



American Insurance Association

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News

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AIA SUPPORTS STANDUP ACT OF 2009 *Graduated Driver Licensing Laws Will Improve Safety for All Drivers*

WASHINGTON, DC, April 20, 2009 – Leigh Ann Pusey, president and CEO of the American Insurance Association (AIA), today issued a statement in support of the Safe Teen and Novice Driver Uniform Protection (STANDUP) Act of 2009.

The STANDUP Act is recently introduced federal legislation that would encourage states to implement a Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL) program through a combination of Highway Trust Fund incentives and sanctions. GDL laws, which require a 3-step licensing process for young drivers under the age of 18 as well as other safety enhancing measures, are a proven way to reduce the risk of teenage automobile accidents, however they are not currently consistent throughout the nation. Federal legislation would allow for uniformity in the licensing procedures in all 50 states, thereby improving the safety of all young drivers.

Ms. Pusey's statement is below:

“As motor vehicle crashes are the primary cause of deaths amongst American teens, the STANDUP Act of 2009 is an excellent way to reduce the amount of needless loss of life. Graduated Drivers Licensing programs have been proven extremely effective in the states that have adopted them. By educating young drivers and mitigating their exposure to risky situations, GDL laws make the roads safer for all drivers.

“The STANDUP Act is a great example of the federal government providing the impetus for all states to improve their licensing requirements. It is important that the bill provides federal incentives to states for adoption of minimum GDL laws and only applies sanctions after 3 years if a state has not adopted such laws.

“AIA, along with the rest of the Saferoads4teens Coalition, is committed to promoting the safety of young drivers. The STANDUP Act and its GDL requirements will save thousands of lives every year and we strongly support its enactment.”

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The American Insurance Association represents approximately 350 major insurance companies that provide all lines of property and casualty insurance and write more than \$123 billion annually in premiums. The association is headquartered in Washington, D.C., and has representatives in every state. All AIA news releases are available at www.aiadc.org.