

Detective O'Hara's family was in a similar situation. In fact, his wife still must care for his everyday needs almost 14 months after the incident.

But instead of giving up hope, Officers Alu and O'Hara fought hard. They brought their case to the Florida Legislature. Mr. President, they won.

The legislature, with a Republican senate and a Democratic house, unanimously passed this legislation at the State level—requiring that localities continue whatever health insurance benefits the officer had prior to the injury after the injury when they are no longer able to return to work.

Mr. President, although they have won personal victories, Officers Alu and O'Hara have continued their fight—taking their case to Congress—and asking us to make sure that other officers not go through the same pain, uncertainty, and feelings of shame when they were unable to provide for their families.

Across the Nation, unlike veterans who have risked their lives to protect our national security, those who protect our homes and streets have their insurance canceled by municipalities or States when they can no longer return to work.

Mr. President, the House of Representatives has already passed the Alu-O'Hara amendment—unanimously, I might add—to the Commerce, State, Justice appropriations bill which would prevent this injustice from happening to any other officer again.

I have introduced identical legislation in the Senate. It is my hope that the Senate Appropriations Committee will simply maintain the House-passed Alu-O'Hara provision in the Senate bill.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that at the conclusion of my remarks, the amendment that it is my hope will be maintained, which has been adopted by the House of Representatives, be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(See exhibit 1.)

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, if this amendment should not be adopted by the Senate Appropriations Committee, I announce that it is my intention to offer this as an amendment when we consider the Commerce, State, Justice bill, hopefully next week.

The Alu-O'Hara bill, endorsed by all major police and firefighter organizations, would create a safety net for injured officers by requiring municipalities that receive Federal crime dollars to continue to maintain the same level of benefits that an officer had prior to being injured in the line of duty.

If a locality chooses not to offer health insurance to these public safety officers, it would only be able to receive 90 percent of its full complement of community-oriented policing services funding.

Mr. President, the scope of this bill is extremely narrow. It would apply only to a handful of public safety officers, estimated at approximately 100 nationwide per year. And it is not costly. CBO has already stated that this bill is not an unfunded mandate.

In fact, the city of Lauderhill, FL, where Officers Alu and O'Hara reside, added expanded insurance coverage to cover all of its municipal employees, not just public safety officers, at no extra cost to the city.

Even though the Alu-O'Hara amendment is inexpensive, its message is unmistakably clear.

We need laws which protect our valiant men and women on the frontlines. When they go down in the line of duty protecting us, we have a corresponding duty to care for them.

Mr. President, this amendment would provide only the most basic package of benefits. It does not grant any enhanced or increased benefits over what the officer had at the time of the injury.

The bill requires State and local governments to offer only the minimum level of health insurance necessary to maintain the health coverage the officer had prior to the disabling injury.

For instance, if an officer or firefighter did not have family coverage prior to the injury, he would not be entitled to family coverage after the injury.

Mr. President, I am proud of my State of Florida. But it should not take a terrible incident like this to make sure that our public safety officers are protected. We can prevent this situation from ever happening to officers like Alu and O'Hara by making sure that we maintain the Alu-O'Hara provision in the Commerce, State, Justice bill, and can do so in a proudly bipartisan fashion.

Mr. President, allow me to conclude by commending both Officer Alu and Detective O'Hara and their families for their bravery, sacrifice, and dedication to public service. Without their perseverance we wouldn't be here today discussing this most critical issue. I know that police officers and firefighters across the Nation share my gratitude for their courage and selflessness.

Mr. President, in passing this bill, we will honor our commitment to all of our public safety officers: to protect and care for them after they have done so much to protect and care for us.

Mr. President, thank you.

EXHIBIT 1

At the end of the bill, insert after the last section (preceding the short title) the following new section:

SEC. . Of the funds appropriated in this Act under the heading "OFFICE OF JUSTICE PROGRAMS—STATE AND LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE", not more than ninety percent of the amount to be awarded to an entity under part Q of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 shall be made available to such an entity when it is made known to the Federal official having authority to obligate or expend such funds that the entity that employs a public safety officer (as such term is defined in section 1204 of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968) does not provide such a public safety officer who retires or is separated from service due to injury suffered as the direct and proximate result of a personal injury sustained in the line of duty while responding to an emergency situation or a hot pursuit (as such terms are defined by State law) with the same or better level of health insurance benefits that are paid by the entity at the time of retirement or separation.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10:30 A.M., MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 1996

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further business to come before the Senate? If not, under the previous order, the Senate stands in adjournment until 10:30 a.m., Monday, September 9. Thereupon, the Senate, at 3:10 p.m., adjourned until Monday, September 9, 1996, at 10:30 a.m.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive Nominations Confirmed by the Senate September 6, 1996:

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

FRANKLIN D. RAINES, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET.

The above nomination was approved subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL IN THE U.S. AIR FORCE WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, UNITED STATES CODE SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. DAVID J. MCCLOUD, 000-00-0000.

NAVY

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE OF ADMIRAL IN THE U.S. NAVY WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, UNITED STATES CODE, SECTIONS 601 AND 5035:

VICE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS

To be admiral

VICE ADM. HAROLD W. GEHMAN, JR., 000-00-0000.