

Lynne Smith

From: Edra Morledge
Sent: Monday, February 03, 2014 10:08 AM
To: Lynne Smith
Subject: FW: SB 123

Letter in support of SB 123

-----Original Message-----

From: David Wight [<mailto:davidgwight@me.com>]
Sent: Saturday, February 01, 2014 6:18 AM
To: Edra Morledge
Subject: SB 123

Senator Kevin Meyer

I strongly support your SB 123 and have worked with the Anchorage Assembly and Anchorage School District for more than three years to eliminate this high risk use of cell phones in our school zones.

I have volunteered as a crossing guard at the corner of Gregory and Chinook, the intersection in front of Bowman Elementary for the last three years. ASD does not have funding for this intersection. After three years of effort to get users to cease use of cell phones it is apparent that some users have refused to change their behavior. I see no alternative to change their practice except to make it illegal in school zones.

What have I experienced in this time. The worst case was being rear ended right after school was out as I stopped quickly to avoid a child running across the street. The driver behind me did not see my car much less the child in front of me. A cell phone was in use and the driver considered the call important even when told about the child.

I have had people on cell phones run the stop signs, not stop when I direct them to stop, make incorrect turns and go in the exit only lane. They have also turned too sharply, ending up on the curb where children are waiting to cross the street. I have had to tap on car windows as cars approach the stop sign and all I can see is the top of their head while they use their phone. Many times they are driving too fast for safety while using their phones.

I believe cell phone use in school zone is the single most legal risky activity allowed in school zones and will result in a significant tragedy. It should be illegal. It is a very small sacrifice for us to give up cell phone use in school zones for the safety of our children. Maybe 10 minutes twice a day.

David Wight
Volunteer Crossing Guard
Retired CEO of Alyeska Pipeline Service Company

Sent from my iPad