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MAYOR

Suzanne LaFrance

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Sean Case

February 9, 2026

Representatives Kopp, Fields, & Galvin

Alaska State Legislature

RE: Letter of Support for House Bill 239

Dear Representatives Kopp, Fields, and Galvin,

As Chief of Police for the Anchorage Police Department, I express my full support for House Bill 239, which strengthens Alaska's criminally negligent homicide statutes and reinforces the duty of drivers to stop and render reasonable assistance following a serious collision. I have witnessed firsthand the devastating consequences of traffic collisions and the additional harm that occurs when drivers flee the scene.

HB 239 closes a critical gap in our current law by ensuring that individuals who cause a fatal collision through criminal negligence and then fail to stop and render aid are held appropriately accountable. This legislation rightly recognizes that fleeing the scene of a serious crash is not a mere procedural violation; it is a decision that compounds the tragedy, denies victims potentially life-saving assistance, and obstructs justice.

From a law enforcement perspective, this bill will:

- **Deter hit-and-run behavior** by strengthening penalties for those who fail to stop and render aid.
- **Promote accountability** by aligning penalties with the seriousness of fleeing a fatal collision.
- **Support victims and families** by acknowledging the value of human life and affirming Alaska's expectation that drivers act responsibly, even in moments of fear or panic.

In Anchorage, we have seen too many cases where critical time for emergency assistance was lost because a driver failed to stop and call for help. These incidents leave lasting impacts on victims' families, responding officers, and the broader community. HB 239 sends a clear and necessary message: fleeing the scene of a fatal crash is not merely irresponsible; it's criminally inexcusable.

I commend you for sponsoring this thoughtful and necessary legislation. HB 239 provides clarity and accountability across the justice system while reinforcing Alaska's defining values of responsibility, compassion, and justice.

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to public safety. The Anchorage Police Department stands ready to support the advancement and implementation of HB 239.

Respectfully,

Sean Case

Sean Case

Chief of Police