

February 14, 2011

Representative Cathy Muñoz
House of Representatives
State Capitol
Juneau AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Muñoz:

On behalf of our respective organizations, we would like to thank you for introducing HB 22, an Act prohibiting the use of a cellular telephone when driving a motor vehicle; and providing for an effective date.

We met recently to review proposed legislation and decided to unanimously support this bill.

Again, thank you for addressing this issue. Please contact the APOA office in Anchorage at 277-0515 if there is anything our organizations can do to assist in the passage of this bill.

Sincerely,

John Lucking Jr., President
Alaska Peace Officers
Association
PO Box 240106
Anchorage AK 99524

Tom Clemons, President
Alaska Association of
Chiefs of Police
183 Nelson Ave
Wasilla AK 99654

Michele Logan, President
Women Police
of Alaska
PO Box 233306
Anchorage AK 99523

cc: Bob Herron

January 28, 2011

Representative Munoz
State Capitol Room 403
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: HB35 and HB68

Dear Honorable Representative Munoz-

Thank you for your support of both of these bills. I think that even hands-free use should be banned except in the event of an emergency. Talking on any cell phone is really dangerous because it creates a distraction from the primary function of driving. And for those who say that hands-free is not a distraction because one's hands are not involved, it's simply not true. Drivers talking on a cell phone are not fully engaged in the act of driving and are less likely to respond to events. I used to talk on my cell phone frequently, but have reduced that dramatically after almost being involved in two accidents.

Please support a total ban on driving while using a cell phone.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Michele Foley". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and address.

Michele Foley
1097 Willow Grouse Road
Fairbanks, AK 99712
907.479.0684

February 20, 2011

Gary & Kathy Miller
20135 Cohen Dr
Juneau, AK 99801-8211

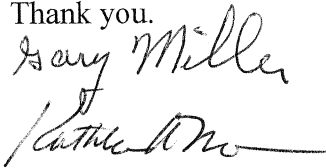
Representative Cathy Munoz
State Capitol Room 403
Juneau AK, 99801

Subject: HB 22, 35, 68 & 128.

Dear Representative Munoz,

We support legislation that prohibits the use of cell phones and devices for texting while people are driving. We believe that the police should be allowed to pull offenders over and ticket them if they violate this.

Thank you.

Handwritten signatures of Gary Miller and Kathleen Miller. Gary's signature is in cursive and Kathleen's is in a more stylized cursive.

Gary & Kathleen Miller

Kendra Kloster

From: RDeising@aol.com
Sent: Monday, January 31, 2011 3:43 PM
To: Rep. Cathy Munoz
Subject: Cell Phone Bill HB 22

Greetings Representative Munoz, I write to you in support of HB 22 that you have worked so hard to get on the floor of the Session going on. My name is Ricky Deising 58 year old male who has lived here in Juneau the past 32 years and I ride a Harley Davidson Motorcycle, The reason I support this bill are several but what took place last summer comes to mind firstly, I was riding down the road by the Juneau Empire when out of the DOT parking area a car pulled out in front of me with the driver on her cell phone in her left hand which was blocking her view of the road, I had to react fast by locking up my brakes and sliding sideways to avoid being run over, when the driver did hear me yelling and I came to a stop with my foot hitting her door she realized what had just happened, after yelling at her for being on her cell phone and almost ending my life, she said very casually sorry and drove away while still talking on her phone, Being a grown adult is one thing, but kids never would have had a chance and probably could or would have been seriously injured or killed because of this action by a cell phone user while driving, and not paying attention to the task of being a safe and responsible person behind the wheel of a moving vehicle, there have been several other near misses by drivers on their phones just pulling over into the next lane without even looking because their view is blocked by the phone in their hand, lucky again for me that I am a skilled rider and have been able to avoid a crash while going 55 mph on a motorcycle. I ask that each and everyone of our Elected Officials please support HB 22 and pass it into law. With the passing of this HB 22 I can guarantee many lives will be saved that otherwise will be lost to someone using a cell phone driving down the road.

Praise Life & Namaste Ricky Deising 4500 Glacier Hwy Juneau Alaska.

Kendra Kloster

Subject: Please outlaw cell phone use when driving

Dear Members of the Alaska State Legislature:

I respectfully request that you create a law prohibiting motor vehicle drivers from talking on cell phones - including hands free models - when they are driving, except in the event of an emergency.

There is sufficient evidence that distractions are a significant cause of accidents. And talking on a cell phone including a hands free cell phone takes attention from the most important job at hand, driving. (Please see the websites below.)

I recognize that many people think they are skilled multi-taskers; and they like the convenience of being able to keep in touch with friends and family while driving. However, the benefits don't outweigh the costs in terms of potential danger and harm that may eventuate by inattentiveness at the wheel. If it is truly important for a driver to be in contact with friends and family while motoring, the driver can pull off the road and return or place a call.

While I understand there is a movement afoot to prohibit the use of hand held cell phones, this approach does not adequately take into consideration the danger involved in simply talking on a cell phone, whether hand held or not.

Your consideration will be most appreciated.

Thank you.

Andrea Veach
PO Box 90534
Anchorage, Alaska 99509

<http://pubsindex.trb.org/DOCs/Publications%20from%20TRIS%20on%20Distracted%20Driving.pdf>

<http://www.bmj.com/content/331/7514/428.abstract>

<http://www.nhtsa.gov/About+NHTSA/Press+Releases/2010/ci.Consumer+Advisory:+Make+Safety+Your+Constant+Companion+This+Summer+Driving+Season.print>

<http://www.distraction.gov/stats-and-facts/#electronic>

http://www.ehow.com/about_5188398_accidents-caused-cell-phone-use.html

Kendra Kloster

Subject:

FW: Support Cell Phone Ban

Please note my support for legislation (three bills) that would ban cell phone use while driving. I would ban "all" cell phone use, including "hands-free" which I understand causes some drivers to become distracted and to cause a crash, injury or death. I experienced almost getting run over on three separate occasions (all in a cross walk) due to cell phone use. I subscribe to the idea of "do no harm," by which I mean people should not have the "freedom" to run over me due to their distracted driving habits.

Sincerely,

Gene Miller

3261 Foster Avenue
Juneau, AK 99801-1924

907-463-6720 or 907-723-5537 (cell)
gmler03@live.com

Kendra Kloster

Subject:

Drive Safe Alaska Coalition

Dear Rep. Munoz,

I share your concern with cellphone usage while driving and am pleased you have introduced HB-22. My public relations firm is in the process of forming the Drive Safe Alaska Coalition, a public awareness campaign to educate Alaskans on the dangers of texting while driving. MSI Communications has spearheaded several public awareness campaigns, including one for the AK Men's Run to raise funds for cancer research as well as political campaigns such as Alaskans Standing Together that helped re-elect Senator Lisa Murkowski.

Educating Alaska drivers on the dangers of texting while driving is our way of giving back. Many of us here at MSI are parents of teenagers and well aware of the impact texting has on their lives. We believe educating them on safe driving could only enhance our communities. I've attached a summary and hope you will support this effort by including it in the capital budget.

Please call me with any questions.

Regards,

Grig Parish

Account Manager

MSI Communications
3501 Denali Street, Suite 202
Anchorage, Alaska 99503
Phone 907.569.7070

Cell 907.230.0415
Fax 907.569.7090



msi communications
marketing • strategy • interactive

Kendra Kloster

From: Rep. Cathy Munoz
Sent: Tuesday, March 08, 2011 9:05 AM
To: Kendra Kloster
Subject: FW: HB 22

From: Stan and Heather [<mailto:haustin@chugach.net>]
Sent: Monday, March 07, 2011 7:00 PM
To: Sen. John Coghill; Sen. Cathy Giessel; [Senator Fred Dyson@legis.state.ak.us-gmail.com](mailto:Senator_Fred_Dyson@legis.state.ak.us-gmail.com); Rep. Mike Doogan; Rep. Mia Costello; Rep. Beth Kerttula
Cc: Rep. Cathy Munoz
Subject: HB 22

Dear Senators Coghill, Giessel, and Dyson, and
Representatives Doogan, Costello, and Kerttula,

Please support HB 22. National statistics show that motor vehicle and pedestrian accidents have risen precipitously since the wide-spread use of cell phones. Some studies see rates of cell phone distraction as similar to the impairment caused by drug or alcohol use.

- Drivers using cell phones have the same reaction time as drunk drivers - they are 9% slower to brake and 19% slower to return to normal driving speeds.
- Drivers using cell phones are four times as likely to get into an auto accident.
- While some states have imposed laws requiring the use of hands-free devices while driving, statistics do not demonstrate that these devices significantly reduce the risk of an accident. 1

I concur that use of any cell phone (including hands-free) while driving should be illegal. Telephone conversations involve complex mental activity, including the perceptive processes also required for driving or even walking; and the mechanism of, and reflexes associated with operation of a motor vehicle are altered when engaged in telephone conversation.

(That does not seem to be the case if conversing with someone in your car or if one is listening to any type of music.)

I have experienced a "near miss" by another car because the driver was using a cell phone and I have observed such gross inattentiveness of a cell-phone-using pedestrian that she nearly walked into a car.

Such misdirected perception that people fail to see something that is directly in front of them is referred to by cognitive researchers as "inattention blindness." 2,3.

Finally, I do not think that the argument many might posit, "they'll still drive and talk" has any merit. People do break laws; but most abide by them. If, in this instance, just one life is saved, or catastrophic injury averted, by enacting a "no cell phone use while driving" law, would it not be worth it?

Please let me know your thoughts on this matter. I urge you to support and vote in favor of HB 22. We need a law with stiff fines for those who use any electronic device while driving.

1. <http://www.robbslaw.com/cell-phone-auto-accidents.html>

2. <http://www.nytimes.com/2010/01/17/technology/17distracted.html>

3. <http://news.rutgers.edu/medrel/news-releases/2009/03/cell-phone-studies-w-20090304>

Sincerely,
Heather J. Austin,

My husband, Stanley Austin, M.D., also supports HB 22.
2412 W. Marston Dr. 99517

Kendra Kloster

Subject: FW: Cell Phone bill (House #68)

From: Kevin M Stowell [<mailto:buffalotheory@gci.net>]

Sent: Sunday, March 06, 2011 10:29 PM

To: Rep. Tammie Wilson

Cc: Rep. Cathy Munoz

Subject: Cell Phone bill (House #68)

Dear Ms. Wilson,

I'm writing to express my views of the cell phone bill(s) that are in the House. I'm a big supporter of individual rights, and would rather not have the government regulate most personal choices. BUT, talking on a cell phone while driving doesn't only affect the person driving & talking, it puts others at danger. Talking on a cell phone and driving has statistics that compare it to drunk driving, it's a hazard to the general public.

My person story: numerous times I've had to take actions to avoid people that were distracted by talking while driving. When I lived in Anchorage, I was almost killed numerous times while riding my Harley... all because people think their petty phone calls are more important than other's lives. A couple of years ago I was driving on the Parks going to Fairbanks when a truck was speeding down the hill towards me... it was a four lane road in that spot and I had to pull off to the shoulder because the guy talking on his phone was coming down the slow lane of the opposite (MY) lane! This past Thursday, I had a lady put out in front of me and I almost lost control trying to slow down and not hit her... guess what, she was on her cell phone. A couple of minutes later I had to wait for someone going way to slow to make a turn, because they were distracted by talking and trying to one hand turn a big truck.

My thoughts: I think the "except for emergencies" provision is weak. If I was talking while driving, I'd hit 911 on my phone and have a story made up... if I can think how to defeat this section of the bill, I'm sure others can (I wouldn't do that, because I don't talk and drive, and don't even have a cell phone). Also, the "hands free" provision is weak as most statistics I've seen show that hands free is just as distracting. Do you know the reason this was put in, because in my view, it should be removed.

Thank you for your time,
Kevin M Stowell
North Pole, AK

Kendra Kloster

Subject:

H.B. 22

From: BrettRose [mailto:brettnrose@gci.net]

Sent: Monday, February 07, 2011 11:52 AM

To: Rep. Cathy Munoz; BrettRose

Subject: H.B. 22

Dear Rep Cathy Munoz

Please reconsider H.B. 22

As one person has said you are creating the "PHONE POLICE".

As a police officer is talking on the phone/radio he will be stopping a citizen for talking on the phone !

Does this make sense ?

So add another voter to the NO on H.B.22 list.

Brett Freyder

Juneau

723-5456

Kendra Kloster

Subject: FW: Cell Phone Ban

From: Bryan Hickok [<mailto:hickokcl@gmail.com>]

Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2011 12:38 PM

To: Rep. Cathy Munoz; Rep. Dan Saddler; Rep. Chris Tuck

Subject: Cell Phone Ban

Here are two things not often brought up when talking about the cell phone ban legislation - Potential to distract and level of distraction.

One would be hard pressed to argue cell phone use when driving doesn't have the potential to distract. Yet when taking a step back and looking at the big picture, we see there are countless actions and activities which can and do distract drivers. Something as simple as changing the radio, dealing with kids in the back seat, eating fast food drive-thru, reading a map or directions, pets in the car, putting in a new CD, looking at a GPS device, and so forth. All of these examples have the potential to distract the driver, yet our state is focused solely on only one activity? That being a cell phone in your ear while driving? Why the lack of consistency when it comes to possible driver distractions if one's motivation for passing this new law is safety on Alaskan roads?

The second part is level of distraction. There's no question everything I've mentioned thus far has the potential to distract. But the level of possible distraction is not static or set for all drivers in all conditions. My ability to talk to my wife while driving down Northern Lights is far different then a 16 year old's ability to talk to his buddy while driving down C Street at midnight with 4 other friends in the car and the music blaring.

What this bill fails to address is that the activity is not what makes a driver potentially distracted and therefore dangerous, but rather what's dangerous is a driver allowing themselves to be distracted. They are the source of the danger, not the activity. And here's the kicker - This law will not compel irresponsible drivers to drive more safely. We can rationalize in our own minds how nanny state laws will be better for all of us, but at the end of the day there has to be a line in the sand where each of us takes personal responsibility for our own actions.

And where are the state statistics to warrant such a law? A person being frustrated at what they perceive as distracted drivers due to cell phone use is not cause for enacting a new law. Correct me if I'm wrong, but I'm not under the impression Alaska is facing an epidemic of automotive related deaths due to cell phone drivers being distracted on our roads. Where are all the deaths in Anchorage that can be directly tied to drivers talking on cell phones and therefore justifying this law?

Protecting us from ourselves is foolhardy and never addresses the underlining issues. Not to mention this law is taking up valuable time in the limited 90 day session of the legislature. Why are our elected busybodies attempting to mandate behavior instead of focusing on the real issues facing our state? With a gas line nowhere in site, oil production concerns, and a pipeline that may run dry in the near future, why are we focused on such trivial matters as preventing citizens from driving with a phone up to their ear? It's mind numbing insanity.

Bryan Hickok of Anchorage