

April 16, 2019

The Honorable Lee Chatfield
Speaker of the House
Michigan House of Representatives

The Honorable Mike Shirkey
Majority Leader
Michigan Senate

Dear Speaker Chatfield and Majority Leader Shirkey:

Sending or reading a text takes your eyes off the road for five seconds. At 55 mph, this is similar to driving the length of an entire football field with your eyes closed. It should be no surprise then that a driver is 23 times more likely to experience a motor vehicle accident while texting on their phone.

Cell phones cause approximately 70,000 crashes a year on U.S. roads. In 2017 alone, 3,166 people were killed in motor vehicle crashes involving distracted driving. Notably, the vast majority of people injured or killed in such an accident are not the driver, but other occupants of that vehicle, occupants of another vehicle, or pedestrians.

As an industry, we are committed to continually developing a safer motor vehicle through traditional safety features as well as through the emerging opportunities offered by advancements in mobility technology. In addition, we recognize the importance of promoting safe driving behaviors and appreciate the efforts of the 44 states who have adopted some type of distracted driving law, including Michigan with the passage of legislation in 2010.

Since 2010, technology has continued to evolve, as has our understanding of distracted driving. We are grateful for the leadership of Rep. Triston Cole, Rep. Jason Sheppard, and Rep. Mari Manoogian for introducing legislation to provide necessary and reasonable updates to Michigan's statute, as well as Gov. Whitmer for her public support for the issue.

We encourage this Legislature to continue their great work of protecting Michigan's residents, and urge the consideration and passage of reasonable and necessary reforms related to distracted driving.

Sincerely,

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President and CEO
Detroit Regional Chamber

Glenn Stevens
Vice President, Automotive and
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April 30, 2019

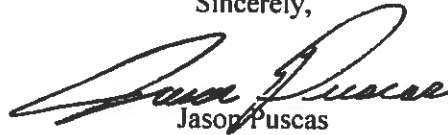
**Testimony to the House Transportation Committee
in Support of House Bills 4181, 4198, 4199**

Serving the business community for more than 100 years, the Detroit Regional Chamber takes pride in advocating on behalf of businesses throughout the city and region. As one of the most influential chambers of commerce in the country, our members look for us to collaborate with government partners in support of Michigan's reinvention and continued economic growth.

The Chamber is grateful for the leadership of Rep. Triston Cole, Rep. Jason Sheppard, and Rep. Mari Manoogian for their bipartisan efforts to provide necessary and reasonable updates to Michigan's distracted driving statute. Please find attached to this testimony a recently delivered letter, on behalf of a broad representation of Michigan's automotive industry, which emphasizes the importance of this issue and the timeliness of this legislation.

I encourage this committee to continue your great work of protecting Michigan's residents, and urge the your passage of House Bills 4181, 4198, and 4199, as substituted, which represent reasonable and necessary reforms related to distracted driving.

Sincerely,



Jason Puscas

Director, Government Relations

