



**Anchorage
Police
Department
employees
Association**

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Honorable Members of the Alaska State Legislator:

The Anchorage Police Department Employee's Association (APDEA) represents approximately 500 front line police employees. The APDEA unconditionally supports both Senate Bill 38 and House Bill 84. Both of these bills provide for a one time line-of-duty death benefit for our state's public safety employees.

In 2010, officers killed nationwide in the line of duty increased 37% over 2009. In Alaska, from Anchorage to Hoonah, our law enforcement agencies and communities felt this increase in violence against officers. On average, a police officer is killed in the line of duty every 53 hours. Sadly, on January 24th, 2011 - the very same day I was visiting your offices in Juneau, there were eleven police officers shot nationwide, several of whom were killed outright. These facts are troubling and support the growing concern among law enforcement professionals that the trend will worsen as some elements of our society, containing the criminal and disenfranchised, will look for increasingly bold ways to lash out against order.

On the personal side, these deaths damage the officer's organization, their communities and their families. The average officer killed is 38 years old with 12 years of police experience. These officers are killed during hours of limited visibility, the majority in ambushes and usually they are alone. These deaths leave families devastated with varying degrees of benefits and support.

If approved, Senate Bill 38 and House Bill 84 would provide some stability for those public safety families left behind after a tragic event. These bills would provide some "breathing room" for families unprepared for this sudden loss. Particularly in Alaska, where some of our smaller and remote communities have not suffered through the loss of a public safety employee, this bill reminds all Alaskans that we are united.

I urge the Members of the Alaska State Senate and House of Representatives to approve this measure.

Sincerely,

Derek Hsieh
President
APDEA