

POSTION PAPERS:

TITLE: Teens/Driving /Cell Phones

BILL NUMBER AND SPONSORS:HB 103 Rep. Lee Perry / Sen Lyle Hillyard

PROBLEM: Teen Driving Laws Work we have seen data that is indicating decreases in teen deaths because of Graduated DL laws and now suddenly deaths and crashes are on the rise

The Utah legislature recognized that teen drivers needed additional training and experience as they developed their driving skills and passed a series of Graduated Driver Licensing Laws. According to the "2010 Utah Crash Summary", since the first of the Graduated Driving Laws was enacted, teen driver fatal crashes declined 53%. A cell phone ban for teen drivers will help keep teen even safer.

SURVEYS:

Support for Cell Phone Laws is Widespread. Teen Driver Cell Phone and Texting Banned in 34 States

According to survey conducted in Utah from December 2011 to January 2012:

- 84% of Utah adults support a law banning cell phone use when driving for teens under age 18.
- 94% of Utah adults think talking on a cell phone while driving increases someone's chance of being hurt or killed in a crash.

STATISTICS:

Teen Drivers Are Still Overly Represented in Crashes in Utah. In the "2010 Utah Crash Summary"

- Teenage drivers represented 8% of the licensed drivers in Utah, yet they were in 21% of all motor vehicle crashes
- In addition, in 2010 teenage drivers were in 10,097 motor vehicles crashes which resulted in 4,805 injured persons and 38 deaths

INFORMATION SPECIFIC TO THE PROBLEM:

Cell Phone Use is a Leading Distraction in Crashes and a Major Threat to Teen Safety in Utah

According to the "2010 Utah Crash Summary":

- Cell phone use is the leading driver distraction in Utah, accounting for 17.5% of the 20,885 distracted driving crashes between 2007-2010
- In 2010, crashes involving a cell phone distracted driver were 1.5 times more likely to result in an injury when compared to all crashes.
- 50% of high school students who drive admit they talk on a cell phone daily while driving.
- 61% of 12th grade students who drive report they talk on a cell phone daily while driving.
- Many teens have an inflated sense of their ability to drive safely using electronic devices.

DATA:

According to Cell Phone Studies at the University of Utah

- Drivers who talk on handheld or hands-free cell phones are just as impaired as drunk drivers with a 0.08 blood alcohol level.
- Cell phone use impairs driving abilities of young adults. Drivers who used cell phones have 18% slower reaction times while driving and a two-fold increase in the number of rear-end crashes.

Why a Cell Phone Ban for Teen Drivers is Important

Combining the inherent risk of inexperienced teen drivers with the distraction posed by cell phones results in a very dangerous combination. The best way for teenagers to cultivate the necessary skills and experience to become safe and sensible drivers is to control the risk to which they are exposed.



FROM CSG WEST Study

STORY:

Reggie Shaw "A deadly Wandering" by Matt Richtel

Representative Lee Perry

Utah House of Representatives - www.leeperryutah.com or leeperry@le.utah.gov