



Preventing accidental injury.

February 11, 2013

The Honorable Kurt Heise
N-699 House Office Building
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Chairman Heise,

On behalf of Safe Kids Worldwide, I write in support of H.B. 4093 and H.B. 4131, which eliminate the 2013 sunset on the .08 grams per 100 milliliters blood-alcohol-content (BAC) threshold for drunk driving. We understand that there is some support in the state for allowing the more stringent threshold for drunk driving to sunset. We believe this would be an ill-conceived step back, and would risk the lives of kids. Thus, we join in support of these bills with MADD and other organizations dedicated to child safety.

As a fact-based and research driven organization, we believe a .08 BAC limit is important and effective. Since 2003, when the .08 BAC limit went into effect, drunk driving fatalities have dropped by 25% in Michigan. Research has shown that essentially all drivers, including those who are experienced drinkers, are significantly impaired at a .08 BAC. These are the results of a review of nearly 300 studies which show that drivers are impaired in the performance of crucial driving tasks such as: divided attention, complex reaction time, steering, lane changing and judgment. The facts are clear, a .08 BAC limit saves lives.

Michigan is the heart and home of the auto industry. It should not become the only state in the nation with such a high alcohol threshold and vulnerable to losing \$50 million in federal funds. This is why we urge you to support H.B. 4093 and H.B. 4131. This reasonable, effective and lifesaving legislation will help ensure that more Michigan families are safe on the road. If there is anything we can do for you to aid in passing this legislation, feel free to contact me at 202.662.0600 or Anthony Green, our Director of Public Policy, at agreen@safekids.org, 202.663.0606.

Sincerely,

Kate Carr
President & CEO
Safe Kids Worldwide