



January 24, 2015

Members of the Alaska State Legislature:

My name is Sergeant Gerard Asselin. I have been in law enforcement for more than 17 years. I am the President of the Anchorage Police Department Employees Association (APDEA) which represents about 475 rank and file employees of the Anchorage Police Department. I am writing in support of HB 43 which would establish "Alaska Law Enforcement Day."

The APDEA has among its members more than 325 Police Officers and Sergeants that work daily to protect and serve our community. We do this, not for recognition or fame but out of a sense of duty. Our officers endure many challenging and diverse situations. The work continues with the hope of making our communities better and stemming the tide of ill in society.

Each year, scores of officers die in the line of duty; 121 died in 2014 and already 9 have died to date in 2015. Yearly, more than 65,000 officers are assaulted with many of these assaults resulting in injury. Sadly, every year violent acts upon our Alaskan law enforcement officers add to these national numbers. These statistics represent some of the more tangible affects upon our officers. We should not forget about the less tangible affects related to repeated exposures to death, societal dysfunction and other traumatic events.

As we all know, right now there is a national discussion occurring regarding policing in America. A part of this discussion we must continue to acknowledge and respect the sacrifices that our officers make every day. HB 43 does just that, right here in Alaska on a statewide level. Having a day of recognition can provide an opportunity for Alaskans to recognize these men and women and say, "thank you."

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gerard Asselin". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Sgt. Gerard Asselin  
President  
APDEA