**Ohio House Transportation and Public Safety Committee**

**March 26th, 2019**

**HB 106 Proponet Testimony**

**Faith Sealscott: Allen East High School student**

Good morning Chairman Green, Vice Chair McClain, Ranking Member Sheehy, and members of the committee. I am so honored to be given this opportunity to speak before you. My name is Faith Sealscott. I am a senior at Allen East High School and also a teenage driver.

I learned of this bill roughly a year ago. I immediately thought “huh, this is a really good idea. I really like this.” Teenagers often just want freedom; they think they know everything and are invincible. Obviously, this is not true and House Bill 106 would really prevent accidents that come from that kind of thinking.

I had my permit for six months. Three months after getting my license, I totaled my truck. I was pulling into a parking lot and I failed to yield to the oncoming car. The parking lot had two entrances in a Y-shape. I stopped to check no one was coming and I saw only one vehicle. In my head, I had plenty of time to pull out but that was not the case. Thankfully, no one was hurt but I lost my truck. This accident happened because of lack of experience.

New drivers are going to make mistakes, that is to be expected. We are only human, and young humans at that. But, if teenagers were given more time with supervised driving, they would make less mistakes. Not only will they have more time under their belt, they will have experienced many different situtations with guidance from their parents. People say that things only get better with time and that is so true with driving.

I believe having your permit for one year is also beneficial because the teen would learn how to drive in all kinds of weather. We joke about Ohio’s crazy weather, but our weather is truly unpredictable. I am thankful that I had my permit during some of the winter months because my father was able to show me how to handle ice and snow. Unfortuntely, I know many teens who experience driving on the snow for the first time by themselves. This is completely dangerous.

Good and safe driving comes with time and experience. This bill would help prepare teenagers for all kinds of weather conditions, types of roads, and difficult situations. I will be delighted to answer any questions. If not, thank you for your time.