

Dear Senator or Representative _____,

During this legislative session, there will be a bill introduced that will greatly strengthen Indiana's current Graduated Driver's Licensing (GDL) law for teen drivers. As one of your constituents, I am writing to ask you to please support this bill.

Traffic crashes remain the leading cause of serious injury and death among our teenagers – killing more 16-year-olds than any other age group. Sadly, 16-year-old drivers have a crash rate three times more than 17-year-olds, 5 times greater than 18-year-olds, and ten times that of 30-59 year-olds.

Most teens are not irresponsible drivers; however, they are still involved in more crashes due to poor judgment, inadequate driving skills and risky behavior associated with normal adolescent development. Did you know that our current law requires absolutely no practice time for new drivers before allowing them out on our roadways?

Unfortunately, this is something that affects every single person sharing the road with teen drivers. From 1995-2004, here in Indiana, 887 lives were lost in crashes involving young novice drivers. Of these deaths, 40% were the young drivers themselves. The remaining 60% were their passengers, other motorists, pedestrians or bicyclists.

Strong GDL laws, which include conditions such as nighttime driving limitations, restrictions on the number and age of passengers, and requirements for adult-supervised, behind-the-wheel practice driving help ensure new drivers are prepared prior to hitting the road on their own.

A study, released earlier this year by the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety, revealed that if a state has a GDL program with at least five of the seven common components, 16 year-old drivers were involved in 38 percent fewer fatal crashes and 40 percent fewer crashes that resulted in injuries. Indiana currently has only two of these components in its law, but the proposed bill contains six of the most critical components.

By strengthening the GDL system in our state, you can take a substantial step forward toward saving teen lives and reducing injuries, while protecting the safety of everyone else on the road as well.

Please do your part in protecting young Hoosier teens. Vote YES on this bill!

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Your Name
Address
Phone Number