



NORTH CAROLINA POLICE BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION, INC.

A Division of Southern States Police Benevolent Association, Inc.

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May 22, 2013

Senator Peter Brunstetter
North Carolina Senate
16 W. Jones Street, Room 2022
Raleigh, NC 27601-2808

Dear Senator Brunstetter:

We are writing to you in reference to our grave concern about one section of Senate Bill 402, Appropriations Act of 2013.

Specifically, section 35.17 (a) which amends GS 143-166.60 to allow a draw down of ten million dollars annually from the Separate Insurance Trust Fund for law enforcement officers killed or severely injured in the line of duty and used to pay employer health insurance contributions for state law enforcement officers.

We certainly understand and appreciate funding of important and vital benefits for our members. However, our members are also deeply concerned that such a drastic annual draw down of the trust fund will mean that there will not be enough funds to pay the death benefit to the families of our officers who are killed or disabled in the line of duty. We understand that this could happen in about six years as North Carolina is in the top five states in the nation in law enforcement officer line of duty deaths.

In addition, the trust fund was established to benefit all of our law enforcement officers. This proposal would draw down money meant for the survivors of local and state officers to help fund the health insurance for only state officers.

We know you realize the enormous financial need our law enforcement families face when an officer is killed or disabled in the line of duty. You have supported that need in the past, and we have not forgotten Senator Brunstetter's primary sponsorship and incredible support for the Survivor's Alternative Benefit that was passed into law and inspired by the tragic line of duty death of Winston-Salem police officer and PBA member Howard Plouff.

Since the trust fund is currently self-sustaining with about 80 million dollars in assets, we respectfully request a modification to the current proposal by reducing the amount of the yearly withdrawal.

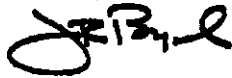
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It is our understanding that if the proposal were changed from 10 million to 2.7 million in annual withdrawals, the trust fund would continue to be self-sustained while still providing some funding as intended by the current bill language.

We believe this is a fair and reasonable compromise and would appreciate your consideration. We would be honored to work with you on this or other alternatives to the current proposal.

Sincerely,



Randy Byrd
President
North Carolina PBA



John C. Midgette
Executive Director
North Carolina PBA

RB/JCM:hd