

**K**ODIAK  
**A**REA  
**N**ATIVE  
**A**SSOCIATION

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February 3, 2014

The Honorable Gabrielle LeDoux  
State Capitol Room 416  
Juneau AK, 99801

Dear Representative LeDoux:

The Kodiak Area Native Association [hereinafter "KANA"] supports in principal the proposal to change regulations related to arming Village Public Safety Officers [hereinafter "VPSO"].

But arming our VPSO's is only one aspect of protecting the public safety. We must ensure that we have only the most qualified and competent individuals charged with protecting our rural communities.

For example, the basic standards for a VPSO requires them to be free from a mental or emotional condition that would adversely affect their performance of an essential job function. In truth, no non-profit corporation is funded to conduct psychological assessments of any VPSO candidate at the present time.

We believe that performing psychological assessments on VPSOs, who are to be armed, is the only way to guarantee that they will meet the basic standards for mental and emotional fitness.

The rural community members on and around Kodiak Island, as well as elsewhere in the State, deserve well-trained, well-equipped and well-supported officers who are able to effectively perform their duties.

While we support the principal proposed in this legislation, we respectfully requests that you provide appropriate funding to effectuate the goals and intent of this legislation.

Respectfully submitted,

KODIAK AREA NATIVE ASSOCIATION

  
Charles T.C. Kamai, Program Coordinator