COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17101-1900

OFFICE OF
SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION

October 14, 2016

Dear 2016 Teen Driver Safety Forum Participants,

Distracted driving affects individuals, families and communities. You can change that through a simple step: don't drive distracted. Don't let your friends drive distracted. Don't let your families drive distracted. Be the voice, be the example, not the statistic.

PennDOT is asking every school in Pennsylvania to promote safe driving through positive activities and events at their school this year, with an emphasis on stopping distracted driving. We want each of you to continue the conversation to ensure that no one - not you, your families, your friends or your community - has to be affected by the injuries and deaths that occur as a result of distracted driving.

So how can you as an individual or a small group make a difference? Consider ways you can bring the message to others:

- Change your cell phone greeting to reflect that you are driving and will not answer the phone while driving.
- Out of sight, out of mind – put your cell phone somewhere in the car where you can't reach it.
- Teach others how to become better passengers by removing as many distractions as possible from the driver. Be quiet, be courteous and do not become a distraction yourself.
- Start a social media campaign among your peers, reminding them how quickly life can change. Everyone wants to graduate someday...everyone.
- Brainstorm and reach out to your friends about ways to promote safe driving. Call out unsafe practices if you are in the car. It's your life that is on the line. It's simply a fact of life- distracted driving triggers crashes, injuries and deaths.

Then what? When your school holds an event or you come up with a social media campaign, please take pictures and email them to PennDOT at ra-penndotpress@pa.gov with the subject line #NoDistractions so that we can help everyone continue the conversation. The photos will be posted to a special Teen Driver Safety Album page on our website at www.penndot.gov. Click on Safety under the Travel In PA tab, then click on Traffic Safety and Driver Topics to access the Young Driver tab where the link to the album is found under the Teen Driver Safety section.

Also use the hashtag #NoDistractions to help promote your efforts and share with others.

No distractions.

Sincerely,

Secretary Leslie S. Richards