

## Hang up cell phones

The sadness I feel about the death of Lauren Mulkey ("Victim described as happy, witty," *Tribune*, March 20) is overshadowed by the rage I have toward our ineffective state legislators.

To say she was killed by a driver "talking on his cell phone" doesn't express how dangerous this behavior is and how easily this risk could be eliminated. National studies over the past 10 years have shown that drivers using a cell phone are as dangerous as drunken drivers. I have been campaigning for years for laws to keep Utah motorists from using cell phones while they drive.

Past attempts at legislation have been watered down by lawmakers who equate this danger with that of eating a hamburger or changing a compact disc while driving. Those are not valid comparisons.

The fact is a cell phone conversation commands a driver's full attention. Other "distractions" can be timed and performed in relative safety. We need honest and thoughtful representatives who support public safety to draft legislation to prohibit the use of all cell phones by Utah drivers. Who will work for safe roads? Who will help protect our children?

MURRAY HAYWARD

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