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Alaska State Legislature
Attention: Judiciary and Finance Committees
State Capitol Room 204
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Members of the Judiciary and Finance Committees,

I am writing to express my wholehearted support for **House Bill 239**, which addresses the pressing issue of criminally negligent homicide related to vehicular accidents in Alaska. This vital legislation aims to enhance accountability for those who cause fatalities while knowingly failing to stop and provide aid to victims, thus reinforcing our commitment to public safety and justice.

The proposed amendments strengthen existing laws surrounding criminally negligent homicide, specifically elevating the penalties for individuals who, after causing a death while operating a motor vehicle, fail to render assistance as required. The distinction made between class B and class A felonies based on the circumstances of the incident emphasizes the severity of leaving the scene of an accident, especially when lives are at stake.

Tragically, hit-and-run incidents have become a distressing reality in our communities, leaving victims and affected families grappling with profound emotional and physical trauma. By holding offenders to a higher standard of accountability, this legislation not only sends a powerful message about the seriousness of such actions but also seeks to deter potential future offenses.

Furthermore, by ensuring that individuals convicted of criminally negligent homicide related to hit-and-run incidents face substantial penalties, we prioritize the rights of victims and their families—acknowledging their suffering and contributing to a culture of responsibility on our roadways. This bill also aligns with our larger public safety goals by promoting safer driving behavior and reinforcing the principle that taking responsibility after an accident is not only a legal obligation but also a moral one.

I urge you to consider the importance of HB 239 and to move it forward through the legislative process. The passage of this bill is crucial for fostering a safer environment for all Alaskans and ensuring justice for those affected by the reckless actions of negligent drivers.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. I appreciate your dedication to the well-being of our communities and your efforts to improve the laws that govern our state.

Sincerely,

Maxine Fekete

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Maxine Fekete", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.