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MADD

Activism | Victim Services | Education

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March 24, 2003

Dear Senator Cegavske,

I am sorry that I cannot attend the Senate Transportation Committee hearing on SB256 scheduled for March 25, but I would like to offer support of this legislation by way of this letter.

MADD has identified Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL) laws as an effective measure whose value is based on scientific research. Young drivers have been over-represented in crash data for many years and GDL laws are proving to be effective in reversing those trends. In many states that have implemented model GDL legislation including parent-supervised basic driving practice, nighttime restrictions, passenger restrictions, mandatory safety belt usage by all occupants of motor vehicles driven by teenagers, zero tolerance for under 21 drivers, driver's ed and required learner's permit period, and distinctive license, etc, the crash and fatality rates are showing promising improvement. SB256 contains many of these recommended components.

Young Nevadans need the opportunity to learn responsible driving behaviors from the onset of their driving careers. They need to learn to concentrate on the "job" of driving safely without disruptions and distractions (i.e. teen passengers), they need the many hours of supervised driving to develop safe and responsible driving habits which will hopefully last them a lifetime, and they need to learn that nighttime driving involves many unique challenges.

Thank you for introducing this very important public safety bill.

Sincerely,

Laurel Stadler
Chapter Director