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FAMILY PROTECTION

BY: SCOTT A. O'MARA

State Senator Tom Umberg introduced Senate Bill 447 on 02/18/2025. This legislation is to amend Labor Code §4856 which provides to the surviving spouse and dependents of (a limited group) of deceased officers who was killed in the performance of his/her duties and dies as a result of this external violence or physical force performing their duties. The surviving spouse and children have entitlements to receive benefits that are particular benefits that are addressed such as health benefits provided to the survivors prior to the death. The health benefits for the children are terminated when the dependent child reaches the age of twenty-one.

Legislation change modification to Labor Code §4856 allows the coverage to continue until the child reaches the age of twenty-six.

The continuum of exposures that safety members have in their work situation is there to protect the citizens and residents of California.

This special requirement that is met by the firefighters and peace officers are a necessity for our society to continue to function.

We, the citizens of California, need to protect the groups of people that provide to us the protection we receive.

The extending from the age of twenty-one to twenty-six for the children is a reasonable benefit that California citizens need to provide to protect the family members of firefighters and police officers.

The idea is that this umbrella of protection extends to the family unit of the decedent and that this umbrella of protection provides additional benefits that are made necessary by the death of the safety member.

SB447 was signed by Governor Newsom on 10/11/2025. This law should protect all safety officers, City, County, State and other special groups.



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