

Testimony
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Proposed Legislation extending prohibition for drivers to use hand held devices for those over the age of 18 will reduce crashes and save lives.

Proposed Legislation, although aimed at drivers over the age of 18, will actually save more teen lives

- Teens learn driving habits from parents –good and bad
- Teens whose parents drive distracted are more than twice as likely to drive distracted
<http://pressroom.lexus.com/releases/toyota+teen+driver+study+text+distracted+nov27.htm>
- Parents need to be better role models for teens and prohibiting hand held cell phone use for all drivers will keep more teens from acquiring risky driving behaviors and save more teen lives

Similar legislation significantly reduced crashes, injuries and deaths in California

- California enacted a hands-free cell phone law in 2008
- For the 2 years following enactment there was more than a 20% reduction in crashes and fatalities and injuries.
- U of CA Berkely http://www.ots.ca.gov/Media_and_Research/Press_Room/2012/doc/CAC_cell_Phone_Law_Study.pdf

USDOT Pilot Programs in NY and CT, states with hand held cell phone bans, coupled with visible law enforcement significant reduced cell phone use and texting for drivers

- In Syracuse, New York because of high-visibility enforcement – both handheld cell phone use and texting behind the wheel have declined by one-third.
- In Hartford, Connecticut, where researchers initially identified drivers talking on their cell phones at twice the frequency (which left more room for improvement), there was a 57 percent drop in handheld use and texting behind the wheel dropped by nearly three-quarters.
- <http://www.dot.gov/briefing-room/new-research-shows-enforcement-cuts-distracted-dri>

Miscellaneous

Cell phone conversations are more dangerous than driver conversations with front seat passengers

- Drivers on cell phones pay less attention to surrounding traffic than those simply conversing with passengers
- Drivers conversing with passengers more often collaborate in the task of driving, referring to and conversing about traffic
- Passengers have a high level of shared situation awareness for driving conditions which cell phone participants can not
- <http://www.divingstraction.gov/download/research-pdf/Passenger-Cellphone-Conversations.pdf>

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