

CALIFORNIA STATEWIDE LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSOCIATION

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May 6, 2020

The Honorable Jerry Hill
Chair, Senate Labor, Public Employment and Retirement Committee
State Capitol, Room 5034
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 664 (Cooper) Workers' compensation: injury: communicable disease - Support

Dear Senator Hill:

On behalf of the California Statewide Law Enforcement Association (CSLEA), and our 7,000 public safety professionals, we are in strong support of AB 664 (Cooper), which would classify COVID-19 and other communicable diseases as a presumptive work-related injury for peace officers, firefighters and nurses.

Peace officers and other public safety personnel are essential positions required to report for duty, regardless of state or local shelter in place orders. They are often called to scenes where the public is refusing to adhere to these orders putting them at greater risk of exposure to communicable diseases. AB 664 is an important measure that will ensure public safety personnel are protected during communicable disease emergencies declared at the state or local level by creating an occupational presumption for these illnesses. Peace officers are highly trained individuals that cannot be replaced when an outbreak of this nature occurs, making it imperative for the state and employers to take all actions necessary to protect these individuals. We applaud the author for bringing this measure forward and appreciate the work the state is taking to protect the health and safety of all essential employees.

For these reasons, we are in support of AB 664 (Cooper) and urge your "aye" vote in the Senate Labor, Public Employment and Retirement Committee. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact our lobbyist, Shane LaVigne with Capitol Advocacy, at (916) 444-0400.

Sincerely,

Alan Wayne Barcelona
CSLEA President

Cc: Assemblymember Jim Cooper, Author
Members, Senate Labor, Public Employment and Retirement Committee
Gideon Baum, Chief Consultant, Senate Labor, Public Employment and Retirement Committee
Cory Botts, Policy Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus