

March 22, 2019

The Honorable Doug Green, Representative  
Chairman, Ohio House Transportation and Public Safety Committee  
77 S. High Street  
Columbus, OH 43215

***Re: HB 106 (Scherer, Sheehy) Graduated Driver License Law***

Dear Chairman Green:

On behalf of State Auto Insurance Companies, I write today to urge the Committee's support of House Bill 106 sponsored by representatives Scherer and Sheehy. Lengthening the required temporary instruction permit period from 6 to 12 months and ensuring proper supervision of newly-licensed teen drivers after 10 p.m. will make Ohio's roads safer for all drivers.

State Auto Insurance is an Ohio-based Property & Casualty insurance carrier with annual premiums surpassing \$2 billion. Since 1921, we have written personal automobile insurance for many thousands of Ohioans and have a long history of advocating for meaningful improvements to road safety. As an insurance carrier we see firsthand the positive impacts road safety measures can have and, sadly, we also see when improvements need to be made. It's that experience that leads us to strongly support the reforms contained in HB 106.

Currently, Ohio's teens are not gaining the supervised experience they need 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. A 12 month permit period ensures every new driver has the chance to practice driving with an adult in all 4 seasons. Having a well-rounded driving experience in all types of weather is invaluable to new drivers—especially those new to Ohio weather.

As every parent has experienced, newly-licensed drivers still have much to learn once they pass their driving test and ensuring proper supervision of young folks while driving at night is important for their continued development. Research has proven that requiring newly licensed teen drivers to drive supervised after 10 p.m. results in significant 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. Current law exemptions remain in place for work, school or religious activities.

Mr. Chairman, it's time to modernize Ohio's young driver licensing system and make the roads safer for everyone. On behalf of State Auto, I appreciate your consideration and urge a favorable vote on HB 106.

Regards,



Mark Schloemer

External Relations Director, State Auto Insurance Companies