

**ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE**  
**SENATE STATE AFFAIRS STANDING COMMITTEE**

March 9, 2017

3:30 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Senator Mike Dunleavy, Chair  
Senator David Wilson  
Senator Cathy Giessel  
Senator John Coghill  
Senator Dennis Egan

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

All members present

**COMMITTEE CALENDAR**

HOUSE BILL NO. 16

"An Act relating to training regarding disabilities for police officers, probation officers, parole officers, correctional officers, and village public safety officers; relating to guidelines for drivers when encountering or being stopped by a peace officer; relating to driver's license examinations; and relating to a voluntary disability designation on a state identification card and a driver's license."

- HEARD & HELD

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4

Relating to the Task Force on Unmanned Aircraft Systems.

- MOVED CSSCR 4(STA) OUT OF COMMITTEE

SENATE BILL NO. 48

"An Act creating a fund in the Department of Public Safety; providing for payment of certain medical insurance premiums for surviving dependents of certain police officers or firefighters who die in the line of duty; and providing for an effective date."

- MOVED CSSB 48(STA) OUT OF COMMITTEE

**PREVIOUS COMMITTEE ACTION**

BILL: HB 16

SHORT TITLE: DRIV. LICENSE REQ; DISABILITY: ID & TRAINING  
SPONSOR(S): REPRESENTATIVE(S) THOMPSON

01/18/17 (H) PREFILE RELEASED 1/9/17  
01/18/17 (H) READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS  
01/18/17 (H) STA, FIN  
01/24/17 (H) STA AT 3:00 PM GRUENBERG 120  
01/24/17 (H) Heard & Held  
01/24/17 (H) MINUTE(STA)  
01/26/17 (H) STA AT 3:00 PM GRUENBERG 120  
01/26/17 (H) Moved HB 16 Out of Committee  
01/26/17 (H) MINUTE(STA)  
01/27/17 (H) STA RPT 7DP  
01/27/17 (H) DP: JOHNSON, WOOL, LEDOUX, KNOPP,  
BIRCH, TUCK, KREISS-TOMKINS  
02/01/17 (H) FIN REFERRAL WAIVED  
02/08/17 (H) TRANSMITTED TO (S)  
02/08/17 (H) VERSION: HB 16  
02/10/17 (S) READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS  
02/10/17 (S) STA, FIN  
03/09/17 (S) STA AT 3:30 PM BUTROVICH 205

BILL: SCR 4

SHORT TITLE: TASK FORCE ON UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS  
SPONSOR(S): SENATOR(S) HUGHES

02/22/17 (S) READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS  
02/22/17 (S) STA  
03/09/17 (S) STA AT 3:30 PM BUTROVICH 205

BILL: SB 48

SHORT TITLE: INS. FOR DEPENDS. OF DECEASED FIRE/POLICE  
SPONSOR(S): SENATOR(S) COGHILL

02/03/17 (S) READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS  
02/03/17 (S) STA, FIN  
02/14/17 (S) STA AT 3:30 PM BUTROVICH 205  
02/14/17 (S) Heard & Held  
02/14/17 (S) MINUTE(STA)  
03/02/17 (S) STA AT 3:30 PM BUTROVICH 205  
03/02/17 (S) Heard & Held  
03/02/17 (S) MINUTE(STA)  
03/09/17 (S) STA AT 3:30 PM BUTROVICH 205

**WITNESS REGISTER**

REPRESENTATIVE STEVE THOMPSON  
Alaska State Legislature  
Juneau, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Sponsor of HB 16.

ART DELAUNE, representative  
Wall-Busters Advocacy Group  
Fairbanks, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Testified in support of HB 16.

JUANITA WEBB, advocate  
Wall-Busters Advocacy Group  
Fox, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Testified in support of HB 16.

CATHY GERBY, representing self  
Fairbanks, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Testified in support of HB 16.

DERRALL MCBIRNEY, advocate  
Wall-Busters Advocacy Group  
Fairbanks, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Testified in support of HB 16.

RICHARD WEBB, advocate  
Wall-Busters Advocacy Group  
Fairbanks, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Testified in support of HB 16.

SENATOR SHELLEY HUGHES  
Alaska State Legislature  
Juneau, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Sponsor of SCR 4.

STEVE COLLIGAN, member  
Unmanned Aircraft Systems Task Force  
Wasilla, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Addressed questions regarding SCR 4.

BUDDY WHITT, Staff  
Senator Hughes  
Alaska State Legislature  
Juneau, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Addressed Amendment 1 for SCR 4.

CHRISTA MCDONALD, Staff

BRANDY JOHNSON, representing self and others  
Fairbanks, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Testified in support of SB 48.

**ACTION NARRATIVE**

[3:30:34 PM](#)

**CHAIR MIKE DUNLEAVY** called the Senate State Affairs Standing Committee meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. Present at the call to order were Senators Wilson, Giessel, Coghill, Egan, and Chair Dunleavy.

**HB 16-DRIV. LICENSE REQ; DISABILITY: ID & TRAINING**

[3:31:17 PM](#)

CHAIR DUNLEAVY announced the consideration of House Bill 16.

[3:31:28 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE STEVE THOMPSON, Alaska State Legislature, Juneau, Alaska, provided his sponsor's statement of HB 16 as follows:

House Bill 16 came about several years ago when we had the disabled community in Fairbanks come to us and said that they had some concerns of some not good outcomes of relations and interfacing with public safety officials and misunderstandings because of hidden disabilities, non-apparent disabilities; we had some bad outcomes around the State of Alaska because from things like this.

The purpose of the bill is to improve communications between law enforcement and public-safety officials and people with these non-apparent and hidden disabilities.

The bill has three major components. First is the training for Alaska peace officers, corrections officers and other officers who interact directly with the public. The second part is the [Division] of Motor Vehicles' (DMV) handbook to include a section about drivers' responsibilities when interacting with officers in a traffic stop; this will increase safety for officers and the public. The third part is the statewide, voluntary identification system placed on Alaska IDs or drivers' licenses to indicate a hidden

disability, and this would be a purely voluntary if somebody didn't want that insignia on their drivers' license they would not have to have it.

We've spent about four years on this bill so far and the state troopers are now including in their training at the state trooper academy training for people to recognize people with disabilities and how they should be handled. The other part was the motor vehicle driver's license handbook. There was about a dozen of us sitting around the table discussing all of these problems, the disabled community was represented with non-disabled people that were sitting there and we talked about how a person with a non-apparent disability would be stopped by a police officer and they don't know what to do when they get rather nervous and it will exasperate maybe their problem.

So, what do we do? How do we train those people so they know what to do and how to react? Well, 12 people around the table that didn't have disabilities said, "Well, what are you supposed to do?" and all 12-people said, "I haven't got a clue." So, we talked about this, we talked to the [Division] of Motor Vehicles and they said, "There are multiple states that have a section in their drivers' manuals that tells you what your responsibility or what you are supposed to do if you are stopped by a police officer or you have an interaction with the public-safety people; it just made sense and they said they have no problem or no cost to put that into the driver's manual, so that was another part. Then there was an international symbol that would go on the driver's license if somebody wants to have it on there; again, this is purely voluntary.

[3:34:57 PM](#)

SENATOR WILSON noted that he has concerns with the voluntary elements of the bill. He asked if he has addressed the vulnerable population of disabled that may be coerced into doing the identification program by conservators or medical providers.

REPRESENTATIVE THOMPSON emphasized that the program is totally voluntary and explained the process as follows:

If somebody is advised by the disabled community that the Governor's Commission on Disabilities puts the

word out to these people, they would have to go to their medical provider and get a letter stating what their disability is, they would have to take it to the [Division] of Motor Vehicles and say, "I do have this problem and I would like to have this on my license." I didn't think there would be any coercion as far as forcing them to. If somebody was in a conservatorship, I don't know if they would be eligible to have a driver's license; but, this is also to have it on any state ID in case they didn't have a driver's license or even any kind of identification that might come from a village corporation or something if that is their only form of identification that they would have the ability with proof that they have a problem, it would be available to them to put on their identification.

[3:37:09 PM](#)

SENATOR COGHILL asked that the protocol be explained in establishing information being placed into a driver's manual by DMV as well as training development for the state troopers and police academies in Alaska.

REPRESENTATIVE THOMPSON replied that the training has online accessibility for what to do when encountering an insignia on an individual's identification. He said the training protocol is set up, but distribution is not statewide. He noted that most larger police departments do go through the state trooper training or the academy to receive certification.

SENATOR COGHILL pointed out that there are two sides during a traffic stop: the right as a citizen to assert their right and the right of public safety to stop and deal with somebody. He noted that Representative Thompson also addressed establishing something that would go into a driver's test and manual. He asked if DMV has provided input.

[3:39:45 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE THOMPSON answered that his office has spoken with DMV several times. He noted that other states have gone through the same process regarding what to put into their drivers' manuals and their explanations have been simplified. He asserted that the addition information in the drivers' manuals is for the safety of the police officer as well as the safety for the person.

He noted that one example of what a driver should not do when pulled over for a traffic stop is to, "start digging in your glovebox," because an officer might think the driver is getting a gun. He addressed additional traffic-stop suggestions for drivers as follows:

- Acknowledge the officer's presence by turning on your right-turn signal or your left;
- Move vehicle to the right shoulder of the road;
- End cellphone conversation;
- Turnoff radio;
- Remain inside vehicle unless otherwise directed by the officer;
- Place your hands in clear view including all passengers' hands such as on the steering wheel or on top of your lap.

He said the previously noted examples were put into some state's drivers' manuals such as: Montana, Texas, Pennsylvania and several others. He said knowing what to do during a traffic stop is a good thing because a lot of people get an anxiety attack when they see a light flashing in their rearview mirror.

SENATOR GIESSEL recalled that an exemplary incident occurred in Fairbanks a few years back that illustrated the importance of the legislation. She asked Representative Thompson if he recalled the incident that she referenced.

[3:41:54 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE THOMPSON replied that he has heard of several incidences, but was not sure if the incident Senator Giessel referenced was the one that he recalls. He explained that there was an incident in Fairbanks where an individual was thought to have been inebriated but was not. He noted that an incident occurred in Kodiak last year where a police officer used a taser due to a misunderstanding with an individual with a handicap. He stated that the incidents he described are events that the legislation is trying to prevent from happening.

SENATOR GIESSEL addressed an argument for possibly placing the hidden-disability designation on a vehicle's license plate.

[3:43:20 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE THOMPSON explained that the identification on the driver's license plate is for somebody that has a mobility disability that gives them permission to park in a handicap spot. He said he did not think that a hidden disability would

qualify for somebody getting a handicap-license plate. He opined that a lot of people with an undetectable handicap would probably not want a designation on their license plate because they do not think they are handicapped.

SENATOR GIESSEL noted that she was a sponsor of the Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act and pointed out that there are many able-bodied individuals who have other types of disabilities that do not regard themselves as physically impaired for mobility purposes.

She noted that Representative Thompson commented that the bill has gone through the Legislature. She asked what level of support did the bill have the previous year and what was the impediment to the bill passing.

REPRESENTATIVE THOMPSON detailed that the previous bill passed the House 40-0. He added that the bill passed through two committees in the Senate, but never got to the Senate floor.

SENATOR EGAN disclosed that he has a disability that qualifies him for a handicap-parking sticker, but does not want the identification on his license plate.

REPRESENTATIVE THOMPSON pointed out that Senator Egan's comment was exactly what was brought up by several people that have handicaps where they did not want their handicap pointed out; however, he noted that some people wanted a license plate identification to avoid a bad interaction with public safety.

[3:46:09 PM](#)

SENATOR WILSON stated that he was surprised by the list for hidden disabilities. He noted that the long list included allergies, chronic pain, and diabetes. He said he was worried about someone abusing the list for hidden disabilities. He added that he was also concerned about people being discriminated against due to their hidden-disability identification. He summarized that he was for the curriculum requirements, but was concerned about getting into labeling sub-populations.

[3:48:38 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE THOMPSON replied that he was shocked at the list received from the disabled community and admitted that some should not qualify for having the identification on their driver's license. He admitted that he is not a medical doctor or a person that could determine which should qualify. He said he

did not know if a doctor or the DMV would be able to address the qualification list.

SENATOR GIESSEL reiterated that the indicator on the driver's license is voluntary.

REPRESENTATIVE THOMPSON answered correct.

SENATOR GIESSEL asked if an individual with seasonal allergies would have the option not to have the indicator on their driver's license.

REPRESENTATIVE THOMPSON answered correct.

CHAIR DUNLEAVY announced that the committee will hear invited testimony on HB 16.

[3:50:18 PM](#)

ART DELAUNE, representative, Wall-Busters Advocacy Group, Fairbanks, Alaska, testified in support of HB 16. He disclosed that he is also a member of the Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education.

[3:51:01 PM](#)

JUANITA WEBB, advocate, Wall-Busters Advocacy Group, Fox, Alaska, testified in support of HB 16. She thanked Representative Thompson for sponsoring HB 16 and "going on the journey with Wall-Busters." She said she submitted a personal letter of support to the committee that explained how the bill could have potentially made a difference to her. She asserted that HB 16 has always been about safety and standardized education at the academy level to provide a more complete understanding of disabilities. She summarized that having a discreet, voluntary icon on a driver's license or ID will alert officers to potential further-communication needs for a better outcome.

[3:53:08 PM](#)

CATHY GERBY, representing herself, Fairbanks, Alaska, testified in support of HB 16. She disclosed that she is a licensed social worker with 29 years of experience working with clients who have experienced a vast array of hidden disabilities. She shared experiences with the committee regarding individuals with hidden disabilities as well as with first responders. She set forth that HB 16 is about empowering people with hidden disabilities to be supported in identifying themselves under times of duress to first responders. She noted that HB 16 has no fiscal note and

the state trooper training academy has already amended their training program to incorporate a more robust training regarding disabilities.

[3:57:39 PM](#)

DERRALL MCBIRNEY, advocate, Wall-Busters Advocacy Group, Fairbanks, Alaska, testified in support of HB 16. He suggested that law enforcement have access to a database that identifies an individual with a hidden disability prior to the initial personal encounter during a traffic stop.

[3:59:26 PM](#)

RICHARD WEBB, advocate, Wall-Busters Advocacy Group, Fairbanks, Alaska, testified in support of HB 16. He said training will allow law enforcement to understand that some people do not communicate or comprehend in the majority way.

[4:01:18 PM](#)

CHAIR DUNLEAVY opened public testimony on HB 16.

[4:01:34 PM](#)

CHAIR DUNLEAVY closed public testimony on HB 16.

[4:01:44 PM](#)

CHAIR DUNLEAVY held HB 16 in committee.

[4:01:50 PM](#)

At ease.

#### **SCR 4-TASK FORCE ON UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS**

[4:02:37 PM](#)

CHAIR DUNLEAVY called the committee back to order and announced the consideration of Senate Concurrent Resolution (SCR) 4.

[4:02:59 PM](#)

SENATOR SHELLEY HUGHES, Alaska State Legislature, Juneau, Alaska, sponsor of SCR 4, disclosed that her constituents have voiced concern about privacy and asked for legislation to ban unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs). She noted that during her research on UAVs, she has come to realize that UAVs could be useful tools if the operator had good intentions.

She divulged that she has been the co-chair for the Unmanned Aircraft Systems Task Force since 2013. She opined that the task force has done a lot of good work with a team of volunteers that are not compensate for their work and pay for their own

expenses. She asserted that the task force has helped educate the public about UAV safety and privacy guidelines while promoting the aviation industry to the many cost savings and life savings uses for UAVs.

She conceded that the issue of privacy is a subject that the task force continues to struggle with. She said the task force is notified of privacy instances and has had discussions with law enforcement about the issue. She noted that the task force has come up with different ideas but has run up against the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) rules. She revealed that the FAA controls, "The air right above the blade of grass in your backyard."

She said the task force continues to look at the issue of privacy and has ideas to explore, but the task force is going to term-out June 30. She set forth that the task force has determined a need to stay in existence until the state gets through the UAV transition time due to its evolving technology. She summarized that SCR 4 re-ups the task force's term.

4:06:58 PM

CHAIR DUNLEAVY noted that Senator Hughes said, "The space above your yard or your grass doesn't belong to us, it belongs to them." He asked what would happen if a drone flying just above the ground is taken down on the land that you own.

SENATOR HUGHES clarified that the FAA has jurisdiction over your land. She revealed that the most frequent question asked by her constituents is whether a federal violation would occur if a homeowner shoots down a drone that flies over their house. She confirmed that shooting down a drone would be a violation of federal law. She said knowing the FAA's rules regarding drones is a reason why education is important.

4:08:51 PM

CHAIR DUNLEAVY asked what the rules are if a drone is being thoroughly disruptive.

SENATOR HUGHES noted that other testifiers will provide input. She suggested that a person waive the drone away because the craft has cameras that can see when a person does not want them there.

SENATOR GIESSEL noted that UAVs were used to count sea lions in the Aleutians. She disclosed that sealions are very sensitive animals to any kind of disruption. She asked how successful the

animal counts have been with UAVs for sealions and other creatures.

SENATOR HUGHES disclosed that the University of Alaska-Fairbanks was involved in the sealion count and they were getting more accurate counts because the UAVs work better than manned aircraft.

CHAIR DUNLEAVY noted that SCR 4 has a zero-fiscal note.

CHAIR DUNLEAVY opened public testimony on SCR 4. He addressed Senator Hughes' statement that the FAA controls the space above a landowner's property and asked what the harassment laws are for a UAV.

[4:11:45 PM](#)

STEVE COLLIGAN, member, Unmanned Aircraft Systems Task Force, Wasilla, Alaska, explained that the FAA controls the airspace, nationwide. He pointed out that a UAV is classified by the FAA as an aircraft just like a full-sized aircraft. He explained that harassment or perceived level of privacy does not depend on whether an aircraft or even a smartphone is used, it is the act itself and not the device that is used. He concurred with Senator Hughes that the FAA has determined UAVs to be aircraft and shooting them down has repercussions. He noted that Anchorage is considering a UAV ordinance to limit at 50 feet above somebody's property, but the ordinance would conflict with some of the FAA's airspace rules.

He opined that the reality is public safety and people need some devices to be able to protect the public if somebody is behaving poorly; again, that does not matter whether the device is a drone or some other device. He pointed out that there are Peeping Tom laws on the books that cover voyeurism. He opined that what has been great about the task force has been the review of privacy and public safety. He said the task force has worked with the state attorney general to review the state's existing laws. He disclosed that the task force has addressed the idea of a law that defines loitering over somebody's property that allows public safety to address with a UAV operator whether the individual is misbehaving.

[4:15:24 PM](#)

CHAIR DUNLEAVY noted that manned aircraft have visible numbers for identification and asked Mr. Colligan to address UAV identification that allows people to report illegal activity or form of harassment.

MR. COLLIGAN answered that UAVs over 250 grams must have a visible registration number, but conceded that the aircraft's size may be an issue. He noted that electronic means exist where identification numbers may be broadcast by the UAV.

[4:17:28 PM](#)

CHAIR DUNLEAVY closed public testimony on SCR 4.

[4:17:41 PM](#)

CHAIR DUNLEAVY moved Amendment 1 for SCR 4:

30-LS0360\A.1  
Mischel  
3/9/17

**AMENDMENT 1**

OFFERED IN THE SENATE  
TO: SCR 4

BY SENATOR DUNLEAVY

Page 3, line 29:

Delete "public and industry"

[4:17:45 PM](#)

SENATOR GIESSEL objected for purposes of discussion.

[4:17:55 PM](#)

BUDDY WHITT, Staff, Senator Shelley Hughes, Alaska State Legislature, Juneau, Alaska, addressed Amendment 1 for SCR 4 and specified that on page 3, lines 29-31, "public and industry" would be deleted to make all members of the task force exempt from compensation or per diem. He noted that the amendment results in a fiscal note that would otherwise be indeterminate.

[4:19:01 PM](#)

SENATOR GIESSEL removed her objection.

[4:19:04 PM](#)

CHAIR DUNLEAVY announced that seeing no other objection, Amendment 1 was adopted.

[4:19:22 PM](#)

SENATOR GIESSEL moved to report SCR 4, 30-LS0360\A [as amended], from committee with individual recommendations and attached fiscal note(s).

[4:19:29 PM](#)

CHAIR DUNLEAVY announced that seeing no objection, CSSCR 4(STA) moved from the Senate State Affairs Standing Committee.

[4:19:42 PM](#)

At ease.

**SB 48-INS. FOR DEPENDS. OF DECEASED FIRE/POLICE**

[4:21:17 PM](#)

CHAIR DUNLEAVY called the committee back to order and announced the consideration of Senate Bill (SB) 48.

[4:21:36 PM](#)

SENATOR GIESSEL moved to adopt the work draft committee substitute (CS) for SB 48, version 30-LS0108\U as the working document.

CHAIR DUNLEAVY objected for discussion purposes.

[4:21:52 PM](#)

CHRISTA MCDONALD, Staff, Senator Mike Dunleavy, Alaska State Legislature, Juneau, Alaska, explained that the CS makes two changes:

1. Page 2, lines 25-29, new language was added to AS 39.60.040(a) that requires an application be submitted to the commissioner, but presumes the eligibility of the surviving dependent; this was language that was requested by the Department of Law just to make sure the application process is smooth while allowing the application to be on file.
2. Page 6, lines 16-17, reworded for clarification to read, "'Surviving spouse' means a person who was married to an employee at the time of the employee's death;" this doesn't change the meaning, just cleaned up the wording.

[4:22:49 PM](#)

CHAIR DUNLEAVY removed his objection and announced that the CS was adopted.

[4:23:11 PM](#)

CHAIR DUNLEAVY opened public testimony on SB 48.

4:23:24 PM

BRANDY JOHNSON, representing self and others, Fairbanks, Alaska, testified in support of SB 48 as follows:

I am testifying in support of Senate Bill 48 on behalf of myself, my three daughters, my deceased husband, Scott Johnson, surviving families of past and future line-of-duty deaths for state troopers as well as law enforcement officers in the State of Alaska. On May 1, 2014 my husband Scott Johnson and Gabe Rich were murdered while in performance of their job as Alaska State Trooper in Tanana, Alaska.

The recent committee substitute to Senate Bill 48 currently limits the health coverage to surviving spouses to 10 years on page 3, line 20. I was wondering if the 10-year limit on spousal coverage was retroactive to the death of the employee or if the 10-year limit begins when the legislation would take effect? I would also like information on what the reasoning is behind the limit. Why is the limit 10 years and not 5 or even 15, etc.? Is the language coming from similar language from what another state may be doing?

Usually when a family purchases health-care coverage or the coverage is part of an employee benefit, it is a family package, the parents' coverage usually covers the children. Me being the sole-surviving parent, it is my responsibility to take care of my family. The limiting language does not make sense to me. I am hearing it is more important to take care of the children rather than the family unit.

When a law-enforcement officer is killed in the line of duty, the surviving families are at all different stages in life, some families are very young while others are older. Also, if the 10-year language remains, I would like to know what the additional cost would be to cover the remaining surviving parent after 10-year limit expires.

Currently there are two surviving spouses of Alaska State Trooper employees who have been killed in the line of duty and one surviving spouse of a municipal

employee that was killed in the line of duty. I would think the State of Alaska would want to take care of the sole-surviving parent so that that parent can take care of their family.

Thank you for the special invitation today to testify on behalf of this committee substitute and address my concerns.

[4:26:01 PM](#)

CHAIR DUNLEAVY closed public testimony on SB 48.

SENATOR COGHILL, sponsor of SB 48, commented that Mrs. Johnson brings up a good point regarding the 10-year limitation. He agreed that the 10-year period was arbitrary, but noted that the administration and the Department of Law came up with the time. He said there is no common way in dealing with the time when looking at other states, but 10 years was a number that came up most often. He conceded that the benefit is not life-long, but opined that the 10 years is generous. He pointed out that an effort was made to ensure the children receive the benefit up to age 26 unless there was some other benefit available to them. He said he did not have any better answer, but was open to a discussion.

[4:28:20 PM](#)

SENATOR GIESSEL thanked Mrs. Johnson for supporting the bill and for her significant sacrifice to the State of Alaska. She asked Senator Coghill if the benefit to the surviving children up to age 26 is in line with the standard health insurance that legislators receive for their children.

SENATOR COGHILL answered the insurance benefit falls within the reasonable limit of what the Legislature is doing. He reiterated that the proposed policy does have a contingency where the benefit is available until age 26 unless a comparable insurance policy becomes available, a reason why a reporting mechanism is included in the legislation.

[4:29:51 PM](#)

SENATOR GIESSEL moved to report the CS for SB 48, version 30-LS0108\U, from committee with individual recommendations and attached fiscal note(s).

[4:30:02 PM](#)

CHAIR DUNLEAVY announced that seeing no objection, CSSB 48(STA) moved from the Senate State Affairs Standing Committee.

4:30:15 PM

At ease.

4:31:18 PM

CHAIR DUNLEAVY called the committee back to order.

4:31:56 PM

There being no further business to come before the committee, Chair Dunleavy adjourned the Senate State Affairs Standing Committee at 4:31 p.m.