



September 26, 2017

Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr.
California State Capitol, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

AB 63 (Frazier): Provisional Driver's Licenses
AAP-CA Position: SUPPORT

Dear Governor Brown:

The American Academy of Pediatrics, California (AAP-CA), representing over 5,000 California pediatricians, strongly supports proposed legislation AB 63 (Frazier). AB 63 would expand California's provisional driver's license (PDL) requirement period to novice drivers under 21 years old. This would prohibit teens from driving between 11pm and 5am and transporting passengers who are under 20 years old, unless accompanied by a licensed driver who is over the age of 25, during the first 12 months of driving. Exceptions would be granted for school or employment needs.

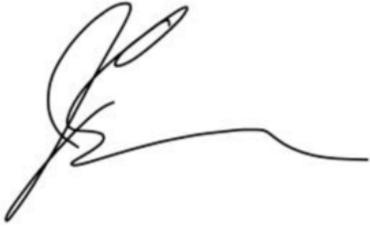
Motor vehicle accidents are the leading cause of death for 16 to 19 year olds. Each year, nearly 450,000 teenagers are injured in car accidents, and of those killed, about 63% are drivers. As novice drivers, teens lack the driving experience required to identify and respond to hazards on the road. They are also more likely than adults to take chances, succumb to peer pressures, drive emotionally, and overestimate their abilities. Though teens drive under the influence less often than adults, their crash risks are higher than adults when they do.

Under current law, when teenagers turn 18, they are able to pass a simple road test to obtain a full driver's license, no matter how much (or how little) time they have held a learner's permit. In fact, close to a third of 18 year olds have a permit for less than a month before taking their driver's test. It is unsurprising that crash rates are highest during drivers' first months of licensure.

A short time period of supervised driving can result in rapid improvement in a teen's driving ability. AAP strongly supports AB 63 to ensure that teens have the time they need to learn safe driving practices.

California pediatricians respectfully request that you sign AB 63 (Frazier) into law. We thank you for your public service and leadership on behalf of the health and well-being of children, youth, and families in California.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'J' followed by a horizontal line that tapers to the right.

Jacques Corriveau, M.D., Fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Chair, State Government Affairs Committee, American Academy of Pediatrics, California

CC: Kris Calvin, CEO; AAP-CA Leadership; Lydia Bourne