



MADD
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EXHIBIT 3
DATE 3/7/05
SB 104

Mothers Against Drunk Driving
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SB 104 Graduated Drivers License

For the record my name is Bill Muhs, from Bozeman. I am currently the Public Policy Liaison for MADD-Gallatin County. I am also a victim of drunk driving, having lost a daughter to a drunk driver.

Young drivers make mistakes and take risks. Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death among teenagers. Sixteen-year-old drivers have crash rates three times higher than 17-year-old drivers and five times higher than 18-year-old drivers. Easing young drivers into driving saves lives. Research has shown that many states saw crashes involving 16-year-olds reduced by 25 percent following the adoption of GDL laws. The law would also restrict nighttime driving between 11 pm and 5am. This is a critical component of the bill since 41 percent of teenage motor vehicle crashes happen between 9 p.m. and 6 a.m. The bill also limits the number of unrelated passengers that can accompany a restricted driver because research has shown that 16 or 17-year-old drivers are 86 percent more likely to be killed in a crash when they are driving with two passengers, and 182 percent more likely to be killed in a crash when driving with three or more passengers. Polls have shown that more than 74 percent of parents of 15 year olds favored a GDL system that had all three of the proposed bill's key components. Montana is one of 12 states without such a system. In states with GDL, it has proven to very well appreciated and supported by parents. MADD strongly supports this bill as an integral component in saving lives and we urge your support. Thank you.

Bill Muhs
Public Policy Liaison
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