



Public Safety Employees Association, Inc.
"Representing Alaska's Finest"
A.F.S.C.M.E. Local 803



Chairman Bob Lynn
Alaska State Capital #108
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Chairman Lynn:

The Public Safety Employees Association (PSEA), AFSCME Local 803, thanks you for introducing HB 43, "An Act Establishing Alaska Law Enforcement Officers' Day. PSEA submits this letter in support of HB 43.

PSEA represents approximately 800 of Alaska's finest law enforcement employees. They include the Alaska State Troopers, Alaska Court Services Officers, Anchorage and Fairbanks Airport Police and Fire Officers, Alaska Deputy Fire Marshalls and municipal police employees in Ketchikan, Sitka, Juneau, Fairbanks, Soldotna, Dillingham and Unalaska, Alaska. PSEA members, and all other law enforcement employees in Alaska, protect and serve all residents of Alaska, everyday.

Last week, Governor Walker's office issued Transition Team Reports. As you know, transition team members included Alaskans from all regions of our state and from all walks of life. One transition team specifically addressed Public Safety in Alaska. That report contains an important policy statement:

As a state, and as an employer, we have a duty to the men and women we hire to serve and protect our citizens and to enforce our laws. If we, as a state, are asking these public servants to protect all of our citizens from danger, we owe them the full measure of our support -- they deserve to be well paid, well equipped, well trained and well led. They need to know that if they are injured, we will nurse them back to health, and that if they are killed we will comfort and assist their families.

PSEA believes HB 43 is an example of the policy statement above. By establishing an "Alaska Law Enforcement Day" the State of Alaska shows a "full measure of support" to the "men and women we hire to serve and protect our citizens and to enforce our laws." It also gives Alaska and its communities a time and day to reflect on the ultimate sacrifices made and a moment to honor those who dedicate themselves and their families to serve Alaskans.

PSEA Local 803 proudly requests that all members of the House State Affairs Committee support HB 43.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

In solidarity,

Jake Metcalfe
Executive Director
PSEA/AFSCME Local 803