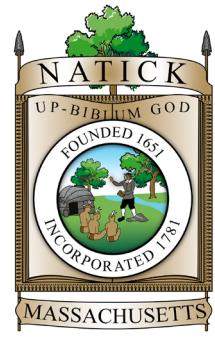


# *Town of Natick*

*Massachusetts 01760*  
*Home of Champions*



Karen Adelman-Foster, Chair  
Richard P. Jennett, Jr., Vice Chair  
Michael J. Hickey, Jr., Clerk  
Susan G. Salamoff  
Paul Joseph

October 6, 2021

Jessica Foley  
Researcher at Joint Committee on Public Service  
Massachusetts House of Representatives  
24 Beacon Street  
Room 156  
Boston, MA 02133

RE: Support of House Bill No. 2712  
An Act Relative to Public Safety Death Benefits

Dear Representative Linsky,

On behalf of the Select Board for the Town of Natick, please accept the Board's appreciation for your diligent representation of the residents of Natick. Please also accept this letter in support House Bill No. 2712, "An Act relative to public safety employee death benefits", a bill you filed with the General Court on January 13, 2021.

At the Select Board's meeting of October 6, 2021, the Board voted unanimous support for House Bill No. 2712 and 2716 and Senate Bill S1741. These Bills would provide equitable death benefits for the families of public employees killed in the line of duty.

Over the past seven years, the Commonwealth has lost eight Public Works employees who died in the line of duty. Most recently Lawrence Public Works employee, Marcos "Tony" Ruiz was shot and killed on January 15<sup>th</sup>, while repairing pot holes. Tragically, one of the eight was also a Natick resident and employee, Michael McDaniel. Michael was killed in February 2014 while repairing a water main on West Street. He was survived by his wife, Kathy, and daughter, Caroline. Michael has not been the only Public Works employee killed in the line of duty in Natick, Joseph Webster died in March 1976 after being struck by a vehicle while performing road repairs.

Thank for your support of this legislation to provide equitable death benefits for public employees.

Sincerely,

Karen Adelman-Foster, Chair  
Natick Select Board