



***Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety (Advocates) Supports H.R. 1895,
The Safe Teen and Novice Driver Uniform Protection (STANDUP) Act***

Motor vehicle crashes are the number one killer of teens in the United States, undoubtedly a severe public health epidemic.

In 2007, more than 7,500 people died in crashes involving young, novice drivers. Teen drivers are far more likely than other drivers to be involved in fatal crashes because they lack driving experience and tend to take greater risks. Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL) programs introduce teens to the driving experience gradually by phasing in driving privileges over time and in lower risk circumstances. GDL laws have proven effective in saving young lives, but not all states require all aspects of an optimal GDL law.

The STANDUP Act would require all states to enact GDL laws that include certain minimum, but optimal driving requirements and restrictions on teens before they become fully licensed. The House bill, H.R. 1895, was introduced by Reps. Timothy Bishop (D-NY) and Michael Castle (R-DE), and a Senate bill is expected to be introduced soon by Senator Christopher Dodd (D-CT).

Advocates has long supported and worked to adopt state GDL laws, and views the STANDUP Act as the next logical step to create a more uniform and effective national system for beginning teen drivers. Advocates strongly supports adoption of H.R. 1895, and its Senate companion bill, in order to encourage all states to adopt minimum GDL standards for the enhanced protection of teen drivers and passengers, as well as other motorists. As an active member of the Saferoads4teens Coalition, Advocates is dedicated to the successful outcome of final passage of this crucial legislation.

Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety (www.saferoads.org) is an alliance of consumer, health and safety groups and insurance companies and agents working together to adopt policies and programs that save lives, reduce injuries, and make America's roads safer.

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