



Testimony submitted to the Joint Committee on Transportation
In Support of S.2120, An act to prevent driver distraction and motor vehicle fatalities
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Enactment of S.2120, An Act to prevent driver distraction and motor vehicle fatalities, sponsored by Sen. Mark Montigny, will save lives on Massachusetts roads. The bill makes it unlawful for drivers to hold electronic devices while driving.

It takes only a couple of seconds of driver distraction to cause injury to or the death of pedestrians, bicyclists or occupants of vehicles. Technology has advanced in recent years, and it is no longer necessary to take even one hand off the wheel to obtain or share information while driving. There is voluminous data demonstrating that safety is significantly compromised when a driver has only one hand on the wheel. Many other states have enacted legislation such as this bill, including the states adjacent to Massachusetts.

We feel concerns about the risk of racial profiling by police or other officers regarding enforcement of this law have been adequately addressed.

It is time to move forward with a distracted driving law. Indeed, it is a priority, because it will prevent injuries and deaths. The League of Women Voters of Massachusetts, representing 47 local Leagues from Cape Cod to the Berkshires, strongly supports this version of the law, which has now gained wide support in the legislature as well as from a number of major transportation and safety groups. We urge the joint committee to report it favorably.