

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]

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,
Morgan Deakin



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





ANCHORAGE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Headquarters

716 W. 4th Avenue

Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Phone: (907) 786-8500 / Fax: (907) 786-8667



CHIEF

Sean Case

MAYOR
Suzanne LaFrance

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