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## STATEMENT

“For automakers, safety is our top priority, and our work introducing new technology has helped reduce highway fatalities to a record low in 2008. New technology, like Electronic Stability Control, helps drivers altogether avoid situations that lead to an accident, and our engineers and researchers continue working on even more technological enhancements.

“However, data has shown that ‘human error’ is the probable accident cause 93 percent of the time. This underscores the fact that – even with the promising new technology automakers continue bringing to consumers – having properly trained drivers on our roads is critical to overall auto safety.

“Graduated drivers licensing (GDL) allows new drivers to gain experience and skills before moving on to more challenging and demanding driving environments. Progressing from one stage to another allows new motorists to develop responsible driving behavior, which enhances safety for all drivers. Most importantly, graduated drivers licenses save lives. Peer-reviewed research shows that states with three-stage graduated systems had 11 percent fewer fatal crashes per population of 16-year-olds.”

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