



February 8, 2023

The Honorable Senator Gray-Jackson
Alaska Senate

Dear Senator Gray-Jackson,

On behalf of the Alaska Peace Officers Association (APOA), I am writing to convey opposition of SB32, "An Act prohibiting the use of chokeholds by peace officers; and relating to justification of use of force by peace officers."

The APOA board of directors recently reviewed this bill and unanimously oppose.

We agree that without proper training the use of chokeholds or carotid restraints can cause serious injury or death. It is not uncommon for many departments in the State to prohibit these types of force unless deadly force is authorized. We believe that police agencies in the State have good policies regarding these uses of force and therefore it is unnecessary to mandate compliance through State Statute. Furthermore, policing regulations and certification should remain with the Alaska Police Standards Council and within individual departments.

Please contact the APOA office in Anchorage at 907-277-0515 if you have questions about APOA's position. Thank you for your commitment and dedication to our state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kirt Stage-Harvey". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Kirt Stage-Harvey
State President
Alaska Peace Officers Association

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Cc: Senator Tobin

About APOA

The Alaska Peace Officers Association (APOA) is a dynamic, professional and non-partisan organization. Our membership consists of law enforcement, corrections, prosecutors, security professionals and others at the local, state and federal levels. APOA has served as a voice for peace officers and issues impacting the law enforcement profession for over half a century. We are one of the oldest and largest 501c(3) charitable, nonprofit organizations in Alaska. www.apoaonline.org