



# Alaskans Working For Alaska!

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March 4, 2010

Annette Kreitzer, Commissioner  
State Of Alaska, DOA  
PO Box 110200  
Juneau AK 99801

Dear Commissioner Kreitzer,

RE: Potential Identity Theft

ASEA/AFSCME Local 52 is concerned about the loss of confidential information which occurred in the offices of Price/Waterhouse. I am writing to you on behalf of the over 8,000 members of ASEA/AFSCME Local 52 and the thousand of former state employees, now retired, who are impacted by this situation. We want to ensure that the State of Alaska is taking appropriate measures to protect these current and former employees from any potential identity theft.

As has been announced the State Attorney General negotiated an agreement with Price/Waterhouse which required Price/Waterhouse to pay for identity theft protection for the next two years for the 77,063 public employees and retirees whose confidential data has been compromised.

ASEA/AFSCME Local 52 has the following concerns about the settlement and any future liability which may result from this loss of confidential information.

1) What liability does Price/Waterhouse have to cure any future identity theft resulting from the release of information? The two (2) year window of protection will not stop an identity thief from acting at some point in the future. The 77,063 public employees impacted by this loss of information will be affected for the rest of their lives. A two year agreement with Price/Waterhouse will not relieve the State from its responsibility to protect these people for the remainder of their lives. Ultimately, the State will be responsible for any loss that occurs. The state can not push the liability off on Price/Waterhouse.

2) The settlement provides for identity theft protection if the employee enrolls in the program. Why aren't members automatically signed up for identify theft protection? Requiring employees to take action on their own to protect themselves rather than the state protecting them automatically is a backward approach to ensuring against identity theft. Everyone should be covered regardless of whether they take action as directed in the settlement agreement.

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3) The information was lost when Price/Waterhouse moved office locations. In what form was the information when it was lost? Was it on a Compact Disc (Electronic) or was it on paper (Files)? Did the information include the names and confidential information for beneficiaries of the active and retired employees? Are people still looking for the files? Have the police been asked to investigate this loss? What efforts have been taken to find the missing information?

I encourage the State to seek to amend the Price/Waterhouse agreement to extend the protection beyond the two year limit and to automatically enroll all affected individuals without the requirement that they enroll for the protection program.

Despite these concerns, ASEA/AFSCME Local 52 has encouraged all current and former employees included in the 77,063 files to protect themselves from identity theft. We are encouraging these employees to sign up for the programs offered in the letter sent to them by the State of Alaska.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

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

Jim Duncan, Business Manager  
ASEA/AFSCME Local 52, AFL-CIO