



July 30, 2018

The Honorable Lorena Gonzalez Fletcher
Chair, Assembly Appropriations Committee
State Capitol Building, Room 2114
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Senate Bill 1086 (Atkins) – Workers’ compensation: firefighters and peace officers.
Oppose Unless Amended – As introduced February 12, 2018**

Dear Assembly Member Gonzalez Fletcher:

On behalf of the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), the League of California Cities (LOCC), the California Special Districts Association (CSDA), and the California Coalition on Workers’ Compensation (CCWC), we write in respectful opposition to Senate Bill 1086 (Atkins) unless amendments are taken to extend the sunset date an additional five years to January 1, 2024, rather than repeal it outright. Ultimately, we believe it would be more prudent to extend the sunset date another five years as the Division of Workers’ Compensation (DWC) has not yet completed its analysis of the program and it is unclear whether extended statute of limitations period is accomplishing the intended purpose.

AB 1035 (Chapter 15, Statutes of 2014) first created the extended timeline for firefighters or peace officer dependents to file for workers’ compensation death benefits. In response to concerns raised by CSAC and a coalition of employer stakeholders, AB 1035 thoughtfully included both a five-year sunset and a request that the Administrative Director of the Division of Workers’ Compensation (DWC) collect data for the purpose of determining whether the extended statute of limitations provides an adequate timeline for the families of fallen firefighters and peace officers to commence proceedings for the collection of death benefits. At this time, the DWC data is being analyzed and has not been published publicly.

While we await DWC’s analysis, we feel it is prudent to extend the sunset date before it sets to expire on January 1, 2019, and revisit this important policy matter when more data is available. Codifying the increased statute of limitations in perpetuity may result in major fiscal liabilities; therefore, we request a holistic review before proceeding. For these reasons, the undersigned organizations respectfully oppose SB 1086 unless amendments establish a five-year sunset. If you have any questions about our position, please do not hesitate to contact Dorothy Johnson (CSAC) at 916-650-8133, Dane Hutchings (LOCC) at 916-658-8200, Dillon Gibbons (CSDA) at 916-442-7887 or Jason Schmelzer (CCW) at 916-446-4656.

Respectfully,

Dorothy Johnson
CSAC Legislative Representative

Dane Hutchings
LOCC Legislative Representative

Dillon Gibbons
CSDA Senior Legislative Representative

Jason Schmelzer
CCWC Legislative Advocate

cc: The Honorable Toni Atkins, California State Senate
Honorable Members, Assembly Appropriations Committee
Lisa Murawski, Principal Consultant, Assembly Appropriations Committee
Frank Prewoznik, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus