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June 1, 2015

The Honorable John Eklund
Chairman, Senate Criminal Justice Committee
Ohio Senate
Statehouse
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Chairman Eklund, Vice Chair Obhof, Ranking Member Thomas, and members of the Senate Criminal Justice Committee:

On behalf of the Ohio Association for Justice (OAJ), I write to extend the 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 passing legislation to address the dangers of distracted driving caused by cell phone use (e.g., R.C. 4511.204, driving while texting) and earphones (e.g., R.C. 4511.84, prohibiting drivers from wearing earphones or earplugs in both ears). It makes sense that motorists face increased penalties for moving violations committed while they are distracted by handheld electronic communications or other similar activity that would be expected to impair the ability to safely operate a vehicle. SB 146 adds legislative 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 and enthusiastically supports the bill's passage.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John Van Doorn". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a white background.

John Van Doorn

