A RESOLUTION

Recognizing the week of October 18 through 24, 2020, as "National Teen Driver Safety Week" in Pennsylvania.

WHEREAS, Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for adolescents and young adults, 15 to 18 years of age, in the United States and many of these deaths are preventable; and

WHEREAS, In 2018, there were 2,121 people killed in crashes involving a teen passenger driver of which 719 deaths were the teen driver; and

WHEREAS, The crash rate in the United States for teen drivers, based on miles driven, is nearly three times the crash rate for drivers 20 years of age or older; and

WHEREAS, In 2018, among teen drivers involved in fatal crashes, almost 10% were reported as distracted at the time of the crash; and

WHEREAS, Wearing a seat belt is one of the simplest ways for teens to stay safe; and
WHEREAS, Forty-five percent of teen drivers who have died were not wearing a seat belt and 9 out of 10 of the passengers in a teen driver's fatal crash were also not wearing a seat belt; and

WHEREAS, More than 28% of all teen drivers of passenger vehicles involved in fatal crashes were speeding at the time of the crash, and males were more likely to be involved in fatal crashes than females; and

WHEREAS, It is necessary to explore effective ways to reduce the crash risk for young drivers by focusing research and outreach efforts on areas of teen driving that show the most promise for improving safety; and

WHEREAS, The National Young Driver Survey, developed with input from teenagers and administered by the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, demonstrates a nationwide need to increase overall awareness about the safe use of electronic handheld devices, the risks of nighttime and fatigued driving, the importance of consistent seat belt use and the practice of gradually increasing driver privileges over time as a young driver gains more experience under supervised conditions; and

WHEREAS, Recognizing the third week of October as "National Teen Driver Safety Week" is expected to increase awareness of these important issues among teenagers and the adults who care about them in this Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, Avoiding impaired driving helps teens avoid becoming a statistic; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the week of October 18 through 24, 2020, as "National Teen Driver Safety Week" in Pennsylvania.