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House Bill 283
Allstate Insurance Company
House Criminal Justice Committee
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Chairman LaRe, Vice Chairman Swearingen, Ranking Member Leland, and members of the House Criminal Justice Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written proponent testimony on House Bill 283.

At Allstate, we are committed to serving our customers and promoting safety on the road for our employees, customers and all drivers. We do business in all 50 states, and our national presence has allowed us to see how legislation like H.B. 283 can help prevent distracted driving crashes and promote safe driving practices in Ohio and states across the country. Today there are 1,769 Allstate agents and employees who live in Ohio as well as more than 367,000 auto policies in force in the state. This bill can help keep the roads safer for Ohioans as well as all drivers in the state.

H.B. 283 strengthens Ohio's current laws ensuring Ohioans stay safe on the roadways. Specifically, the bill prohibits a person from using, holding, or physically supporting with any part of the person's body any electronic wireless communications device while operating a motor vehicle on any street, highway, or public property. Additionally, the bill allows for primary enforcement of handsfree violations – a major change in the way law enforcement can move the needle on distracted driving crashes. If enacted, Ohio would be following 24 other states that prohibit all drivers from using handheld devices while driving.¹

Unfortunately, traffic fatalities in Ohio have risen six of the past seven years, and overall crashes in Ohio remain persistently high at a time when vehicles themselves are getting safer. In 2020, travel in Ohio was down approximately 17% but traffic deaths rose 7% compared to 2019. Ohio ended 2020 with 1,237 traffic deaths—82 more than the 1,155 reported in 2019.² Even with the increased safety measures on newer vehicles, traffic deaths are not decreasing. Individuals are using their cellphones while driving and taking their eyes off the road, which slows down drivers' reaction time. When this is the case, it makes it that much more difficult for individuals to react properly and help avoid a crash. Distracted driving threatens the lives of Ohioans daily, and Allstate believes it will take policy changes like H.B. 283 for individuals to change their behaviors.

¹ [National Conference of State Legislators.](#)

² [For Ohio.](#)



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For these reasons, Allstate urges the committee to act swiftly on this important piece of legislation. H.B. 283 will help ensure traffic crashes, injuries and deaths decrease in Ohio and make the roads safer for everyone. Thank you again for the opportunity to express our support of H.B. 283. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,

/s/ Kate MacGuidwin

Kate MacGuidwin