

HB

2000

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

Representative Norman Rokeberg, Chairman
Representative Scott Ogan, Vice-Chairman
Representative John Coghill
Representative Jeannette James
Representative Kevin Meyer
Representative Ethan Berkowitz
Representative Albert Kookesh



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Juneau, AK 99801-1182
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Heather M. Nobrega
Counsel to Committee

Sponsor Statement for CSHB 200 (STA)

On July 3, 2000, an Anchorage man with six previous drunk driving convictions was allegedly driving drunk when he struck and killed Jessie Withrow. Jessie, a college student, was riding her bike down the sidewalk on Minnesota Drive when she was hit. Jessie's death is just one tragedy in a numerous string of drunk driving deaths that occurred throughout the state last year.

By establishing July 3rd as Drunk Driving Victims Remembrance Day, we create a day when drunk driving victims like Jessie, and others, can be remembered. July 3rd has been chosen by Mothers Against Drunk Driving because it was the day of Jessie's death, and because it is right before a major summer holiday when Alaskans are more susceptible to drinking and driving accidents.

Alaska will be the first state in the union to establish a day devoted to commemorating the individuals who died as a result of a traffic accident involving a drunk driver. Drinking and driving has reached epidemic proportions in our state. By establishing a Drunk Driving Victims Remembrance Day, we hope to bring awareness to this problem, and help prevent future victims of drunk driving.

The committee urges your support of this bill.

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2001 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 1
 Bill Version: CSHB 200(STA)
 (H) Publish Date: 4/17/01

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): _____ Dept. Affected: Office of the Governor
 Title: An Act Establishing July 3 as Drunk Driving BRU: Executive Operations
Victims Remembrance Day Component: Executive Office
 Sponsor: House Judiciary
 Requester: H(STA) Component Number: _____

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
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CHANGE IN REVENUES ()						
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FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type)						
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2001) cost: 0.0

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

This resolution has no fiscal impact on state spending.

Prepared by: Rynniva Moss

Phone 465-3719

Representative John Coghill
 Committee Chair

Date 4/12/01

Pickup ^{5 July 2000} hits, kills bicyclist

Police say man drunk had 6 previous DWIs

By LISA DEMER
Daily News reporter

An Anchorage man with six previous drunken driving convictions was driving drunk when he struck and killed a college student riding her bicycle on the sidewalk along Minnesota Drive late Monday, Anchorage police said.

Russell D. Carlson, 39, who had a 2-year-old child in the truck with him, was charged with manslaughter, child abuse, driving while intoxicated and driving while his license was revoked, according to police.

The bicyclist was Jessie Withrow, who grew up in Anchorage and



Jessie Withrow died Tuesday in Anchorage.

See Back Page, BICYCLIST

BICYCLIST: Student enjoyed friends, family, music

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was a dean's list student at Bates College in Lewiston, Maine. She was pronounced dead at Providence Alaska Medical Center on Tuesday afternoon.

Police Lt. Bob Griffiths said Carlson had six DWI convictions in Alaska. Details about those cases were not available Tuesday because of the July Fourth holiday.

The crash happened about 11:30 p.m. Carlson was driving a white full-size pickup, police spokesman Ron McGee said.

Witnesses told police that Carlson was weaving and driving fast while heading south on Minnesota. He ran into a Ford Explorer that had stopped for a red light on Northern Lights Boulevard; then went on the sidewalk and struck Withrow on

her bike, according to police. His truck then went into the parking lot of the Aurora Village Shopping Center and crashed into three parked cars, police said.

The 2-year-old child and another man in the truck were not hurt, police said. The relationship between Carlson and the child wasn't clear.

Family friends of the young woman who died described her as exceptionally bright and creative.

"Jessie was a very unusual child. It was like she was way grown up beyond her years. She was destined to do great things. The world is going to be a cheated place for the fact she was not able to achieve her potential," said Susan Peck, who has a daughter close to Withrow and who is a friend of Withrow's mother, Wendy.

Withrow wrote for Perfect World, the

teen-oriented pages in the Anchorage Daily News. She sang with her mother at the Renaissance Festival and the Anchorage Folk Festival. She served on the Anchorage Youth Court, helping kids who had gotten in trouble. In 1998, she graduated with honors from Steller Secondary School and won a scholarship to Bates College, a liberal arts school. She was home for summer break and would have been a junior, studying English.

"Her friends, her family and her music were the things she enjoyed the most," said another family friend, Ray Booker.

Carlson is being held at Cook Inlet Pre-Trial Facility on \$100,000 bail.

Reporter Lisa Demer can be reached at ldemer@adn.com and 257-4390.

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MEMORANDUM

To: Senator Gene Therriault, Chairman
Senate State Affairs Committee

From: Rep. Norman Rokeberg, Chairman
House Judiciary Committee

Date: April 24, 2001

Re: Request to Hear House Bill 200

Norman Rokeberg
ANN

The House Judiciary Committee respectfully requests that HB 200, Drunk Driving Remembrance Day, be scheduled for a hearing.

Attached are:

1. HB 200
2. Sponsor Statement
3. Anchorage Daily News article