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**Testimony from Fran Mayko, Public Affairs Manager
AAA Southern New England
Committee on Transportation**

**Proposed SB 104 An Act Allowing Newly Licensed Motor vehicle Operators to
Transport Immediate Family Members To and From School.**

Mr. Chairmen and members of the Transportation Committee . . .

My name is Fran Mayko. I am public affairs manager in Connecticut for AAA Southern New England, whose territory covers Rhode Island, Massachusetts and Fairfield, New Haven, and Litchfield Counties in CT. We represent more than 3.5 million members in all 3 states, a half million which are in Connecticut

I thank you for this opportunity to speak in opposition of SB 104, An Act Allowing Newly Licensed Motor Vehicle Operators to Transport Immediate Family Members To and From School.

AAA Southern New England specifically opposes this proposed bill, 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, your own DMV website, points out that motor vehicle crashes are the number 1 cause of death for 15 – 19 year olds with the first six months being the most dangerous for the newly licensed teen. Furthermore crash risk increases with the number of passengers in a vehicle – whether it's siblings, family, or friends.

(Please turn over)

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.

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

Instead, this proposed bill exposes the new teen 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.

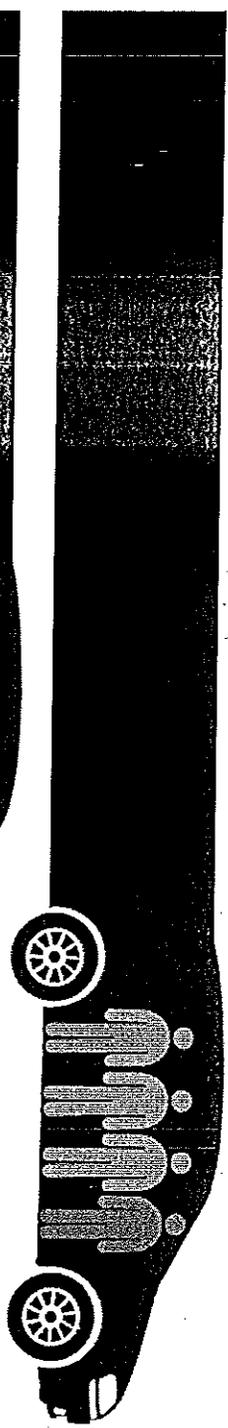
By adopting proposed SB 104 and allowing sibling transport so early in the teen licensing process, AAA feels the State of Connecticut is losing sight of that goal.

-AAA-

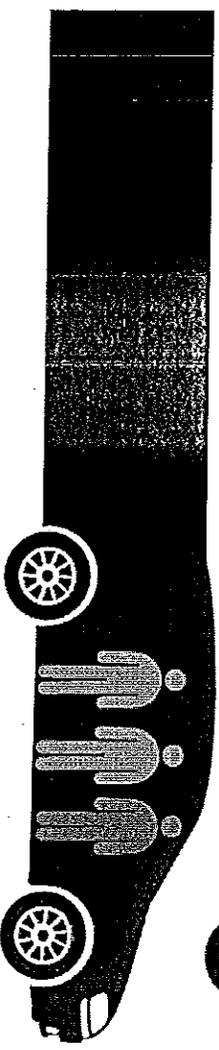
Teen Drivers Risk Death with Young Passengers

A 16- or 17-year-old driver's **RISK OF BEING KILLED IN A CRASH** increases when there are young passengers in the vehicle.

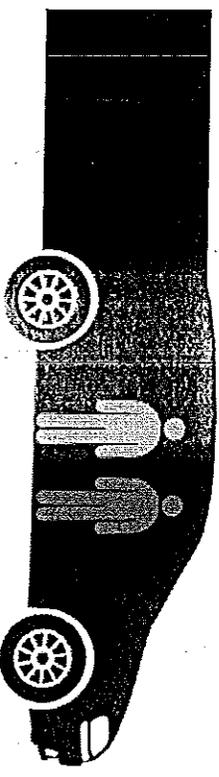
Compared to driving without any passengers, **THE RISK:**



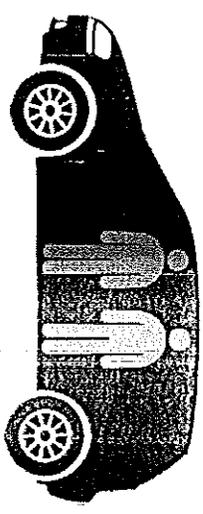
QUADRUPLES when carrying 3 or more passengers younger than 21



DOUBLES when carrying 2 passengers younger than 21



INCREASES by 44 % when carrying 1 passenger younger than 21



DECREASES by 62 % when an adult age 35+ is in the vehicle



