

S B

3 3 8

Alaska State Legislature

Senator Lyda Green, Chairman
Senator Jerry Ward, Vice Chairman
Senator Jerry Mackie
Senator Mike Miller
Senator Jim Duncan



State Capitol
Room 125
Juneau, Alaska 99801
(907) 465-4522

Senate State Affairs

SPONSOR STATEMENT

Senate Bill 338

Tuition Waiver for EMT Widow/Child

Currently, the State of Alaska grants tuition waivers to the University of Alaska for the families of members of the armed services killed in the line of duty. Senate Bill 338 provides this tribute to families of emergency medical service providers that are killed in the line of duty. It establishes a tuition waiver for the spouse and child to obtain an undergraduate degree from a state-supported Alaskan educational institution.

Often emergency medical service providers are placed in dangerous and life-threatening situations, while providing life-saving medical care. Some of the situations emergency medical service providers are involved in are: domestic disputes, assaults, fires, hostage situations, hazardous materials spills and extrications from motor vehicles, from rivers and from the sides of cliffs. Ten emergency medical service providers have been killed in the State of Alaska since 1985.

Extending a tuition waiver to their families is a tribute to their life and service to the citizens of the State of Alaska.

LEGAL SERVICES

DIVISION OF LEGAL AND RESEARCH SERVICES
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AGENCY
STATE OF ALASKA

(907) 465-3867 or 465-2450
FAX (907) 465-2029
Mail Stop 3101

130 Seward Street, Suite 409
Juneau, Alaska 99801-2105

MEMORANDUM

March 11, 1998

SUBJECT: Sectional Summary of SB 338.

TO: Senator Lyda Green
Attn: Renee

FROM: Michael F. Ford *M.F.F.*
Legislative Counsel

You have requested a sectional summary of the above-described bill.

As a preliminary matter, note that a sectional summary of a bill should not be considered an authoritative interpretation of the bill and the bill itself is the best statement of its contents. If you would like an interpretation of the bill as it may apply to a particular set of circumstances, please advise.

Section 1. Provides that a spouse or dependent child of a member of an emergency medical service who dies while performing duties as a member of an emergency medical service, is entitled to receive a waiver of undergraduate tuition and fees at a state university or college. Adds definitions of "emergency medical service" and "spouse".

Section 2. Applicability section providing that the death of the person who triggers eligibility for tuition waiver, may occur at any time and that a person cannot get a refund of tuition already paid. Also a person enrolled as a graduate student when this Act takes effect is excluded from this Act.

Section 3. Effective date.

MFF:pl:glc
98-053plm



INTERIOR REGION EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES COUNCIL, INC.

3522 INDUSTRIAL AVE. • FAIRBANKS, ALASKA 99701
PHONE (907) 456-3978 • FAX (907) 456-3970



March 17, 1998

Renee Howell
C/O Senator Lyda Green
Alaska State Senate
State Capitol, Juneau 99801-1182

Ms. Howell:

Just a sort note to thank you for taking the time to meet with me during my recent visit to Juneau. It is clear that this year will be challenging given the current price of oil.

Your assistance in sheparding SB 338 through the process is much appreciated. EMS is a part of the public safety community and its provider's are customarily in harms way as a regular part of their job. Including them with law enforcement officers and firefighters is not only appropriate, but the right thing to do. This bill will materially improve the provision of EMS in Alaska by signaling EMS providers that they are an equivalent part of the Public Safety team and should be treated the same.

Again, thanks for your time and assistance. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of assistance. I will forward my testimony for your file under separate cover.

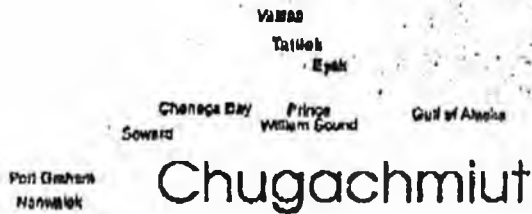
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C.R. Lewis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Craig R. Lewis
Executive Director

CRL/crl

||| Clinical Care Division
Homer Field Office
4252 Hohe St., Suite B
Homer, Alaska 99803



Chugachmiut

MAR 18 1998

Honorable Senator Green
Alaska State Senate

Dear Senator Green,

I would like to support SB338. Fortunately there are few EMS personnel killed in the line of duty in our state, but if it does happen, I would like to help the survivors in any way possible. SB338 would do just that and at minimal fiscal cost to the State.

Thank you for supporting this bill.

Sincerely,

Skip Richards

EMS Coordinator



**Cooper Landing
Vol. Amb. Svc.**

Cooper Landing Vol. Amb. Svc.
PO Box 510
Cooper Landing, AK.
99572

Phone: 907-546-1000
FAX: 907-695-1015
email: rusechej@arcotic.net

MAR 18 1998

Tuesday, March 17, 1998

Dear Senator Green,

We, of Cooper Landing Volunteer Ambulance and Rescue Service, endorse your support of Senate Bill 838. We believe it is highly appropriate that the State of Alaska support its Emergency Medical Service's efforts.

Sincerely,



Michelle Stewart
Administrator

MAR 13 1998

March 13, 1998

Senator Lyda Green, Chairperson
Senate State Affairs Committee
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol (MS 3100)
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

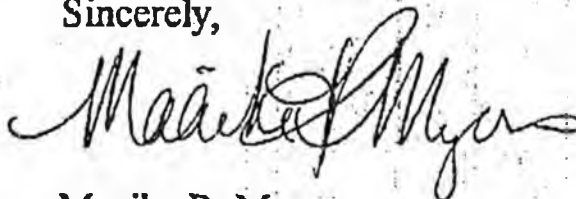
Dear Senator Green:

I wish to thank you and the Senate State Affairs Committee for introducing Senate Bill 338. I strongly support this bill. Please do all you can to pass this important bill.

I will be contacting my local Senator, Jerry Mackie to make sure he also gets behind this well deserved piece of legislature.

Thank you again for your efforts.

Sincerely,



Maaïke R. Myers
P.O. Box 12
Kodiak, AK 99615

486-9800 work
487-2627 home

3-12-98

MAR 12 1998

TO SENATOR Lyda GREEN

SENATE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

FAX NUMBER (907) 465-3805

WE THE MEMBERS OF "TWIN HILLS FIRST
 RESPONDERS GROUP", SUPPORT SB338
 THE BILL IS TO WAIVE UNIVERSITY TUITION
 AND FEES FOR FAMILIES MEMBERS OF AN
 EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES MEMBER KILLED
 IN THE LINE OF DUTY.

John Mark CAP EMT1

Mathiasort ETT

Walter Kuhn ETT

Kodiak Area Native Association

MAR 12 1998



3449 Reznof Dr. East
Kodiak, Alaska 99615
Phone (907) 486-9800

March 12, 1998

Senator Lyda Green
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol [MS 3100]
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Senator Green,

RE: Senate Bill #338

As an EMS Provider with 20 years experience, I very much support this bill for waiving university tuition and fees for some family members of EMS members killed in the line of duty. It is not often that Providers are killed in the line of duty, this bill would help those families that have had such an incident in their lives.

Thank you for your support of this bill.

Sincerely,

KODIAK AREA NATIVE ASSOCIATION
RITA STEVENS, PRESIDENT

Teresa D. Stone
EMS Specialist/Coordinator

Post-it® Fax Note	7671	Date	3/12	# of pages	1
To	Sen Lyda Green	From	T. Stone		
Co./Dept	State Capitol	Co.	KANIA-EMS		
Phone #	485-	Phone #	486-9827		
Fax #	465-3805	Fax #	486-9898		



Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation

6000 Kanakanak Road
P.O. Box 130
Dillingham, AK 99576
(907) 842-5201
FAX (907) 842-9354
800-478-5201

COMMUNITY HEALTH AIDE PROGRAM

Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation is a tribal organization representing 32 villages in Southwest Alaska:

- Aleknagik
- Chignik Bay
- Chignik Lagoon
- Chignik Lake
- Clark's Point
- Dillingham
- Egegik
- Ekuk
- Ekwek
- Goodnews Bay
- Ipiugig
- Iliamna
- Ivanof Bay
- King Salmon
- Kokhanok
- Koliganek
- Levelock
- Manokotak
- Naknek
- New Stuyahok
- Nawhalen
- Nondalton
- Pedro Bay
- Perryville
- Pilot Point
- Platinum
- Port Heiden
- Portage Creek
- South Naknek
- Tagiak
- Twin Hills
- Ugashik

PLEASE DELIVER THE FOLLOWING PAGE(S) TO:

NAME: Senator Lynda Green PHONE #: _____

COMPANY: _____ FAX #: 907 465 3905

FROM: BBAHC - CHAP DEPARTMENT PHONE #: 1-800-478-5201 or (907)842-5201

FAX #: 1-800-842-3873 or (907)842-9301

FAXED BY: _____	CHAP DIRECTOR	_____	VINCENT THRUTCHLEY
_____	JUDY BEACH	_____	ANN EVANS
_____	MARILYN LUDDEN	_____	vacant
_____	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TERESA SEYBERT	_____	SUE ARCE
_____	MARK YOUNG	_____	LYNN SCHUSTER

COMMENTS: I am a Volunteer EMS responder & I am very much in favor of Senate Bill 338 EMS. My children give up a lot when I am making runs, I think it is a great idea to compensate them somehow, should I be killed in the line of duty especially as a Volunteer.

Teresa Seybert

DATE: 3/12/98 # OF PAGES (INCLUDING COVER) 1

To promote health with competence, a caring attitude & cultural sensitivity

MAR 12 1998

Sherry Ingham
Box 130
Dillingham, AK. 99576

March 12, 1998

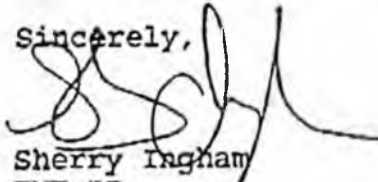
Senator Lyda Green
Capital Building
Juneau Alaska, 99811

Dear Senator Green,

I'm writing to show my support of SB # 338, waiving university tuition and fees for family members of an emergency medical service member killed in the line of duty.

Thank you for your support of EMS in Alaska.

Sincerely,



Sherry Ingham
EMT II

To: Senator Lyda Green

From: Patricia Buholm
EMS Provider

Patricia ☺

Date: March 12, 1998

Subject: Senate Bill 338

I'd just wanted to let you know that I'm in support of Senate Bill 338, for EMS Providers who have been killed in the line of duty.

I have been an EMT in Dillingham for the past 7 years, and thankfully we have not had this happen in our city. But, with the growth rate of Dillingham, it may happen. If it does I'd like to know that family members of the deceased are welcomed with funding provided for them to join our Volunteer service and have the funding provided for them for the training.

If you have any questions, please call me at (907) 842-9453. Thanks for your time and consideration.

Janette McArthur
Box 795
Dillingham, AK. 99576

March 12, 1998

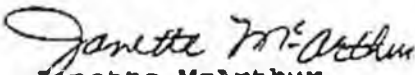
Senator Lyda Green
Capital Building
Juneau Alaska, 99811

Dear Senator Green,

I am in support of SB # 338, waiving university tuition and fees for some family members of an emergency medical service member killed in the line of duty.

Thank you for your support of EMS in Alaska.

Sincerely,


Janette McArthur
BMT III

fax cover sheet - fax cover sheet

Date: 2-24-98

To: RENÉE (Rm 125) STATE AFFAIRS

From: DI NELSON

2 # of pages (including this cover sheet)

PLEASE NOTIFY THIS OFFICE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE IF YOU DO NOT RECEIVE ALL PAGES. THANK YOU.

OUR TELECOPIER NUMBER IS 907-832-5503

OUR OFFICE NUMBER IS 907-832-5441

MESSAGE: Hi - HERE IS MY LETTER FOR THE

SENATE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE -

SENATOR DUDMAN,

ALSO AT THE REQUEST OF SENATOR WARD -

Thanks -

See you THURS

* Plate survey going well!



1998-02-24
1649

NENANA VOLUNTEER FIRE/EMS

P. O. Box 0070 Nenana, Alaska 99760

Office: (907) 832-5632

Fax: (907) 832-5503

Emergency: 911



Dear Senator Duncan,

February 24, 1998

I would like to thank you for your time in addressing my letter in consideration of HB 334. With family and friends as police officers and married to a fire fighter I have an obvious personal interest in seeing this approved. However on a professional level as a Fire Chief as well as an EMT, I have a basic concern that was not addressed when the original Bill was introduced. My concern is the exclusion of EMT's, which is considered a third factor of Public Safety in order with police officers and firefighters.

EMT's play a major role in Public Safety on a day to day basis, responding with the police department for the victims of such incidents as assaults, domestic violence, as well as sexual assaults/abuse, suicides and attempted suicides. EMT's respond with the fire department to fires and hazardous materials incidents, either for the victims, or standing by and assisting with rehab of the firefighters. But more often than not the triad of Police, Fire, and EMS is evident at motor vehicle accidents.

One scenario that comes to mind is if these three departments are involved in an auto extrication, and a passing motorist loses control and hits these people, Bill 334 has made provisions for only two of the three groups that have dedicated their life to the protection of others.

In my employment by the City of Nenana, Department of Public Safety, I have found myself in all of the above situations. One example of this situation is when this departments EMT's had to literally fight family members under the influence of alcohol to remove an elder who had fallen and broken a hip.

I am in full support of Bill 334, but it is my hope that either this Bill can be amended to include the EMS service in accordance with 7AAC26.330 and or 7AAC26.230 (a) & (b) or an additional Bill be introduced for EMS.

I would again like to thank you for your time in addressing these concerns. I hope that the issue of inclusion of EMT's can be addressed without bring Bill 334 to a grinding halt.

Respectfully,


Rj Nelson
Fire Chief
Nenana Volunteer Fire/EMS Department

cc: Senate State Affairs Committee Members

----- "We still make house calls" -----

MAR 03 1998

CENTRAL EMERGENCY SERVICES
Central Kenai Peninsula Fire & EMS Providers
231 SOUTH BINKLEY
SOLDOTNA, AK 99669-8084
907-262-4792 • Fax 907-262-5770



*"Prepared for the Worst,
Providing the Best"*

March 3, 1998

Senator Lyda Green
Alaska State Capital
Room 125
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Senator Green:

I would like to support the development and passage of a bill that would afford the same benefits to Emergency Medical Technicians and Paramedics as is proposed in HB 334c for firefighters and police officers who are killed in the line of duty. Steven O'Connor, Central Emergency Services Assistant Chief, testified in favor of HB 334c at the public hearing teleconference held on Tuesday, February 24, 1998. It became apparent at the teleconference that HB 334c could not be legally amended to include EMTs and Paramedics, and that a companion bill would need to be introduced from the committee. At that hearing, a request was made from the committee to those testifying that letters supporting a companion bill be sent to your office.

I think everyone would agree that the three main components of a community public safety system includes police, fire, and emergency medical services. It is very common to have all three entities working side by side at emergency scenes and exposed to the same hazards. These hazards include but are not limited to motor vehicle accidents, domestic violence situations, assaults, fires, and hazardous materials incidents. These situations place public safety responders in harms way with the potential for loss of life.

To me, the bottom line centers on the fact that public safety has three responding components, Police, Firefighters, and Emergency Medical Technicians and Paramedics. Each places the providers in harms way in different settings. Each have individuals killed in the line of duty, in spite of aggressive programs designed to prevent it. To omit Emergency Medical Technicians and Paramedics is to miss one third of the public safety team and sends the wrong message to those who also risk their lives to save others. I strongly encourage you to support a companion bill providing the same benefits to Emergency Medical Technicians and Paramedics as provided in HB 334c.

Yours in Public Safety,

Len A. Malmquist, Chief



Haines Volunteer Fire Department
Box 849
Haines, AK. 99827

Chief Scott Bradford Telephone 766-2115 Fax 766-3373

Senator Jerry Ward
Transportation Committee
Juneau, Alaska 99827

Feb. 24, 1998

RE: House Bill 334

Dear Jerry

The Haines Volunteer Fire Department urges you to support House Bill 334. There seems to be one group of emergency providers that seem to not clearly be included and that being Emergency Medical Providers. As you are probably well aware of medical responses far outweigh fire responses. Many agencies may have ambulances services. Many responders are EMS affiliated only and they too put their lives on the line for the betterment of our community. The Haines Volunteer Fire Department unanimously voted to support adding **EMERGENCY MEDICAL PROVIDERS** to House Bill 334.

Thank you for your time & consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Al Badgley
(Haines Volunteer Fire Department Training Officer)

Southern Region
EMERGENCY
Medical Services Council, Inc.

February 26, 1998

Senator Jerry Ward
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol (MS3100)
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

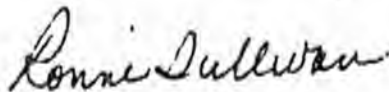
Dear Senator Ward:

I understand you are considering introducing a companion bill 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.") to allow the inclusion of emergency medical technicians and paramedics. I don't pretend to understand the complexities involved which make it difficult to modify the existing bill, and really appreciate your willingness to find a solution and move this important issue forward.

Although I could not get to the teleconference last Tuesday, my previous letter to Senator Green clearly voiced the position of the region. We are very much in support of providing this benefit to survivors police officers, firefighters, EMTs and paramedic who die in the line of duty. We're all thankful it this kind of tragedy doesn't happen very often, but when it does the impact is tremendous. Alaska could convey its appreciation for the important work done by public safety providers, and do so with a very small fiscal note. It's a good solution.

If a companion bill is introduced those of us in EMS will do whatever we can to help you with it. If I can be of any assistance don't hesitate to contact me at 562-6449. Your support of those providing emergency medical services is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



Ronni Sullivan
Executive Director

cc: Senator Green



Southeast Region Emergency Medical Services Council
207 Moller Drive, Room 113 Sitka, Alaska 99835 907-747-8005

February 26, 1998

The Honorable Jerry Ward
Alaska State Senate
State Capitol, Room 423
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Ward,

I am writing to you about House Bill 334. The bill provides for free tuition and fees for certain family members of military personnel, peace officers or fire fighters killed in the line of duty

Throughout the state, EMS personnel volunteer to assist their fellow Alaskans during times of emergency. They often place themselves in jeopardy, working in dangerous conditions like fire fighters and law enforcement personnel. EMS responders are called to the scenes of traffic accidents, domestic violence, etc. They are exposed to risks from bloodborne pathogens and other infectious diseases. They also perform medevacs in small planes in unfriendly weather.

We are requesting that EMS personnel be included along with military personnel, peace officers and fire fighters in this bill because they also place their lives on the line to help others. If there is anything you can do to help get them included in this bill or if you could introduce new legislation that would provide these benefits to EMS personnel, we would greatly appreciate it

Sincerely,

Tim Everson
Executive Director

501 Hilltop
PO Box 47 Drive
Craig, AK 99921

February 23, 1998

Senator Ward
State Capitol Building
Juneau, AK 99811

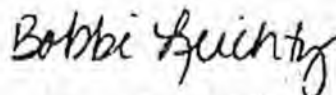
Dear Senator,

I'm writing to express my support of HB 334 but I am concerned by the lack of inclusion of EMS. Many of the EMS organizations in communities are not affiliated with the local fire departments and would fail to qualify for these benefits should something happen to those volunteers doing their job.

EMS responders are also in harms way with every call. Many communities have no organized police or fire departments and depend on their EMT's to do it all. Those volunteers do extrication from entrapment, low and high angle rescue, medevac their neighbors in all modes of transportation and in all the treacherous weather. They are as deserving of this benefit as a peace officer or firefighter.

Please keep up the great work. This bill is a great start but please find some way to include EMS as an equal part of the public safety triangle. Thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Bobbi Leichthy, MICP
Captain-Craig EMS

**THE FOLLOWING PAGES MAY
NOT FILM LEGIBLY BECAUSE OF
THE POOR QUALITY OF THE ORIGINAL**

Pat & Ray Chapman
P.O. Box 9
Meyers Chuck, Ak 99903
Feb 28, 1998

Dear Senator Wada

We are not in your area but have heard that you were considering a bill to address EMTs being included in a bill similar to SB 334.

We would like to join in asking you to do this. Most EMS personnel are volunteers and not paid but often put their life in danger to assist others. It would be nice if we could know that our families would be considered for assisted education in the event of our death in the line of service.


Thank you,
Pat & Ray Chapman
Meyers chuck F.D. & EMS
volunteers

Dear Senator Jerry Ward.

It has come to my attention that House Bill 334 will be presented today, as President of the City of Kake's Emergency Medical Council I would like to say we are in support of the waiver of tuition to family members of Peace Officers and Fire Fighters who lose their lives in the line of duty, however this bill would greatly fall short with cut including EMS personnel as well.

Tuesday, February 24, 1998

Thank You



Tim W. Moore Kake EMS President