



AAP Headquarters

141 Northwest Point Blvd
Elk Grove Village, IL 60007-1098
Phone: 847/434-4000
Fax: 847/434-8000
E-mail: kidsdocs@aap.org
www.aap.org

**Reply to
Department of Federal Affairs**

Homer Building, Suite 400 N
601 13th St NW
Washington, DC 20005
Phone: 202/347-8600
Fax: 202/393-6137
E-mail: kids1st@aap.org

Executive Committee

President
David T. Tayloe, Jr, MD, FAAP

President-Elect
Judith S. Palfrey, MD, FAAP

Immediate Past President
Renée R. Jenkins, MD, FAAP

Executive Director/CEO
Errol R. Alden, MD, FAAP

Board of Directors

District I
Edward N. Bailey, MD, FAAP
Salem, MA

District II
Henry A. Schaeffer, MD, FAAP
Brooklyn, NY

District III
Sandra Gibson Hassink, MD, FAAP
Wilmington, DE

District IV
Francis E. Rushton, Jr, MD, FAAP
Beaufort, SC

District V
Marilyn J. Bull, MD, FAAP
Indianapolis, IN

District VI
Michael V. Severson, MD, FAAP
Brainerd, MN

District VII
Kenneth E. Matthews, MD, FAAP
College Station, TX

District VIII
Mary P. Brown, MD, FAAP
Bend, OR

District IX
Myles B. Abbott, MD, FAAP
Berkeley, CA

District X
John S. Curran, MD, FAAP
Tampa, FL

April 22, 2009

The Honorable Tim Bishop
U.S. House of Representatives
306 Cannon Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Michael Castle
U.S. House of Representatives
1233 Longworth Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Bishop and Castle:

On behalf of the 60,000 primary care pediatricians, pediatric medical subspecialists, and surgical specialists of the American Academy of Pediatrics who are dedicated to the health, safety, and well-being of infants, children, adolescents, and young adults, I would like to share our support for the Safe Teen and Novice Driver Uniform Protection Act of 2009 (STANDUP Act).

Drivers aged 16 to 19 have the highest average annual crash and traffic violation rates of any other age group. Traffic crashes are also the leading cause of death for teenagers across the United States. The STANDUP Act would make an important improvement in teenage driving by requiring States to have uniform 3-stage graduated driving license (GDL) programs. GDL programs allow young drivers to ease into the traffic environment and have been proven to reduce traffic crashes.

The STANDUP Act contains a number of other important provisions that would reduce crash risk exposure for young drivers. The legislation bans non-emergency use of cellular telephones and other communication devices by teenage drivers when operating a motor vehicle and would limit the number of underage passengers that can accompany a teenage driver when no adult is present.

The provisions included in the STANDUP Act address the continuing threat motor vehicle crashes pose to the health of teenagers. The American Academy of Pediatrics appreciates your sponsorship of this important legislation and your commitment to the safety of our nation's youth. We look forward to working with you as this legislation moves through Congress.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David T. Tayloe, Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

David T. Tayloe, Jr. MD FAAP
President

DT:cp