



180 East Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

ohiohealth.com

March 25, 2019

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

Dear Chairman Green:

I am writing on behalf of OhioHealth and Ohio's Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL) coalition in support of H.B 106, sponsored by Representatives Gary Scherer (R) and Michael Sheehy (D).

I currently serve as OhioHealth's system chief for trauma and acute surgery. Prior to that, I served as the medical director for trauma and acute surgery at Grant Medical Center, the biggest and busiest Level I trauma center in Ohio. Those experiences have given me the unfortunate opportunity to witness the devastation inflicted by automobile crashes. This is something I do not wish upon my own wife and daughter, or any other family in Ohio.

H.B. 106 is a bipartisan bill that proposes two important changes to the young driver licensing system in Ohio. This legislation would specifically:

1. Lengthen the Temporary Instruction Permit from 6 to 12 months; and
2. Ensure newly licensed teen drivers are supervised by an adult when driving after 10 p.m.

Recent studies rank Ohio 49th when it comes to laws that protect teen drivers. In 2016, about 8,300 injuries and fatalities occurred in teen driver crashes. That is an alarming 15% increase from 2014 and equates to about 23 injuries or fatalities every day involving a teen driver. Expanding the permit period allows for all new drivers to learn in all weather conditions. We also know that the majority of teen crashes occur between the hours of 9 pm-12 am, and with this added safeguard in place, we are protecting all drivers on Ohio roads, not just the inexperienced.

Modernizing our young driver licensing system enhances what is in place and is supported by evidence from other states that have implemented the provisions in this bill. H.B. 106 is modest in scope but has the potential to significantly and positively impact Ohio's teen drivers, their families and all Ohio drivers.

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MARION GENERAL HOSPITAL + REHABILITATION HOSPITAL + O'BLENESS HOSPITAL + MEDCENTRAL MANSFIELD HOSPITAL
MEDCENTRAL SHELBY HOSPITAL + WESTERVILLE MEDICAL CAMPUS + HEALTH AND SURGERY CENTERS + PRIMARY AND SPECIALTY CARE
URGENT CARE + WELLNESS + HOSPICE + HOME CARE + 28,000 PHYSICIANS, ASSOCIATES & VOLUNTEERS

Passing H.B. 106 will modernize Ohio's driver licensing system, provide teens with greater protection on and preparation for the road, give parents more peace of mind, and make the roads safer for everyone. I appreciate your consideration of this legislation and urge your support.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shay O'Mara', followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Shay O'Mara, M.D.