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**Testimony to the Senate Transportation Committee  
In Support of SB144 – Wireless Device Use in School Zone and Construction Zones  
February 8, 2017**

Chairman Petersen and Committee Members,

Our associations support SB144 restricting use of wireless communications devices when operating a motor vehicle in school zones and construction zones. This very limited approach is a good step to address the overarching problem of distracted driving. Texting and other uses of wireless devices by drivers increases the risk of serious accidents. Nowhere is this more profound than in a school zone or construction zone where the unexpected is more likely to occur.

The provisions of SB144 make enforcement more practical than the current texting law since it would be a violation to “use” the electronic device other than in hands-free operation.

If you want to make it even more practical to enforce, you could amend the bill by making it a violation or prima facie evidence of a violation if an electronic communications device is being held, read or manually operated while in a school zone or construction zone. This would negate an “I was holding it but I wasn’t using it” excuse.

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