

# MEMORANDUM

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**TO:** My Colleagues in the House

**FROM:** Representative Kathy Watson

**DATE:** September 19, 2011

**SUBJECT:** Co-sponsorship Resolution recognizing October 16 – 22, 2011 as “National Teen Driver Safety Week in Pennsylvania”

Again it is time to get behind National Teen Driver Safety Week (NTDSW) from October 16 through October 22, 2011 which is dedicated to raising awareness and seeking solutions to unnecessary teen deaths on the road. Let us come together and focus Pennsylvania’s attention once again on this serious issue.

The theme for this year is **SUPPORTING PARENTS IN TEACHING THEIR TEENS TO DRIVE**. This includes helping them navigate the practice driving phase, as well as driving on their own. Fostering this bond translates to an increase in teen driver safety. According to research done by Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) and State Farm Insurance Companies, teens who say their parents set rules and monitor them are half as likely to crash and twice as likely to buckle up as teens with less involved parents. Parents need to ensure that their teens receive at least 50 hours of supervised driving practice under a wide variety of conditions, follow Graduated Driver Licensing laws, and insist on safe passenger behavior.

In 2009 nationally, nearly 5150 drivers between 15 and 20 years old were involved in fatal traffic crashes. All were young people loved by their families – good kids full of dreams and hopes for long, meaningful lives. We all know of too many teen crashes resulting in death that have occurred in our own legislative districts.

Through this resolution we can recognize “National Teen Driver Safety Week” and get teens to Ride Like a Friend, Drive Like You Care – the campaign many schools are promoting to draw more attention to this important issue.

Please join me in co-sponsoring this resolution. If you wish to do so, please contact my secretary, Meredith Schuler in my Harrisburg office at [mschuler@pahousegop.com](mailto:mschuler@pahousegop.com) or 787-5452.