



Sprint Nextel
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Honorable Richard Geist
Chairman, House Transportation Committee
144 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Chairman Geist:

Sprint would like to offer its support to efforts of the General Assembly considering ways to reduce distracted driving. The introduction of the mobile phone has provided commuters with a vital and even life-saving communications tool in situations like road accidents and severe weather. But along with this, mobile phones can be an additional distraction for drivers. That is why Sprint emphasizes a strong focus on driving and the responsible use of Sprint products and services. Sprint encourages consumers to educate themselves and their loved ones about the dangers of distracted driving and has provided resources to do just that.

Since 2005, Sprint has worked on behalf of its customers and employees on the dangers of distracted driving and worked with schools, nonprofit organizations and product developers on various programs to combat texting while driving and promote responsible driving.

This work started with Sprint's free interactive program - *Focus on Driving* - which was designed to educate teenagers enrolled in driver's education classes on the dangers of driver distraction, the importance of attentive driving and how they can promote a safer driving experience for themselves and others on the road.

Sprint has now created a pledge for employees and customers to focus on driving. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, texting while driving makes you **four times more likely to crash your car**. Given that car crashes are the leading cause of death among teens in the United States, it's important that all people – teens as well as adults – adopt a strict no-texting rule while driving. That means no reading, no typing and no sending. The person you want to text will be there when you get done with your drive; we want to make sure that you are, too.

At Sprint, we've asked all of our employees to take the following pledge:

"I will set a good example and engage in safe driving practices in my personal life by avoiding risky behaviors like texting or e-mailing while I am operating a motor vehicle. When I'm behind the wheel, I will keep my focus on driving."

And now, we are asking all wireless users to take a similar pledge:

“I will engage in safe driving practices by avoiding risky behaviors like texting or e-mailing while I am operating a motor vehicle. When I’m behind the wheel, I will keep my focus on driving.”

Today, states, counties and cities across the United States have different regulations about the use of mobile phones while driving, and it’s important that consumers know the applicable laws in their areas. Regardless of local laws, it’s important that consumers understand the dangers of distracted driving so they know when it is not appropriate to use their phones and other mobile devices.

Moreover, Sprint encourages state officials to promote education and curb drivers from engaging in any secondary task that could distract drivers from the primary task of safely operating their vehicle. Any distraction, whether it be texting or applying makeup could be deadly, and Sprint believes the greatest emphasis is best served on education and policy that addresses all potential distractions.