



Chad Wilson
Associate Vice President
Office of Government Relations

March 26, 2019

The Honorable Doug Green
Ohio House of Representatives
77 S. High St., 13th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215
VIA ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION

Re: HB 106 (Scherer, Sheehy) Alter time periods pertaining to new teen drivers

Dear Chairman Green,

On behalf of Nationwide, please support passage of HB 106, which proposes to modernize Ohio's young driver licensing system by making two small, but important adjustments; lengthening the Temporary Instruction Permit phase from 6 to 12 months and beginning the nighttime driving protections for newly licensed drivers at 10pm, rather than midnight. Nationwide is headquartered in Columbus, Ohio and is proud to provide thousands of jobs in the state and 1.25 million policies to Ohio residents. Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for U.S. teens. Six teens ages 16 to 19 die every day from motor vehicle injuries. Teen drivers ages 16 to 19 are nearly three times more likely than drivers aged 20 and older to be in a fatal crash. Teens generally represent only 5 percent of Ohio's driving public, but were involved in 15 percent of crashes from 2014 to 2016, according to the Ohio Department of Transportation.

We know that Ohio has seen an unprecedented rise in the frequency and severity of auto related crashes, including amongst teen drivers. Data from ODOT shows that nearly 38,000 injuries and fatalities occurred in Ohio teen driver crashes during the past 5 years. In 2016, approximately 8,300 injuries and fatalities occurred in Ohio teen driver crashes. This is a 15 percent increase from 2014 and equates to an average of 23 injuries or fatalities every day involving a teen driver. Nighttime driving protections for newly licensed drivers protect them from the most dangerous driving conditions while they are still inexperienced. In Ohio, 75 percent of young driver nighttime crashes occur between 9 p.m. and midnight. Nighttime restrictions were found to reduce involvement of drivers aged 16-17 in nighttime fatal crashes by an estimated 10% and *drinking* drivers aged 16-17 in nighttime fatal crashes by 13%. According to the Insurance Institute of Highway Safety, moving the nighttime restriction from midnight to 10 PM will reduce Ohio teen fatal crashes by 5%. Ohio's young driver licensing system currently gives teens just six months to learn to be safe drivers. Research indicates this is not long enough. A 12-month permit phase ensures every new driver has the chance to practice driving in all weather conditions with an adult to help keep them safe. Recent studies rank Ohio 49th, nearly last in the country when it comes to laws that protect teen drivers.

Nationwide is a long-standing leader in highway and automobile safety. This includes our commitment to reducing crashes and fatalities through heightened public awareness, development of technology to mitigate risks, continued targeted research, and enactment of safety laws. Nationwide supports graduated driver licensing laws that incorporate a three-stage graduated system to protect youthful drivers.

Again, thank you for your consideration to support stronger provisions that promote greater safety benefits and reduce teen related crashes and fatalities. Nationwide is committed to working as an interested party during the 133rd Ohio General Assembly to reach consensus on updating Ohio's teen driving laws.

Sincerely,

Chad Wilson
Associate Vice President
Office of Government Relations

Cc: Representative Scherer
Representative Sheehy