



**Media Contact:**

Ken Strobeck, Executive Director  
League of Arizona Cities and  
Towns  
602-258-5786  
Kstrobeck@azleague.org

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
FEBRUARY 11, 2019**

**LEAGUE OF CITIES AND TOWNS SUPPORTS ANTI-TEXTING LEGISLATION**

**PHOENIX** – The Executive Committee of the League of Arizona Cities and Towns has voted unanimously to support the principles of SB 1165: prohibition; texting while driving, sponsored by Senator Kate Brophy McGee (R-Phoenix). Several cities and towns in Arizona have already enacted local ordinances prohibiting various uses of cell phones by drivers and this legislation would preempt those local ordinances in favor of a single statewide standard.

“Although we generally oppose state preemptions, this is an issue that truly is of statewide concern and having a single standard will make it easier for drivers to comply and assist law enforcement by having consistent rules,” said League President and Mayor of the City of Maricopa, Christian Price.

Other committee members noted that Arizona is one of only a handful of states that do not have statewide standard for texting and talking on hand held devices.

While there have been several incidents of distracted drivers being involved in traffic accidents, the tragic death of a Salt River officer on the Loop 101 who was struck by a driver who was texting added even more momentum to the effort to pass a bill this legislative session. Similar bills introduced in previous sessions have not made it through the legislative process.

This year’s bill has a number of co-sponsors including Senate President Karen Fann (R-Prescott) and House Speaker Rusty Bowers (R-Mesa) and includes legislators that have been named Legislative Friends and Champions of the League.

**About the League:**

The League of Arizona Cities and Towns is a voluntary association of incorporated cities and towns in the state of Arizona. It provides policy and legislative advocacy, information and inquiry services, along with publications and educational programs to strengthen the quality and efficiency of municipal government. It was founded in 1937 to serve the interests of cities and towns and to preserve the principles of home rule and local determination. For more information, visit [www.azleague.org](http://www.azleague.org).

###