



STATE FARM

LIBERTY MUTUAL
INSURANCE

PROGRESSIVE

ALLSTATE

MERCURY

NATIONWIDE

NAMIC

Date: March 1, 2018

To: The Honorable Reginald Jones-Sawyer, Chair
The Honorable Tom Lackey, Vice Chair
Members, Assembly Public Safety Committee

From: Rex D. Frazier, President
Michael A. Gunning, Vice President
Kara Cross, General Counsel
Ross Buckley, Legislative Advocate

RE: AB 1920 (Grayson) Impersonation: search and rescue personnel

Assembly Public Safety Committee Hearing, (March 6, 2018)

PIFC Position: Support

The Personal Insurance Federation of California, representing six of the nation's largest insurance companies (State Farm, Liberty Mutual Insurance, Progressive, Allstate, Mercury, and Nationwide) who collectively write a majority of the personal line auto and home insurance in California, **Supports AB 1920, Impersonation: search and rescue personnel by Assemblymember Tim Grayson.**

While current law prohibits the impersonation of a police officer, firefighter, or public utility employee, there is no law regarding individuals presenting themselves as professional search and rescue personnel. These professionals are officially registered, trained, and affiliated with government jurisdictions, and impersonation nullifies all the protection current law provides the public. AB 1920 will protect the public and emergency personnel by making it a crime to impersonate a government-affiliated search and rescue worker.

Unfortunately, the general public may not know the difference between an agency-based search and rescue team and a group of people who have simply given themselves a title that includes the words "Search and Rescue." As a result, the public is at risk for the solicitation of donations by these unaffiliated groups. PIFC and its member companies have a long history of supporting legislation that serves to prevent injuries and enhance public safety. AB 1920 will add protections for the public against these unscrupulous actors.

For this reason, PIFC **Supports AB 1920, by Assemblymember Tim Grayson and urges your "aye" vote.** If you have any questions regarding PIFC's position, please contact Michael Gunning at (916) 442-6646.

cc The Honorable Tim Grayson, Member, California State Assembly
Sandy Uribe, Deputy Chief Counsel, Assembly Public Safety Committee
Gary Olson, Public Safety Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus
Daniel Seeman, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of the Governor