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October 12, 2015

The Honorable Jim Butler
Chair, House Judiciary Committee
Ohio House of Representatives
77 South High Street – 13th floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Chairman Butler, Vice Chair Manning, Ranking Member Stinziano, and members of the House Judiciary Committee:

On behalf of the Ohio Association for Justice (OAJ), I write to express our organization's support for SB 146. The OAJ is committed to achieving common sense measures that make Ohio motorists and roadways safer. Distracted driving places motorists and pedestrians at a higher risk of injury. SB 146 represents sensible and welcomed action by the state against distracted driving.

The Ohio General Assembly has already taken positive steps when it passed legislation to address the dangers of distracted driving caused by cell phone use (R.C. 4511.204 prohibits driving while texting) and earphones (R.C. 4511.84 prohibits drivers from wearing earphones or earplugs in both ears). It makes sense that motorists should face increased penalties for moving violations committed when the driver is distracted by handheld electronic communications or other similar activity that would be expected to impair the driver's ability to safely operate a vehicle. SB 146 adds enforcement "teeth" to Ohio's efforts to reduce distracted driving.

For the foregoing reasons, the OAJ applauds Senator Hughes and Senator Seitz, the sponsors of SB 146, for their work on this bill. We enthusiastically support the bill's passage.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John Van Doorn". The signature is fluid and cursive.

John Van Doorn