



March 3, 2010

Honorable Joe Coto, Member
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 2013
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 2253 – SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Coto:

The Riverside Sheriffs' Association, which represents over 3,200 rank and file deputy sheriffs, deputy probation officers, law enforcement investigators and counselors, coroners and bailiffs – the entire law enforcement team in Riverside County, is pleased to support your bill, AB 2253.

Current law provides a rebuttable cancer presumption for firefighters and those public safety officers, who demonstrate that they were exposed to a known carcinogen linked to a disabling cancer, while in the service of a public agency. The original law set a date of coverage not to exceed five years beyond a firefighter's or public safety officer's last day of service. Since the passage of that first presumption bill, cancer research has brought new evidence that there is a need to strike the current law cap in favor of a new one in recognition of the existence of prolonged cancer latency periods. This measure allows fifteen years beyond the last day actually worked and it is memorialized in honor of Dallas Jones, a hero and dedicated firefighter and fire service labor leader from Los Angeles County who continued to work in fire service even after he was diagnosed with cancer and who ultimately succumbed to that disease in 2008.

On behalf of peace officers and firefighters, thank you for carrying this measure.

Very truly yours,

Pat McNamara
President
cc: RSA

Timothy H. B. Yaryan
Legislative Counsel and Advocate

Members/Consultants - Assembly Insurance Committee