

THE WISCONSIN PROFESSIONAL POLICE ASSOCIATION

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Contact: James L. Palmer, II, 608-273-3840

WISCONSIN'S LARGEST LAW ENFORCEMENT GROUP VOICES CONCERNS ON HEALTH CARE REFORM EFFORTS

MADISON – In a letter today to each member of the state's congressional delegation, the Executive Director of the Wisconsin Professional Police Association (WPPA) voiced the organization's concerns over some of the proposals to reform health care. The group opposes any reform proposal to establish an excise tax on high cost insurance plans, which it fears will impact plans that local law enforcement groups enjoy but are expensive due to the high risk nature of the law enforcement profession.

"The health care plans of local public safety officers are not extravagant plans that are filled with superfluous medical benefits. They are good, comprehensive health benefits for which our membership has bargained in good faith," wrote WPPA Executive Director Jim Palmer. "Wisconsin's public safety community confronts a dangerous task each and every day as it serves to keep us all safe. The reduction of health care benefits, in conjunction with a stagnant economy and the erosion of aid to local units of government, only serves to increase the challenges confronting our membership, along with the families of those courageous enough to answer the call of duty."

The congressional Joint Committee on Taxation estimates that the proposed excise tax would hit over 40 percent of all plans – individual and family plans – in ten years. The WPPA believes that public safety plans would be among the first affected.

Wisconsin's largest law enforcement group, the WPPA represents nearly 11,000 active and retired members from over 390 local associations statewide. With over 75 years of service to law enforcement personnel, the WPPA is recognized as the leading law enforcement association in Wisconsin.

