

STATEMENT OF
William Vainisi, Vice President and Assistant General Counsel
Allstate Insurance Company
On the Introduction of the
Safe Teen And Novice Driver Uniform Protection Act (H.R. 1895)
United States Capitol, Washington, D.C.
April 23, 2009

Allstate is proud to stand with so many others who believe what we believe – that more must be done to curb the staggering number of deaths resulting from teen-related auto crashes. Our friends at Advocates, our fellow members of the Saferoads4teens Coalition, and many others deserve our thanks for the hard work they have done to raise awareness for stronger graduated driver licensing laws.

And, of course, we would not be here today if it were not for the sponsors of the STANDUP Act. Allstate and our fellow insurers supporting this measure applaud Senator Dodd, and Congressmen Bishop and Castle for leading the charge on national GDL guidelines for young drivers. And we urge their colleagues to join them in this campaign.

This is an issue that is bigger than any one person or company or coalition. This is a threat to our collective health that penetrates every corner of America. And it's time we do something about it.

It is the mission of Allstate to protect our customers from life's uncertainties. We take that mission seriously, which is why we believe so strongly in the life-saving elements of comprehensive GDL legislation. We're facing a public health issue of epidemic proportions. More teens die on America's highways and roads as a result of fatal crashes than any other place. But the good news is that there is a plan to stop this epidemic.

The STANDUP Act will encourage states to abandon the current patchwork of teen driver safety regulations. It will empower them to adopt a comprehensive GDL system that reflects sound research on how to reduce teen driving crashes through education and hands-on experience. We owe it to the many thousands of Americans who have fallen victim to the dangers of teen driving to pass this legislation.

So, on behalf of all of my colleagues at Allstate as well as our friends in the insurance industry who also support this bill, I want to commend the sponsors – Senator Dodd, and Congressmen Bishop and Castle – as well as everyone here for lending their voice and leadership to this issue. Working together, we can make our communities and families safer. Thank you.