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KidsAndCars.org Strongly Supports the STANDUP Act of 2009

Parents need guidance and direction to help keep their children safe from things that have the potential to harm them. This proactive protection starts early in the child's journey of mobility. When toddlers begin to crawl, their parents make sure their children do not get into anything that could harm them by putting locks on cabinet doors to keep them away from poisons and gates across stairs to keep them from going where they should not. When toddlers begin to walk, parents walk beside their child and hold their hand to keep them from falling while the child learns to balance themselves. When the child gains confidence and begins to run through the house their parents place protective padding on furniture to cover sharp corners and move items out of their child's reach to keep them safe. Throughout the child's early mobility years proactive protective measures that are age appropriate minimize danger and harm to children. Data driven interventions and guidance from safety and injury prevention professionals help us to protect our most venerable little citizens; our children.

Licensing and the privilege of driving a vehicle are no different than the early mobility stages of child development. Children's brains, motor development and comprehension of danger have not changed in one hundred years; but our roadways and their exposure to danger has. Children and parents need to understand the best practices for beginner drivers to minimize injury or even death before we put a 4,000 pound lethal weapon in their hands.

Motor vehicle crashes are by far the number one killer of American teenagers. The STANDUP Act is a comprehensive approach to graduated drivers licensing (GDL) that has already reduced injury and death in the states where these laws have been enacted. The STANDUP Act helps new young drivers gain experience under supervised and less risky conditions and addresses several major facets of the teen driving problem. This proactive bill allows for uniformity in the licensing procedures in all 50 states.

The next generation of teen drivers have already benefited from safer child restraints, traveling in the back seat of vehicles and the use of booster seats. **Let's make sure we continue to protect our children as they enter their most dangerous mobility years by supporting the STANDUP Act.**

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KidsAndCars.org is a national nonprofit child safety organization dedicated to preventing injuries and death to children in or around motor vehicles. Based on evidence, KidsAndCars.org knows these sudden tragic events are not only predictable, but preventable. KidsAndCars.org has been pioneering a national prevention movement since 1999 by promoting the highest level of awareness among parents, caregivers, legislators and the public at-large about the dangers inherent to children when in or around motor vehicles.