many officers — they are very real.

I was also involved in the arrest of John Pearl Smith, a violent offender with a long criminal history. After being released, he went on to murder two more people and is currently facing federal charges related to those murders. Cases like this are reminders that the individuals we deal with in law enforcement can be extremely dangerous and often hold long-term grudges against officers involved in their arrests.

Evil and violence do exist in the world we police.

Law enforcement officers already operate under significant scrutiny and accountability. Departments require identification, body cameras, documentation, and reporting. However, there are legitimate circumstances — particularly during tactical operations, high-risk arrests, and situations where officers may later become targets — where protecting an officer’s identity is necessary for their safety and the safety of their families.

HB 250, while likely well-intended, would remove an important layer of protection for officers serving our communities.

Legislation should strengthen public safety while also protecting the men and women who risk their lives to uphold the law. This bill moves us in the opposite direction by potentially exposing officers to retaliation from violent offenders and criminal networks.

I respectfully urge the Legislature to reconsider HB 250 and vote against its passage in order to protect the safety of Alaska’s law enforcement officers and their families.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Donna Anthony

Palmer, AK 99645

