

March 11, 2019

Assembly Member Robert Rivas

State Capitol

Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 1267 Graduated Driver License age change legislation – Statement of sponsorship and support

Dear Assembly Member Rivas:

The California Coalition for Children’s Safety and Health is pleased to sponsor and support your AB 1267, Graduated Driver License program age range change. Unintentional injury is the leading cause of death and hospitalization for California’s children and youth through age 19 years old. Teen driver involved crashes are the leading cause of unintentional injury death and hospitalization for California’s children and youth. Research shows that California’s GDL driver training program reduces young novice involved fatal crashes by 55%. That fact is one of the reasons our state’s Strategic Highway Safety Plan calls for moving our GDL program age range up through age 20 years old. This GDL age change is supported by a wide array of national and state traffic safety, law enforcement, public health, children and youth, advocacy groups, hospital and trauma centers, insurance companies, and most importantly hundreds of affected families who have lost a daughter or son due to a teen driver involved crash. AB 1267 will literally save not only hundreds of young people’s lives each year, but also make our roadways safer for everyone else.

Young novice drivers through age 20 years old have the highest crash rates of all ages of drivers on California’s roadways. California’s Graduated Driver License (GDL) program ensures young first time drivers have the experience they need to decrease driving risks and risks to everyone else sharing the road with them. Currently only 16 and 17 year old novice drivers must go through our state’s GDL program to obtain a driver’s license, even though 18, 19 and 20 year old novice drivers have crash rates 40% to 60% higher than younger first time drivers who have been through GDL, or are over the age of 22 when they obtain a license.

The GDL program allows all novice drivers to have a license, but provides them with the types of driver education, training and experience that are proven to give them the experience they need to be a good driver. The GDL program does not prevent young drivers from driving to work, school or helping family members with trips to the store, medical appointments and other daily family necessary trips.

If you have any questions regarding our sponsorship and support of AB 1267 contact Steve Barrow, Program Director, CCCSH, at scbarrow88@gmail.com.

Sincerely

**Cathy Barankin**

Catherine Barankin, Executive Director

California Coalition for Children’s Safety and Health