

CALIFORNIA STATEWIDE LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSOCIATION

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3/24/2015

Association of Criminalists-DOJ

Association of Conservationist
Employees

Association of California Wildlife
Officers

Association of Deputy
Commissioners

Association of Motor Carrier
Specialists

Association of Motor Vehicle
Investigators of California

Association of Special Agents-DOJ

California Alcohol Beverage Control
Agents

California Association of Criminal
Investigators

California Association of Food &
Drug Investigators

California Association of Fraud
Investigators

California Association of Law
Enforcement Employees

California Association of Regulatory
Investigators & Inspectors

CHP Public Safety Dispatchers
Association

California Organization of Licensing

Fire Marshal Emergency Services
Association

Hospital Police Association of
California

State Park Peace Officers
Association of California

The Honorable Tim Grayson
California State Senate
1021 O Street, Suite 7130
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for SB 487 (Grayson) – Officer and Firefighter Restitution Protection

Dear Senator Grayson,

On behalf of California Statewide Law Enforcement Association, I am writing to express our strong support for SB 487, legislation that will ensure injured peace officers and firefighters are treated fairly when they recover compensation from third parties responsible for their injuries. This important measure recognizes the sacrifices made by our public safety personnel and protects their right to retain restitution awarded through civil judgments or settlements.

Currently, when peace officers or firefighters are injured by a negligent third party—whether in a traffic collision, assault, or shooting—they may pursue civil claims to recover damages not covered by workers' compensation, including lost overtime, special pay, missed promotion opportunities, pension losses, and pain and suffering. Despite this, existing law allows public agencies to place liens on these civil settlements or judgments to recover the costs of workers' compensation benefits they have already provided. In many cases, this practice leaves injured officers and firefighters with little to no compensation for the devastating personal and financial losses they have endured.

SB 487 addresses this inequity by prohibiting public agencies from asserting unfair claims on the personal recovery of injured officers and firefighters. It ensures that these brave men and women—who have risked their lives to protect our communities—retain the financial settlements they have rightfully earned through civil proceedings.

SB 487 is a commonsense and compassionate solution that acknowledges the hardships these individuals face and honors their service by protecting their financial recovery.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge your support and request an "AYE" vote on SB 487.

Sincerely,

Alan Wayne Barcelona
Special Agent, DOJ
President, CSLEA