



COLORADO POLICE PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION ^{Attachment A}

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April 27, 2016

The Honorable Linda Newell
200 E. Colfax Avenue
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Senator Newell,

The Colorado Police Protective Association is writing to voice our support for PTSD Bill, HB16-1399. We feel it is time that Law Enforcement Officers are provided the same protections and coverage under Workman's Compensation as other non-Law Enforcement Personnel.

It is the mission of the Colorado Police Protective Association to ensure law enforcement officers in the State of Colorado are protected and taken care of when it comes to job related issues. These issues can include physical injuries, complaints from citizens, civil, criminal or administrative cases. As a Police Officer, I am in the business of protecting those that cannot protect themselves (meaning the community as a whole). As the CPPA President, I protect those officers who are putting their lives on the line for those in our communities. I believe the true purpose behind the introduction of this original bill was to do just that, protect those that are duty bound to protect others.

During my time serving on the PTSD Task Force, we heard numerous testimonies that there are Colorado officers suffering from PTSD. These same officers are struggling to get treatment through Workers' Compensation. Along with that, I feel we identified other issues that have come along with PTSD; even if we do not all agree as to what degree these other issues occur (Substance Abuse, Depression, Suicidal Thoughts, Suicide, etc). While I believe there are ways to mitigate the effects of the events officers see, hear, and experience; there is nothing that guarantees a person will not suffer from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder while working in this profession.

We make sure to take care of our officers when they are physically injured in the line of duty, but why are we so hesitant to help them when they are injured mentally? The Task Force has done a great job of identifying definite deficiencies within the current system that need to be remedied. I would hope that even with dissent among lawmakers, we can come together in an agreement that the system needs to change in order to protect those who protect us.

Serving Law Enforcement Since 1922



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The Colorado Police Protective Association is a member organization serving more than 1500 Law Enforcement Officers in the state of Colorado and we strongly support and thank you Senator Newell for supporting this most important legislation.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Suzette Freidenberger".

Suzette Freidenberger
CPPA Board President
1485 Kelly Johnson Blvd, Ste 230
Colorado Springs, Colorado 80920

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