

Att. 2 3-1-23



P.O. Box 1053
Blackfoot, ID 83221

IDAHO

FRATERNAL ORDER

OF POLICE

Bryan Lovell
President
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March 1, 2023

RE: Support of Senate bill 1058

The Idaho Fraternal Order of Police supports Senate bill 1058 as we believe it is important to hold drivers accountable for recklessness that results in great bodily harm to another person. This bill would make it a felony to cause serious injury to another while driving recklessly or in a distracted manner, which we believe is wholly appropriate.

Law Enforcement Officers throughout the state respond regularly to serious injury crashes that leave victims wheel chair bound and doomed to a life of pain and disability. Treatment for these injuries can leave victims liable for medical and living expenses not easily recoverable through the misdemeanor restitution process.

For example, one of our "brothers in blue" was run over by a distracted driver on their cell phone. This brave officer suffered debilitating injuries that changed his life, and by extension his family's life, forever. The driver was charged with a misdemeanor, the only appropriate charge based upon current law. While we agree that merely driving distracted or recklessly only warrants misdemeanor charges, behavior that resulted in a serious injury warrants a higher penalty.

The Idaho Fraternal Order of police is made up of over 2500 law enforcement professionals from across this great state and we are proud to support this legislation.

Idaho Fraternal Order of Police