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**Testimony to the Senate Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee
In Support of SB242
March 14, 2018**

Chairman Longbine and Committee Members,

Our associations support SB242. Police Officers and Firefighters are often exposed to hazardous substances that can lead to disabling diseases. The primary exposure for law enforcement officers is exposure to Hepatitis C through either blood. These exposures for law enforcement often happen at times when it is impossible to use protective gear, for example, taking a resistive suspect into custody who is either bleeding from injuries or spits on officers.

There is currently no vaccine for Hepatitis C. The bill appears to have adequate provisions to assure the conditions are duty related and that employees are cooperating with preventative treatment and testing after exposure.

We believe Hepatitis D should be added to the bill. Hepatitis D is not prevalent in the United States at this point but there have been some cases. This indicates it will be an issue in the not distant future. Hepatitis D currently has no cure and no vaccine. It is contracted only by persons with Hepatitis B, but it is a separate disease and is transferrable by blood contact.

The exposure risk to law enforcement officers to carcinogens also occurs, although probably not at the risk level of our firefighters. Therefore, we also support the provisions regarding the cancers listed on page 4 lines 7 and 8. The bill also seems to have adequate provisions to assure these diseases are contracted after the employee has entered into the covered services.

We ask for your support of SB242.

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