

Kellett, Joshua

From: cruzmcmaggie115@comcast.net
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2012 12:26 PM
To: Kellett, Joshua
Subject: Raised Bill No. 295

Dear Select Committee members:

As a former member of Governor Rell's Teen Driving Task Force, I am writing to express my dismay and even horror at what is being proposed by Raised Bill No. 295.

I regret that I was not informed about this bill in time to arrange to speak at the public hearing on it on March 6, but I hope it is not too late to voice my opinion on it.

Please do not cave in to pressure from ill-informed parents on this issue. Do you want to grant parents the convenience of allowing their newly-licensed teen, who is the most inexperienced and immature driver in the family, the capability to carry the rest of their children in the same vehicle? Think of the headlines the first time all the children in the family are wiped out instantly by one traffic accident. This is not a far-fetched possibility, this is the likelihood. We know distractions kill. This bill would have teens babysitting while they drive. No rational mind could conceive such a plan as a good idea.

I received my fifteen minutes of fame on the Task Force with the statement "You can't legislate common sense." I was interviewed by Doug Green of NBC's local affiliate afterwards as to what I meant by that statement. I replied with words to this effect: If parents displayed good common sense, we wouldn't need to be here at all. There would be no need for this Task Force. Individual laws must be passed for each risk that exists in order to ensure the safety of teen drivers and the general public. As sarcastic and politically incorrect as this may sound towards some people's parenting abilities, we know it is true. What is another six months to wait to ensure the safety of your children? The fact that this bothers some parents speaks for itself. Sometimes Big Brother does have to be watching, because those who are supposed to, are not.

Do not let this bill go any further. The lives of Connecticut's children depend on it.

Sincerely,

Maria C. Cruz

Middletown, CT