



Representative Chris Tuck

House Minority Leader

Alaska State Legislature

District 22 - Representing Dimond Estates, Foxridge, Taku,
Campbell, Northwood and Windemere

Sponsor Statement House Bill 317 Increasing Safety At All Schools

Every student should be able to get to and from school safely, no matter what type of school they attend.

“The safety and well-being of all Alaska's children should be our top priority. School zones are essential regardless of the type of school or the funding it receives. Charter schools are public schools and it is shocking that Alaska doesn't already require mandatory school zones to be in place around charter school buildings,” said Joey Eski, chair of the Academic Policy Committee for Aquarian Charter School.

In response to public and parent concern, this legislation brings increased safety precautions to all our schools to ensure the well-being of every child. House Bill 317 will require the installation of school zones for all public, private and religious schools, while still allowing the discretion for the municipality on the location to place signs, speed zones, lights or other measures where appropriate.

Drivers should be alerted wherever children are present in large numbers and at risk. By requiring school zone markings at all school locations, we will slow traffic, improve students' safety in the vicinity of a school, and hopefully prevent tragic accidents.

This bill would also require a sign indicating these school zones are drug free school zones.