

## **TEEN DRIVERS AND CELL PHONES**

- WHEREAS, Nationally, approximately 5,000 teens die every year from traffic accidents; and
- WHEREAS, According to the Missouri State Highway Patrol, the average of teen traffic accidents in Missouri is equal to one injury or death from teen driving every 25.4 minutes; and
- WHEREAS, Teen Research Unlimited stated in 2004 that 50% of students age 12-19 own cell phones; and
- WHEREAS, Ford Motor Company research shows that teens are four times more distracted than adults by cell phone use when driving; and
- WHEREAS, The National Transportation Safety Board listed prohibiting teens from driving with cell phones as a 2005 “Most Wanted” Highway Safety Improvements Federal Issue; and
- WHEREAS, The State of Missouri established a law for a Graduated Driver’s License which allows teenagers to receive a learner’s permit at age 15 and an intermediate license from age 16 until age 18 giving teens the opportunity to gain experience as a driver; and
- WHEREAS, The Missouri Department of Highway Transportation does not currently track the traffic accidents involving cell phones; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED, That the Missouri Congress of Parents and Teachers, its units and councils, urge legislators to require the Missouri Department of Transportation to track the use of cell phones in relation to traffic accidents; and be it further
- RESOLVED, That the Missouri Congress of Parents and Teachers, its units and councils, urge legislators to prohibit teenagers who are driving under a permit or an intermediate license from driving while talking on a cell phone; and be it further
- RESOLVED, That the Missouri Congress of Parents and Teachers, its units and councils, urge adults, when driving, to serve as the example for teens by either refraining from talking on a cell phone or stopping the vehicle to talk on a cell phone.

Adopted 2006