



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.

FCC Board of Directors

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Maxine Fekete

[REDACTED]
Anchorage, AK 99515

[REDACTED]
02/09/2026

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



Gary Zepp

From: Morgan Deakin [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, February 9, 2026 10:19 AM
To: Rep. Chuck Kopp
Subject: House Bill 239 Support Letter

Morgan Deakin
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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Sincerely,
Morgan Deakin

