



AAA Alaska
1277 Treat Blvd., Suite 1000
Walnut Creek, CA 94597

March 30, 2018

The Honorable Chris Birch
State Capitol Room 112
Juneau AK, 99801

Position: HB 333 - Support

Dear Representative Birch:

On behalf of AAA Alaska, I write to express our support for House Bill 333, related to the use of wireless devices while operating a vehicle in a school zone. As a non-governmental organization focused on improving traffic safety, we believe this bill is a step toward reducing the dangers associated with distracted driving.

This bill would authorize a municipality to adopt an ordinance that prohibits the use of a mobile phone while driving in a school zone and on school property. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 3,477 people were killed in 2015 because of distracted driving. Another 391,000 were injured. Research has shown that text messaging while driving involves a combination of visual, cognitive, and physical distractions making it an inherently dangerous activity.

Anything that takes your attention away from driving can be a distraction and any of these distractions can endanger the driver and others. In a recent survey, the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety found that 88 percent of drivers believe distracted driving is on the rise. AAA supports educational efforts to inform drivers of the safest use of wireless devices while driving, including urging drivers to refrain from use while operating a vehicle.

AAA has been a leader and trusted advocate for the safety and security of people for over 100 years. One of our core missions is promoting safer roads and advocating for traffic safety policies. Therefore, we respectfully request your support on House Bill 333, a measure that will reduce the risks associated with mobile phones and distracted driving.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'John Moreno'.

John Moreno
Manager, Public Affairs
AAA Northern California, Nevada & Utah

cc: House Community & Regional Affairs Committee, Chair Justin Parish
House Community & Regional Affairs Committee, Chair Tiffany Zulkosky