



May 16, 2019

The Honorable Representative Brandt Iden
Michigan House Ways and Means Committee
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Lansing, MI 48933

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Tiffany Hauser
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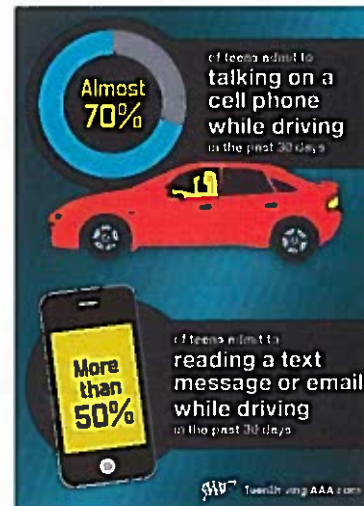
Dear Chairman Iden:

On behalf of AAA Michigan, with more than 1.4 million members in Michigan, I am writing to express AAA's support of House Bill 4181, 4198, and 4199, which strengthens the state's distracted driving laws.

AAA Michigan was founded over 100 years ago for the purpose of advocating on behalf of the motoring public and working to ensure the safety and well-being of all who use our roads. Distracted driving presents a serious safety concerns for all who use our roadways.

These bill would take positive steps forward in strengthening Michigan's distracted driving laws by implementing a complete cell phone ban for those under 18 years old. This is critical, as AAA Foundation research found that distraction was a main factor in 58 percent of teen crashes. The proposal also brings our current texting and driving law up to date to reflect cell phone technology, such as the use of social media, email, and video streaming.

Lastly, the bill implements a handheld ban for all drivers. While we support efforts to combat distracted driving, AAA Foundation research has found it is the conversation itself that serves as a cognitive distraction not whether the individual is holding the phone. Additionally, handheld bans have been shown to reduce handheld cellphone use, but have not shown lasting effects on reducing crashes. Please recognize that hands-free is not risk free.



However, due to the distracted driving improvements these bills do make, we urge the Committee to support HB 4181, HB4198, and HB4199.

Sincerely,

Tiffany Hauser

cc: House Ways and Means Committee Members