

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the House of Representatives

FROM: Representative Eugene DePasquale

DATE: January 12, 2011

SUBJECT: Co-sponsorship of Legislation to Prohibit Text Messaging While Driving

In the near future, I plan to reintroduce legislation that focuses on making our roadways safer and reducing distractions for drivers.

Three years ago I first introduced legislation to ban Driving While Texting. At that time, only the State of Washington banned the practice. Today, over thirty states and many local governments have banned Driving While Texting. Also, according to public polling from Quinnipiac University, over 90% of Pennsylvanians want to see Pennsylvania act to make Driving While Texting illegal. The support for this ban was supported by at least 80% of voters in every region of Pennsylvania, each political Party and every demographic group.

Specifically, my proposal seeks to amend Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes to prohibit drivers from sending or reading text messages while a vehicle is in motion. Exceptions are provided for law enforcement officers and operators of emergency vehicles when on duty, as well as for drivers who are reporting an emergency or traffic accident. Those convicted of this offense would be required to pay a \$100 fine.

Driver distractions of any kind lead to unsafe conditions on the road. However, I believe that drivers reading or typing messages while driving pose a particular threat to other drivers as well as to themselves. According to the Governors Highway Safety Association, thirty states and the District of Columbia ban text messaging *for all drivers*, while an additional eight states prohibit text messaging by novice drivers only. Eleven of these laws were enacted in 2010.

Please join me in support of this important fight for the safety of all motorists using Pennsylvania roads. If you would like to be added as a co-sponsor, please contact Cynthia Clory at 717-787-7514 or by email at cclory@pahouse.net.

Previous Co-Sponsors Include: BOBACK , BRENNAN , D. COSTA, KILLION , McILVAINE SMITH , MILLARD , O'NEILL , QUINN , READSHAW , REICHLEY , K. SMITH , GROVE, KORTZ , MUNDY , MUSTIO , SABATINA , SAMUELSON , CLYMER , DONATUCCI , PASHINSKI , VULAKOVICH , WATSON , W. KELLER , KIRKLAND , KULA , MICCARELLI, SCAVELLO , SIPTROTH , CALTAGIRONE , COHEN , DeWEESE , CARROLL , CONKLIN , MELIO , MILLER , GILLESPIE , HESS , HORNAMAN , MILNE , FABRIZIO , FREEMAN , CRUZ , EACHUS , THOMAS , BROWN, DALEY , MOUL , MURT , SHAPIRO , DEASY, SWANGER , BENNINGHOFF and MARSHALL