



Fairbanks Cycle Club

www.fairbankscycleclub.org P.O. Box 82136; Fairbanks, AK 99708

Thursday, February 19, 2026

Re: HB239 "An Act relating to criminally negligent homicide; relating to the duty of an operator immediately after an accident; and providing for an effective date."

To Whom It May Concern:

The Fairbanks Cycle Club supports HB239.

A person who strikes a person with their car or truck and then knowingly leaves the scene without attempting to render assistance has committed a serious moral wrong. It should be a serious legal wrong as well. Many people do not understand that their motor vehicles, in addition to being transportation devices, are lethal weapons. We need to treat motor vehicles as the weapons when they kill or injure someone. We also need to hold people accountable for their actions if those weapons kill or injure someone. Leaving the scene is not acceptable. To do so should be punished severely.

While this legislation is not nearly as comprehensive as we would like it to be, it is a step in the right direction. It will help give law enforcement officers and prosecutors a tool to help bring to justice people who have committed this moral outrage.

Last year, a more comprehensive bill (HB261) regarding this issue was introduced but disappointingly did not advance. We support legislation that holds people accountable for the serious personal harm their motor vehicles can do, especially against bicyclists, pedestrians, and other vulnerable road users. While HB239 is not nearly as comprehensive as we would like to see, it is a step in the right direction.

Ultimately, the best protection for bicyclists, pedestrians, and other vulnerable road users is a robust infrastructure that keeps them safe from motor vehicles, but that is beyond the scope of this bill.

We urge you to pass HB239.

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