



Property Casualty Insurers
Association of America

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Jeffrey Junkas
Assistant Vice President, State Government Relations

September 19, 2017

The Honorable Uecker
Chair, Local Government, Public Safety and Veterans Affairs Committee
Ohio Senate
1 Capitol Square, 1st Flr.
Columbus, OH 43215

RE: SUPPORT House Bill 95, Enhancements to Distract Driving Penalties

Dear Chairman Uecker:

The Property Casualty Insurers Association of America (PCI) is a trade association representing nearly 1,000 property and casualty insurance companies that together write 45 percent of the auto insurance in Ohio. We respectfully submit the following comments in support of House Bill 95, concerning enhancements to the states distracted driving penalties.

Auto safety is a top concern for auto insurers and PCI. New technologies are making today's cars safer for drivers and passengers, but we are seeing some of the largest increases in accidents and fatalities on the roads in 50 years. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, traffic deaths rose 10.4 percent in the first half of 2016, and have been steadily increasing since 2014.

While safety is the first concern, the increase in accident frequency and severity comes at a time when repair, labor, medical and other costs associated with accidents also are rising—which could lead to increased premiums. To that end, PCI is working with policymakers, industry leaders, and consumers to promote driver safety and enact highway safety laws to protect motorists and pedestrians and keep insurance costs stable.

Enacting HB 95 would help change the mindset and culture around distracted driving by enhancing the penalties to those drivers who are involved in a crash and distracted driving is a significant factor. This will help discourage use of electronic devices while driving and thus help keep Ohio roads safer.

PCI's urges you and your colleagues to vote "yes" on HB 95

Thank you for your consideration of our perspective. Please contact me directly at 847-553-3678 or via email at jeffrey.junkas@pciaa.net or our Ohio counsel, Steve Buehrer at 614-365-4107 or via email at buehrer@carpenterlipps.com with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey Junkas". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a white background.

Jeffrey Junkas