



March 22, 2019

The Honorable Doug Green
77 South High Street, 13th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Chairman Green:

We are writing on behalf of Nationwide Children's Hospital in support of H.B. 106, sponsored by Representatives Gary Scherer (R) and Michael Sheehy (D). This bill will make Ohio's roads safer through two simple, but important, adjustments to Ohio's young driver licensing system.

1. Lengthening the temporary instruction permit period from 6 to 12 months
2. Ensure newly licensed teen drivers are supervised while driving after 10 p.m., rather than midnight, for the first 6 months of licensure, with exemptions for work, school and religious activities.

This bill is not about age or maturity; it is about valuable, behind the wheel experience. Currently, Ohio teens are not gaining the experience they need with an adult to become safe drivers. Consequently, young driver crash rates in Ohio remain unnecessarily high. Nearly 38,000 injuries and fatalities occurred in Ohio teen driver crashes during the past 5 years. That's an average of 20 injuries and fatalities every day.

Ohio is now 7th in the country for the highest number of teen fatality and injury crashes, according to a report by Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety. This puts all road users in danger, since about two-thirds of those injured or killed in teen driver crashes are someone other than the teen driver, according to the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety.

A 12-month permit phase ensures every new driver has the chance to practice driving with an adult in all four seasons. Having a well-rounded driving experience in all types of weather is invaluable. Parents of teen drivers in states that have a 12-month permit are extremely supportive.

Nighttime driving protections for newly licensed young drivers protect them from the most dangerous driving conditions while they are still inexperienced and adjusting to driving without adult supervision. Research has proven that requiring newly licensed teen drivers to drive supervised after 10 p.m. results in large fatal crash reductions for 16- and 17-year-old drivers. It is important to reiterate that this



10 p.m. protection is **NOT** a curfew and current law exemptions remain in place if you have work, school or religious activities.

Passing H.B. 106 will modernize Ohio's young driver licensing system, provide teens with greater protection, give their parents more peace of mind, and make the roads safer for everyone. A modern young driver licensing system keeps Ohio's teens, families and communities safe and strong. Nationwide Children's Hospital appreciates your consideration and urges you to support this legislation.

Thank you.

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