September 26, 2017

The Honorable Joe Uecker

Chairman, Ohio Senate Local Government Public Safety and Veteran Affairs

1 Capital Square, 1st Floor

Columbus, OH 43215

RE: Proponent House Bill 95, Enhancements to Distracted Driving Penalties

Dear Chairman Uecker,

On behalf of Liberty Mutual Group, I strongly urge your support of H.B. 95, a bill that establishes an enhanced penalty for committing a moving violation while distracted. Liberty Mutual commits ourselves to providing broad and useful insurance products to meet our customer’s ever-changing needs. With those services, we recognize that auto safety is a top concern of ours.

Liberty Mutual is now the 5th largest property and casualty insurance company in the United States, we see trends that show a rise in frequency and severity of automobile accidents that are related to distracted driving. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), fatalities attributed to distracted driving, which includes texting or using a GPS, increased by 8.8 percent in 2015, which was the latest year available.

House Bill 95 is a terrific start in addressing the growing problem of distracted driving. We salute Representatives Seitz and Hughes for their continued work on highway and road safety. In particular, we are encouraged to see language that creates a distracted driving safety course for those cited.

Thank you for your consideration to support House Bill 95. We look forward to engaging in further discussion on ways to promote highway safety while raising awareness of distracted driving.

Sincerely,

Charles Burhan

Assistant Vice President

Public Affairs