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**Testimony from Fran Mayko, Public Affairs Manager
AAA Southern New England
Select Committee on Children
March 6, 2012**

**SB 295 (Raised): An Act Concerning the Transportation of Siblings
as Passengers by Drivers Under the Age of Eighteen.**

Sen. Gerratana, Rep. Urban, Sen. Musto, Rep. Fawcett, and members of the Select Committee on Children.

My name is Fran Mayko. I am Connecticut's public affairs manager at AAA Southern New England, whose territory covers Rhode Island, Massachusetts and Fairfield, New Haven, and Litchfield Counties in CT.

I thank you for this opportunity to speak in opposition of SB 295, **An Act Concerning the Transportation of Siblings as Passengers by Drivers Under the Age of Eighteen.**

AAA Southern New England **opposes** this proposed legislation, which would allow a novice driver to transport siblings in a motor vehicle during the **first** 6 months of their licensure.

To us, this proposed change is a recipe for disaster because it creates dangerous on-road situations for young drivers, their even-younger passengers; and the public in general.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, the AAA Foundation of Traffic Safety, The Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, in fact your own DMV website, all point out that motor vehicle crashes are the number 1 cause of death for 15 – 20 year olds with the first six months being the most dangerous for the newly licensed teen.

Furthermore the crash risk increases with the number of passengers in a vehicle – whether it's family members or friends.

(Please Turn Over)

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By adopting the proposed change, you're weakening the existing Graduated Driver's License (GDL) law, which now allows teens to transport all immediate family members during the second 6 months of their licensure.

Permitting young drivers to transport siblings so early in the driving process prevents them from developing responsible driving skills, good judgment, and sensible attitudes that can only come with time and experience.

Instead, you're exposing the new driver to added and unnecessary pressures and distractions while they're navigating a steep learning curve.

When Connecticut first developed its GDL Law, it did so with one clear goal: to save lives.

By adopting SB 295 and allowing sibling transport so early in the teen licensing process, AAA feels the State of Connecticut is losing sight of that goal.

I urge you to vote against SB 295.

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