

HB

334

Southern Region
EMERGENCY
Medical Services Council, Inc.

FAX COVER SHEET

TO: Senator Lyda Green FROM: Ronni Dullwani
Name Name

State Senate
Company

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DATE: 02-18-98

Number of pages: 3
to follow cover sheet

NOTES: Urgent information about a bill
to be seen in committee today.

Southern Region
EMERGENCY
Medical Services Council, Inc.

February 18, 1998

Senator Lyda Green
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol (MS3100)
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Senator Green:

CS for House Bill 334 ("An act relating to waiver of tuition and fees for certain family members of a peace officer or a fire fighter killed in the line of duty.") is scheduled to come before your State Affairs Committee very soon, perhaps as early as tomorrow. While this looks to be a very good bill, and one deserving of strong support, it lacks a very important piece. As important members of the public safety team, we believe EMS providers should also be included. It is my understanding that the sponsor is not opposed to doing so, but since the bill relates to two different statutes it would require a rewrite at the committee level to make it happen in this session. I believe yours is its last committee referral. Will you make this important rewrite in your committee?

I will send along a compelling letter from Craig Lewis, my counterpart in Interior Region in Fairbanks that speaks clearly to all the reasons why. Since you have always been a strong supporter of EMS and understand the important, and sometimes dangerous job EMS is doing in communities all across Alaska, I have no doubt you will see the logic in making this change.

I will follow up with you or a member of your staff tomorrow, but if you have questions before then you can call me at 907-562-6449. I hope the session is going well for you this year. My first visit to Juneau will be in mid March, and I'll be sure to come by and see you. Thank you for your unwavering support the people providing emergency medical services in Alaska.

Sincerely,



Ronni Sullivan
Executive Director



INTERIOR REGION EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES COUNCIL, INC.

3022 INDUSTRIAL AVE. • FAIRBANKS, ALASKA 99701
PHONE (907) 466-3978 • FAX (907) 466-3970



MEMORANDUM

To: Sharon Clark
From: Craig Lewis
Subject: CS for House Bill 334 (FIN)
Date: February 17, 1998

Pursuant to our telephone conversation, it is now my understanding that EMS amendments may not fit under the referenced Title. For the reasons stated below, I strongly urge that a bill affording similar benefits to the families of EMS providers be introduced through committee.

For purposes of definition, I would offer the following:

"EMS Service" means a federal, state, or municipal EMS service or regularly organized volunteer EMS service certified by the Department of Health and Social Services in accordance with 7 AAC 26.330 and/or 7 AAC 26.230 (a) & (b).

Justification:

The provision of emergency medical services potentially places every EMS responder in harms way on every call. As such, it seems only right that they be included equivalently with the other components of public safety.

Although they may not always face a bullet or falling ceiling, they actually do face those eventualities from time to time, particularly in rural Alaska where frequently there are NO (emphasis added) law enforcement or others to mitigate the scene. EMS persons:

- Routinely are called to intervene in highly volatile and dangerous situations. Included are domestic disputes, assaults, fires, hostage situations, hazardous materials spills associated with industrial and motor vehicle accidents and etc. Each of these life threatening depending on who answers when they knock on the door.

- Routinely are involved in complex extrications, from motor vehicles, down the sides of cliffs, from ragging rivers and so forth.
- Routinely provide back up for law enforcement personnel, fire fighters and others again placing them in harms way.
- Routinely do the same type of activities as any member of the public safety team including, interventions to provide medical and or psychological care, scene control along highways, mitigation and response in small communities/villages where an entire community may be involved, complex extrications involving varieties of dangerous apparatus to remove injured individuals from motor vehicles, cliff edges, rivers, mountains and so forth.

To me, the bottom line centers on the fact that public safety has three responding components. Police, Fire and EMS. Each place the providers in harms way in different settings. Each have individuals killed in the line of duty, in spite of aggressive programs to preclude it. To omit EMS is to miss one third of the public safety team and sends the wrong signal to those who also risk their lives to save others.

Please do not hesitate to call me if you have any questions.



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MEMORANDUM

To: Senator Lyda Green
ATTN: Rence Howell

From: Craig Lewis

Subject: CS for House Bill 334 (FIN)

Date: February 17, 1998

Please consider the following with regard to CS 334.

I fully support the concept proposed in the Bill. I also support those identified as appropriate to receive the proposed benefits. I am distressed at the fact that Emergency Medical Services providers have been excluded. Although I would have preferred to recommend an amendment to the legislation, and talked personally with Representative Kelly concerning this, it is now my understanding that EMS amendments may not fit under the referenced Title.

Should this be the case, I strongly encourage the Committee to sponsor a bill affording similar benefits to the families of EMS providers using the proper Title.

Using the same format but a different Title, I offer the following:

Definition: **"EMS Service" means a federal, state, or municipal EMS service or regularly organized volunteer EMS service certified by the Department of Health and Social Services in accordance with 7 AAC 26.330 and/or 7 AAC 26.230 (a) & (b).**

Justification:

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Although they may not always face a bullet or falling ceiling, they actually do face those eventualities from time to time, particularly in rural Alaska where frequently there are NO (emphasis added) law enforcement or others to immediately mitigate the scene.

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To me, the bottom line centers on the fact that public safety has three responding components. Police, Fire and EMS. Each place the providers in harms way in different settings. Each have individuals killed in the line of duty, in spite of aggressive programs to preclude it. To omit EMS is to miss one third of the public safety team and sends the wrong signal to those who also risk their lives to save others.

Please do not hesitate to call me if you have any questions.

Alaska State Legislature

REPRESENTATIVE
PETER KELLY

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House District 31

House Of Representatives

News Release

January 26, 1998

Legislation by Representative Pete Kelly

HB 334

An Act Waiving State Tuition for Sons or Daughters of a Police Officer Slain in the Line of Duty.

Representative Kelly described the bill as follows: "With this bill we are adding to the fairly short list of youth for whom we will waive tuition at our State University. The University plays an important role in all of our lives, it should be available for a youth whose parent made the ultimate sacrifice protecting our freedoms."

"This is small compensation to the families of those who have given so much. Nothing can replace a husband, a wife, a father or a mother. I hope this bill shows the families of those who stand in harms way, how much we appreciate their sacrifice," said Representative Kelly.

Representative Pete Kelly's House Bill 334, waiving tuition for sons, daughters and spouses of police officers slain in the line of duty, is scheduled for a hearing before House Finance Committee, Tuesday January 27th, 1998 at 1:30 PM. Fairbanks residents may testify via teleconference at the LIO, 119 N Cushman St., a little after 1:30 PM.

Testimony is expected from University officials, police officers, and firemen. The University is expected to give their estimate of the cost of this provision, and to request clarification regarding the duration of the tuition waiver. Firemen are expected to testify regarding the 6 firemen and women lost in the line of duty since Territorial days.

Possible amendments include:

- 1) An applicability section, providing that the bill covers any officer, not just those lost after the effective date of the legislation.
- 2) An amendment adding firemen.
- 3) A clarification that "remains a student in good standing" applies through an undergraduate degree, not, for example, through to a PhD.

Alaska State Legislature

REPRESENTATIVE
PETER KELLY

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House District 31

House Of Representatives

January 26, 1998

Committee discussion points

HB 334, Tuition waiver for spouses, sons or daughters of a city or state police officer killed in the line of duty.

I am sure the committee is aware that, in Fairbanks, we have suffered the loss of one of our police officers. Officer Lamb gave his life, shielding others who were in the line of fire.

In a larger way Officer Lamb gave his life shielding all of us. His sacrifice gives all of us a glimpse across the thin line of blue that protects our civilization from the violent among us.

The loss of officer Lamb gave me reason to research the considerations for his son and widow. I was surprised to learn that Alaska's police officers were not included in the list in AS 14.34.085. Currently we waive tuition for the spouses, sons and daughters of National Guardsmen and active military killed in the line of duty.

HB 334 adds police officers to this list.

In your packet I have placed a page describing the Alaska Law Enforcement Officers Memorial. The memorial lists 29 officers killed in the line of duty. The names of Trooper Bruce Heck and Fairbanks Police officer Kevin Lamm bring this total to 31.

Alaska Law Enforcement Officers Memorial



- Dennis Finbar Cronin
Alaska State Troopers, February 18, 1974
- Earl Ray Hoggard
Ketchikan Police Department, March 30, 1974
- Larry Robert Carr
Alaska State Troopers, December 11, 1974
- Frank Stuart Rodman
Alaska State Troopers, December 11, 1974
- Jonathon Paul Flora
Anchorage Police Department, September 8, 1975
- Richard James Adair
Juneau Police Department, April 17, 1979
- Jimmy Earl Kennedy
Juneau Police Department, April 17, 1979
- Harry Edward Kier
Anchorage Police Department, October 25, 1980
- Roland Edgar Chevalier, Jr.
Alaska State Troopers, April 4, 1982
- John David Sumson
Fish & Wildlife Protector, January 14, 1983
- Gordon Brewster Bartel
Kodiak Police Department, January 15, 1983
- Troy Lynn Duncan
Alaska State Troopers, May 18, 1984
- David Cameron Harris
56th MP Co. Ft. Richardson, July 23, 1984
- Ignatious John Charlio
Alakanuk Police Department, May 10, 1985
- Harry Biddington Hanson, Jr.
Anchorage Police Department, July 17, 1986
- Ronald Eugene Zimlin
VPSO S. Naknek, October 22, 1986
- Louie Gordon Mizelle
Anchorage Police Department, June 6, 1989
- Anthony Crawford Jones
Dillingham Police Department, February 12, 1992
- Karl William Reishue
Juneau Police Department, May 4, 1992
- C.E. "Swack" Swackhammer
Department of Public Safety, October 11, 1994
- Robert Lee Bittick
Alaska State Troopers, October 11, 1994
- Dan Richard Seely
Anchorage Police Department, October 26, 1996

- Doris Wayne Barber
Sitka Police Department, July 28, 1960
- Leroy Garvin Bohuslov
Department of Fish & Game, March 5, 1964
- Gary George Wohlfel
Department of Fish and Game, March 5, 1964
- Donald Thomas Dull
Juneau Police Department, October 19, 1964
- Kenneth Grant Nauska
Craig Police Department, January 30, 1966
- Benjamin Franklin Chung
Anchorage Police Department, January 4, 1966
- Thomas Charles Dillon
Bethel Police Department, November 19, 1972

The Journal of the Alaska Peace Officers Association is dedicated to all the Peace Officers in Alaska who have been killed in the line of duty since Statehood.

The names of these fallen officers are engraved on bronze plates on the pedestal of the statue of the Peace Officer, located in front of the Statewide Scientific Crime Detection Laboratory, 5500 Tudor Road, Anchorage. These names, and the statue commemorating their dedication to duty along with flowers, usually sent anonymously, may be viewed at any time.

The memory of their supreme sacrifice lives forever in the tradition of peace officers throughout Alaska.

2 Trpr. Bruce Heck
FPO John Kevin Lamn

ALASKA STATE FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION



The Honorable Pete Kelly,
Alaska State House of Representatives

Representative Kelly, I write to you on behalf of the Alaska State Firefighters Association. In regards to your recently sponsored HB 334 "An Act relating to waiver of tuition and fees for certain family members of a police officer killed in the line of duty", we are in full support. However, we respectfully ask that the Bill be amended to include Firefighters and Rescuers killed in the line of duty.

The definition of Firefighters and Rescuers should include: "Who are members of a fire department recognized by the State Fire Marshals Office [13 AAC 52.030] , and who are included in a list of members pursuant to 13 AAC 52.040 .

Thank you for considering our request, if there are any questions regarding this or any other fire related items, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Patrick Eggers



Patrick Eggers

President,
Alaska State Firefighters Association
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