



**Testimony of the Injury Prevention Center to the Transportation Committee of the Connecticut General Assembly concerning SB 104: AN ACT ALLOWING NEWLY LICENSED MOTOR VEHICLE OPERATORS TO TRANSPORT IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBERS TO AND FROM SCHOOL**

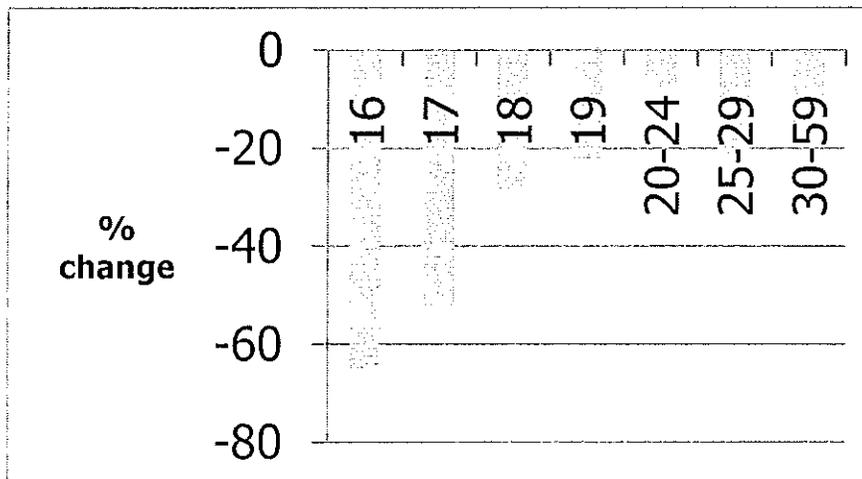
**February 20, 2013**

Senator Maynard, Representative Guerrero, members of the Transportation Committee, thank you for the opportunity to share my thoughts with you today. My name is Garry Lapidus, and I am Director of the Injury Prevention Center at Connecticut Children's Medical Center and Associate Professor of Pediatrics and Public Health, University of Connecticut School of Medicine. I am here today to share with you my thoughts and observations on the operation of motor vehicles by novice drivers, specifically in relation to SB 104.

In 2011 we published a study in the *Journal of Trauma* that describes the impact of Connecticut's Graduated Driver Licensing laws on teenage motor vehicle crash rates. We found that the motor vehicle crash rate for teens with passengers decreased by 65% for 16-year-olds and 53% for 17-year-old drivers (see Figure 1, below). Overall, teen crash rates decreased by 30% to 40% compared to older drivers, with a decrease of 8% to 11%.

Based on this success in crash reductions for teens, a result of Connecticut's good graduated driver licensing system, we strongly recommend that passenger restrictions with regard to newly licensed drivers remain unchanged.

**Figure 1: Percent change in MVC rate with passengers, 1999 vs. 2008**



Rogers, S, Bentley, G, Campbell, T., Borrup, K, Saleheen, H, Wang, Z, Lapidus, G. Impact of Connecticut's graduated driver licensing system on teenage motor vehicle crash rates. *J Trauma*. 2011;71(2):S1-S4.