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March 10, 2017

Honorable Jim Frazier
Chairman
Committee on Transportation
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249

Dear Chairman Frazier:

Thank you for introducing AB 63, which addresses the issue of teen driver safety by resolving a serious weakness in California's Graduated Driver Licensing law.

Currently, California teenagers can begin their journey to obtain full driver's license privileges at 15 ½-years-old following the Graduated Driver's License (GDL) three step program. The GDL program centers on the need to provide new teen drivers with education and experience in different conditions, and establishing good driver practices by limiting their operation of cars in the evening and with non-familial teens as passengers.

The critical flaw with the California GDL law is that it allows teens to wait until they reach age 18 when they can obtain an unrestricted driver's license without the education or restricted driving experiences outlined in the GDL program. The crash rate for 18 and 19-year-old first time drivers who are able to skip the GDL experience requirements is 45% higher than their younger peers who must pass through the GDL program. The chart below demonstrates the consequences of the loophole. New Jersey is one of the few states which extends its GDL process to drivers older than 18 and has been able to reduce crashes among 18-year-olds by 10 percent, according to a [AAA Foundation](#) analysis.

Safe Kids is a 29-year-old organization dedicated to reducing preventable injuries which are the leading cause of death and hospitalization for kids 19 and under. Driving that persistent and disappointing statistic are the large number of teen drivers involved in crashes, which has been increasing over past few years. Safe Kids has a network of 17 coalitions in California.

We thank you for your leadership on this issue and others involving the safety of our kids on California roads and highways. We stand ready to help you in any way we can.

Sincerely,



2015

Age	Fatalities per 100,000 People
16	1.37/100,000
17	3.27/100,000
18	4.52/100,000
19	8.84/100,000
20	9.30/100,000
21	7.94/100,000