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Fwd: Oregon letter

1 message

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Wed, Mar 11, 2015 at 7:06 PM

To: dharclerod@gmail.com



March 5, 2015

Dear Oregon Lawmaker,

Mothers Against Drunk Driving urges you to protect families in Oregon by opposing HB 2660 and SB 394. Both would weaken Oregon's current drunk driving laws. HB 2660 is scheduled for consideration in the House Judiciary Committee on March 12.

Ignition interlocks have been required for all first- and second-time convicted drunk drivers in Oregon since January 1, 2008. Oregon extended the ignition interlock requirement on January 1, 2012, to offenders who enter into diversion agreements.

HB 2660 would make ignition interlocks optional for first-time convicted DUII offenders with a blood alcohol concentration of .08 to .10 who enter into a diversion agreement. SB 394 goes even further by eliminating the requirement of ignition interlocks in diversion agreements.

Both of these bills are detrimental to public safety and the rehabilitation of offenders entering into diversion agreements. Research shows that 50 to 75 percent of convicted drunk drivers will continue to drive even with a suspended driver's license.

Today, 24 states have laws requiring interlocks for all convicted drunk drivers. In 2014, Mississippi and Connecticut followed Oregon's leadership by requiring interlocks as a condition of diversion agreements.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), requiring interlocks for all convicted drunk drivers saves lives and is effective in reducing drunk driving recidivism by 67 percent. "First-time" offenders are rarely first time drunk drivers. Conservative estimates show that a first-time convicted DUII offender has driven drunk at least 80 times prior to being arrested.

License suspension alone is no longer a practical way to deal with drunk drivers. In today's world, most everyone needs a car to get to work, school, or the grocery store in order to meet life's basic needs. And, fortunately, current Oregon law utilizes ignition interlocks to allow convicted drunk driver to continue driving in a sober fashion immediately following a DUII, but in a way that will protect families and Oregon residents.

Interlocks are proven to protect the public, while giving DUII offenders the opportunity to continue driving. Interlocked offenders simply cannot drive drunk and hurt or kill innocent people in Oregon.

Please support ignition interlocks for all convicted drunk drivers and oppose HB 2660 and SB 394. If you have any questions or need more information, please do not hesitate to contact MADD Oregon volunteer Public Policy Liaison Kristin Twenge at twengek@gmail.com or 971-563-7787. Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Colleen Sheehey-Church
MADD National President

Interlock Facts:

- Ignition interlocks are effective in reducing repeat drunk driving offenses by 67 percent, (CDC).
- Research from the CDC indicates that first time offenders have driven drunk at least 80 times before they are arrested.
- An ignition interlock is more effective than license suspension alone, as 50 to 75 percent of convicted drunk drivers continue to drive on a suspended license.
- 24 states, plus a California pilot program (covering a population of over 13 million) have laws requiring ignition interlocks for all first-time convicted drunk drivers.
- For more information visit madd.org/interlock.
- State Ignition Interlock Laws
- MADD Interlock Fact Sheet
- Overview of first-time offender state ignition interlock laws



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