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January 29, 2026

Dear Members of the Legislature,

On behalf of the Anchorage Police Department Employees Association (APDEA), I write to express our strong support for House Bill 210, an act relating to occupational disability benefits for peace officers and firefighters.

APDEA represents the sworn officers of the Anchorage Police Department who serve our community under demanding and often dangerous conditions. Our members accept the risks inherent in law enforcement service, understanding that if they suffer a career-ending injury in the line of duty, the State of Alaska will stand behind them and their families.

House Bill 210 makes a meaningful and necessary improvement to Alaska's occupational disability framework. By increasing disability benefits for peace officers and firefighters to 75 percent of gross monthly compensation after the first twelve months, this legislation better reflects the long-term financial realities faced by those who are permanently disabled due to service-connected injuries or illnesses. The bill recognizes that the impacts of such injuries do not end after the first year and that adequate ongoing support is essential.

HB 210 also provides important retirement security by ensuring full vesting in employer contributions at the time a member is appointed to disability and by requiring continued employer contributions while the employee receives disability benefits. These provisions offer stability to officers and firefighters whose careers are cut short through no fault of their own, while maintaining the integrity of the retirement system.

Peace officers and firefighters protect Alaska's communities at great personal risk. When injury or disability ends that service prematurely, it is both just and appropriate that the State provide a benefit structure that honors that sacrifice. Passage of HB 210 affirms Alaska's commitment to those who put themselves in harm's way to keep the public safe.

APDEA respectfully urges your support for House Bill 210 and thanks you for your continued consideration of the safety and well-being of Alaska's public safety professionals.

Sincerely,
Darrell Evans

Darrell Evans

Sgt. Darrell Evans | APDEA President

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