



Senate of Pennsylvania

Senator Jim Ferlo

38th Senatorial District

MEMO

Date: *January 6, 2011*
To: *All Senators*
From: *Senator Jim Ferlo*
Subject: *Co-sponsorship of Prohibiting Calling and Texting on Mobile Phones While Driving*

Dear Colleagues:

In the near future I plan to re-introduced Senate Bill 459 that would ban drivers from using mobile phones, including text messaging, unless they employed a hands free device.

California, New Jersey, New York, Connecticut, Delaware, Oregon, Utah and Washington have already passed similar legislation, while still more states have passed similar restrictions on teens and bus drivers. 30 states now ban texting and driving.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) has reported that distracted driving, which includes the use of cell phones, contributes between 20 and 30 percent of all traffic accidents. In addition, recent fatal accidents have pointed towards text messaging as a possible culprit. The death of five teenagers in Western New York could have perhaps been avoided if the driver had kept her eyes on the road and off the keypad of her cell phone.

In the previous session Senate Bill 459 was co-sponsored by Senators Costa, Fontana, Kitchen, Erickson, Williams, Pippy, Stack and Musto.

If you would like to co-sponsor this legislation please e-mail Gianna Veno at gveno@pasenate.com or call 787-6123.