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Peace Officers Research Association *of Nevada*

ASSEMBLY GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Position Paper SB 240

April 29, 2003

Chairman Manendo and members of the Assembly Government Affairs Committee:

My name is Ron Dreher. I appear before you today on behalf of the families of the professional peace officers of our great state and on behalf of the Peace Officers Research Association of Nevada (PORAN) to request your support for SB240.

SB240, after being amended, provides for retroactive health insurance benefits to the surviving spouse and children of peace officers killed in the line of duty who were not previously covered.

First and foremost we would like to thank Senator Randolph Townsend for sponsoring this legislation. We additionally thank the 20 Senators who also believed that this legislation was needed and passed the amended bill on April 17, 2003.

The need for SB240 came to light after University of Nevada Police Sergeant George Sullivan was murdered on the University of Nevada - Reno Campus in January, 1998. Sergeant Sullivan told his wife on several occasions prior to his death that if anything every happened to him while he was on the job that she and their children would be taken care of by the state. George and Carolyn Sullivan have 4 children. Subsequent to his murder, his widow - Carolyn Sullivan, learned that she and her family would not be covered by health, accident and life insurance coverages. Some other Cities and Counties in Nevada, who had officers killed in the line of duty provided the survivors this type of coverage.

When Reno Police Officer Keith Hashimoto was killed in the line of duty in Reno in 1996, the City of Reno took action to provide these benefits to his wife and children. When Washoe County Sheriff's Deputy Frank Minnie was killed in the line of duty in 1997, Washoe County took action to provide the benefits to his wife and children. PORAN thus requested legislation that would cover all state officers.

In 1999, the legislature passed SB404. SB404 resulted in legislation that provided health, accident and life insurance benefits for surviving spouses and their children of certain officers killed in the line of duty. Because the legislation was not retroactive Mrs. Sullivan and her family were not covered.

Section 1 of SB240's amended bill, allows for retroactive application of those benefits to January 1, 1998. It allows those surviving spouses from July 1, 2003 until August 29, 2003 to apply for health, accident and life insurance coverages for the surviving spouse and their families. It is our belief that this would apply to less than 2 individuals in our state. It would not provide for reimbursement of expenses that Mrs. Sullivan has had to pay for the past 5 years. It would allow prospective coverage only. I have attached, with Mrs. Sullivan's permission, a copy of the Insurance expenses that she has paid out for insurance coverages for herself and her family.

SB240 is needed legislation. Everyday police officers are called upon to "protect and serve". We are trained to enter dangerous and violent environments. We are trained to be the protectors of our communities. We are the soldiers on the home front fighting terrorism, vandalism, child abductors,

ASSEMBLY GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

DATE: 1-29-03 ROOM: 3193 EXHIBIT F

SUBMITTED BY: RON DREHER

PAGE 1 OF 3

murders, domestic quarrels, and every imaginable disturbance. By approving SB240, in its amended form, this committee is fulfilling one of the promises made to Carolyn Sullivan and her family by Sergeant George Sullivan, that she and her family would be taken care of by the state of Nevada.

On behalf of the families of the professional peace officers of Nevada we ask for your support of this legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ronald P. Dreher". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Ronald P. Dreher
President - PORAN

Insurance Expenses for Carolyn Sullivan and Family

Expenses for Health, Dental Vision and Life Insurance for My Family through
Universal Health Services (Northern Nevada Medical Center)

Year	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Health & Dental Insurance	\$1,534.78	\$1,523.34	\$1,769.04	\$1,694.16	\$2,044.90
Life Insurance	\$184.08	\$235.82	\$223.86	\$318.24	\$482.32
Total	\$1,718.86	\$1,759.16	\$1,992.90	\$2,012.40	\$2,527.22
Grand Total 1998 -2002	\$10,010.54				

* 2002 Term Life Insurance purchased through First Penn Pacific Life due to inadequate coverage and increasing expense through UHS.