



March 12, 2019

The Honorable Representative Josephson  
Alaska House of Representatives

Dear Representative Josephson:

On behalf of the Alaska Peace Officers Association (APOA), I am writing to convey our support of HB 84, "An Act relating to the presumption of compensability for a disability resulting from certain diseases for firefighters, emergency medical technicians, paramedics, and peace officers." Suggested alternative language regarding medical examinations is provided on page two of this document as many departments only offer biennial physical exams instead of annual exams.

Thank you for your efforts in addressing this issue. Please contact the APOA office in Anchorage at 277-0515 if there is anything our organization can do to help with the passage of this bill. Thank you for your commitment and dedication to the first responders in our state.

Sincerely,

Mark S. Pearson  
State President  
Alaska Peace Officers Association

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*About APOA*

*The Alaska Peace Officers Association (APOA) is a dynamic, professional and non-partisan organization. Our membership consists of law enforcement, corrections, prosecutors, security professionals and others at the local, state and federal levels. APOA has served as a voice for peace officers and issues impacting the law enforcement profession for over half a century. We are one of the oldest and largest 501c(3) charitable, nonprofit organizations in Alaska. [www.apoaonline.org](http://www.apoaonline.org)*



HB84

(3) the presumption established in (1) of this subsection applies only to  
14 an active or former firefighter, **emergency medical technician, paramedic, or peace**  
15 **officer** who has a disease described in (1) of this subsection that develops or manifests  
16 itself after the firefighter, **emergency medical technician, paramedic, or peace**  
17 **officer** has served in the state for at least seven years and who

18 (A) was given a qualifying medical examination upon  
19 becoming a firefighter, **emergency medical technician, paramedic, or peace**  
20 **officer** that did not show evidence of the disease;

21 (B) was given an annual *(or as often as their department/organization allowed)* medical  
22 **examination** [EXAM] during  
23 each of the first seven years of employment that did not show evidence of the  
24 disease; and

25 (C) with regard to diseases described in (1)(C) of this  
26 subsection, demonstrates that, while in the course of employment as a  
27 firefighter, **emergency medical technician, paramedic, or peace officer**, the  
28 firefighter, **emergency medical technician, paramedic, or peace officer** was  
29 exposed to a known carcinogen, as defined by the International Agency for  
30 Research on Cancer or the National Toxicology Program, and the carcinogen is  
31 associated with a disabling cancer;