Anchorage
Police
Department
employees
Association

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March 17, 2015

Senator Johnny Ellis
State Capitol Bldg., Room 7
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Ellis,

I write to you today in support of SB23, "An act relating to immunity for prescribing, providing, or administering overdose drugs."

As the President of the Anchorage Police Department Employees Association, I proudly represent more than 475 employees of the Anchorage Police Department. Our members, sworn and non-sworn alike have experienced an increasing occasion to receive and respond to calls for service involving the illegal use and overdose of opioid based prescription medications and heroin. Our emergency 911 dispatchers answer the calls from citizens whose friends and family members have had a negative affect to an excessive use of a drug. Our officers respond to the scene and either assist with the medical intervention or investigate the untimely deaths of these citizens.

Our officers have seen first hand how effective emergency administration of an opioid overdose drug can be. Many of our officers have arrived at the scene of a reported overdose to find a victim non-responsive and clearly near death. Our public safety counter parts on the paramedic side then administer the overdose drug and the person very quickly recovers; the results are astonishing. The thought of having this life saving drug available to friends and families is very compelling.

While the members of the APDEA do not see this as a final fix for this terrible epidemic, we do support the idea of providing this as an option to be made available to help those along the road to recovery from addition to these terrible drugs. Drug enforcement and rehabilitation should still be employed as a full scale response.

Thank you for your collective efforts on this important issue. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Sgt. Gerard Asselin
President
APDEA