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RAYMOND W. WALTER
Assemblyman 146th District

RANKING MINORITY MEMBER
Economic Development, Job Creation,
Commerce and Industry Committee

June 11, 2015

Assembly Speaker Carl E. Heastie
Legislative Office Building
Room 932
Albany, NY 12248

Dear Speaker Heastie:

With only a few days left in this legislative session, I am writing to ask that you bring Alix's Law to the Assembly floor for a vote. Alix's Law is something that's very close to my community - the measure is named in memory of Alix Rice, a teenager from my district who was tragically hit and killed by a drunk driver in 2011.

Due to a loophole in our state law, the man who hit and killed Alix was able to argue that he was unaware he hit her, and was acquitted on the felony charge of leaving the scene of an accident and merely convicted of misdemeanor DWI. Current law only requires drivers to report an accident if they know it caused an injury or property damage, allowing drunk drivers to leave the scene of an accident and later claim they were unaware of any damage.

Residents in my district, many of them parents, were outraged by the verdict in Alix's case and have since been clamoring for justice for Alix and assurance that something like this will never happen again. Alix's Law would close the current loophole, make it illegal to leave the scene of an accident while intoxicated and hold dangerous people accountable for their actions.

Alix's Law has passed four years in a row in the state Senate, but has yet to come to the Assembly floor for consideration. I hope that you will see the critical nature of this legislation and bring it to the floor before the end of session. It's vital that we do our best to ensure that individuals who drive while intoxicated and injure or kill an innocent person are punished to the fullest extent possible. These dangerous individuals must be held responsible for their life-threatening, reckless actions. Alix, along with the many other victims of drunk driving tragedies and their families, deserves justice.

Sincerely,

Raymond W. Walter
MEMBER OF ASSEMBLY
146th Assembly District