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September 18, 2017

The Honorable Joe Uecker, Senator
Chairman, Ohio Senate Local Government, Public Safety, and Veterans Affairs Committee
Ohio Senate
1 Capitol Square, 1st Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Re: HB 95 (Hughes, Seitz) Distracted Driving Law

Dear Chairman Uecker,

Distracted driving is an increasingly deadly venture on the roadways; distracted driving is making the roadways unsafe for all that travel. People are busy and try to multi-task their life into a presumed level of "efficiency." Multitasking behind the wheel of a car is in no way efficient—it is more aptly described as deadly. On behalf of the Ohio Insurance Institute, I strongly urge you to support H.B. 95. The Ohio Insurance Institute is a trade and information association representing 58 Ohio-based property and casualty insurance companies and related affiliate organizations. OII members are the writers of 87% of the auto insurance covered in Ohio.

HB 95 is a starting point in addressing the public safety crisis of distracted driving. While we are hopeful HB 95 curbs some of this dangerous activity, the job is not done. We look forward to continuing to work with public policy leaders to address this highway safety epidemic. Highway safety advocates have seen a marked increase in the frequency and severity of crashes throughout the country. The dramatic rise in distracted driving is a significant cause of the increase in frequency and severity of crashes. Highway safety advocates will continue to tell this important cautionary tale that distracted driving is unsafe and puts lives in danger.

The OII appreciates the leadership of Rep. Hughes and Rep. Seitz on this issue. We look forward to engaging in future dialogue with policy leaders to promote highway safety and to bring increased awareness to distracted driving. Thank you for the opportunity to express support for H.B. 95.

Sincerely,

Michael D. Farley, Esq.
Vice President, Legal and Government Affairs