

STATE OFFICE
ALASKA PEACE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

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February 17, 2009

Representative Berta Gardner
House of Representatives
State Capitol
Juneau AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Gardner:

On behalf of the Alaska Peace Officers Association (APOA), I would like to thank you for introducing HB 15, an act prohibiting the use of cellular telephones by minors when driving a motor vehicle; and providing for an effective date.

The APOA State Board's Legislative Committee recently reviewed this proposed legislation and unanimously decided to offer conditional support of this bill. We'd ask that it be amended to include all drivers and not be restricted to just minors. There is now empirical data showing that cell phone conversations (whether handheld or not) put the driver and other motorists at significant risk. A number of other states have now passed legislation outlawing the practice for all drivers, regardless of age.

We thank you for addressing this issue and urge you to consider expanding the bill to include all drivers. Please contact the APOA office in Anchorage at 277-0515, if there is anything our organization can do to assist in the passage of this bill.

Sincerely,

Angella Long
State President