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**ALACHUA
COUNTY**
BICENTENNIAL

Alachua County Board of County Commissioners

Charles S. Chestnut, IV, Chair
Ken Cornell, Vice Chair
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Administration
Michele L. Lieberman
County Manager

January 28, 2025

Via email:

The Honorable
1302 The Capitol
402 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1300

Dear Representative _____,

On January 28, 2025, the Alachua County Board of County Commissioners approved the attached resolution supporting stronger *hands-free device while driving* legislation. This is an important step in protecting the residents of Florida and reducing traffic crashes involving serious injuries and death. Distracted driving is a leading cause of motor vehicle crashes in the United States, contributing to thousands of injuries and fatalities each year.

The importance of such legislation can be seen in the traffic crash data. According to Florida State Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles data, a crash occurs every 44 seconds in Florida, and one in seven crashes involve distracted drivers. In addition, there were over 48,000 car accidents related to distracted driving reported in 2021, which resulted in over 300 people dead and over 2,700 seriously injured. In 2022, 53,596 distracted driving crashes were reported, resulting in 268 fatalities. Preliminary numbers for 2023 are approximately 54,800 distracted driving crashes in Florida resulting in nearly 300 deaths.

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Page 2

The Alachua County Board of County Commissioners appreciates your consideration of sponsoring this important legislation that will strengthen the distracted driving laws in the State.

Sincerely,

Charles S. Chestnut, IV, Chair
Alachua County Commission
Chr25.XX

cc: Board of County Commissioners
Michele L. Lieberman, County Manager
Sylvia Torres, County Attorney
Legislative Delegation – Alachua County