



June 23, 2012

Honorable John Boehner
Speaker
U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Democratic Leader
U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Speaker and Madame Leader:

On behalf of Safe Kids Worldwide, I write with great concern about the Motion to Instruct Conferees which would prevent our federal and state governments from protecting our kids from distracted drivers using cell phones while driving. Safe Kids supported the distracted driving initiative in the Senate version of the Transportation bill in a 22-point program to make the highway bill kid friendly.

The need for a concerted federal and state approach to stop distracted driving is supported by disturbing statistics:

- According to the CDC, motor vehicle crashes kill more children in the United States than any other cause of death--more than 1,300 children aged 14 years and younger in 2009.
- Each year, cell phones are a factor in 1.3 million crashes, thousands of deaths, and hundreds of thousands of injuries.
- The National Safety Council estimates that 24% of motor vehicle crashes involve cell phone use.
- According to the Department of Transportation, in 2009 nearly 5,500 people died and half a million were injured in accidents involving a distracted driver.

The motion to be offered by Congresswoman Diane Black will no doubt endanger more and more children on our highways. We urge you to use your best efforts to defeat this ill considered and potentially dangerous motion and encourage your caucuses to vote against the Black motion.

Safe Kids Worldwide is a global network of organizations dedicated to providing parents and caregivers with practical and proven resources to protect kids from unintentional injuries, the number one cause of death to children in the United States. Throughout the world, almost one million children die of an injury each year, and every one of these tragedies is preventable. Safe Kids works with an extensive network of more than 600 coalitions in the U.S. to reduce traffic injuries, drownings, falls, burns, poisonings and more. Since 1988, Safe Kids has helped reduce the U.S. childhood death rate from unintentional injury by 53 percent, but we need to do much more. Please join us and encourage your colleagues to reject motions like this that would reverse the progress we have made.

Sincerely,

/s/

Kate Carr
President and CEO