



September 10, 2018

The Honorable Edmund G. Brown, Jr.
Governor, State of California
State Capitol Building, First Floor
Sacramento, California 95814

**RE: Senate Bill 1086 (Atkins) – Workers’ compensation: firefighters and peace officers.
Request for Veto – As enrolled September 6, 2018**

Dear Governor Brown:

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 respectfully request that you veto Senate Bill 1086 which would prematurely eliminate the sunset date on a program related to workers’ compensation death benefits.

The program in question was created by AB 1035 (Chapter 15, Statutes of 2014) which extended the 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 more prudent to extend, rather than eliminate, the sunset date 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, we respectfully request that you veto SB 1086. 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,

Graham Knaus
CSAC Executive Director

Dane Hutchings
LOCC Legislative Representative

Dillon Gibbons
CSDA Senior Legislative Representative

Jason Schmelzer
CCWC Legislative Advocate

cc: The Honorable Toni Atkins, California State Senate
Tom Dyer, Chief Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of Governor Brown