



**William L. Windsor, Jr.**  
Associate Vice President  
Office of Consumer Safety

September 20, 2017

The Honorable Joe Uecker  
Ohio Senate  
Chairman, Ohio Senate Local Government, Public Safety, and Veterans Affairs Committee  
VIA ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION

**Re: HB 95 (Hughes, Seitz) Enhance Penalty for Moving Violations While Distracted**

Dear Chairman Uecker,

On behalf of Nationwide, please support passage of HB 95, a bill that establishes an enhanced penalty for committing a moving violation while distracted. Nationwide is headquartered in Columbus, Ohio and is proud to provide 15,000 jobs in the state and 1.25 million policies to Ohio residents. We know that there are a number of factors leading to the unprecedented rise in the frequency and severity of auto related crashes. Key factors into this equation include lower gas prices increasing the number of miles driven, the impact of higher medical and vehicle repair costs, and distracted driving.

Traffic crashes are a serious and costly issue in Ohio. Motor vehicle fatalities in Ohio jumped ten percent in 2015. According to the Ohio Department of Public Safety, there were 302,307 traffic crashes resulting in 1,110 fatalities in 2015. There is general agreement that crashes related to distracted driving are underreported. The Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS) found that drivers using cell phones are four times more likely to get into injury-causing crashes. Distracted driving is highly likely to continue to increase as new and affordable technology is introduced that increases the hand-held entertainment and vehicle installed communication options available.

Nationwide is a long-standing leader in highway and automobile safety. This includes our commitment to reducing distracted driving through heightened public awareness, development of technology to mitigate risks, continued targeted research, and enactment and enforcement of laws banning texting, mobile phone and handheld device use while driving. Your support of HB 95 is another step forward to protect our roadways and save lives. In addition to the increased penalties and fines, this legislation will help curb the behavior of drivers who are found to be driving distracted by being incentivized to attend a distracted driving safety course, established by the director of public safety.

Again, thank you for your consideration to support HB 95. Nationwide applauds the Ohio Senate for making this legislation a priority and the leadership of Rep. Hughes and Rep. Seitz on this issue along with the listed cosponsors.

Sincerely,

William L Windsor, Jr.  
Associate Vice President  
Office of Consumer Safety

Cc: Ohio Senate Local Government, Public Safety, and Veterans Affairs Committee  
Representative Hughes  
Representative Seitz