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April 15, 2013

To: The Honorable Bonnie Lowenthal, Chair
The Honorable Eric F. Linder, Vice Chair
Members, Assembly Transportation Committee

From: Rex D. Frazier, President
Michael A. Gunning, Vice President
Kara Cross, General Counsel
Manolo P. Platin, Legislative Advocate

Re: AB 724 (Cooley) Vehicles: Driver's Licenses
As Introduced February 21, 2013

Assembly Transportation Committee Hearing, April 22, 2013
PIFC Position: Support

The Personal Insurance Federation of California, representing six of the nation's largest insurance companies (State Farm, Farmers, Liberty Mutual Insurance, Progressive, Allstate and Mercury) who collectively write a majority of the personal line auto and home insurance in California, **supports AB 724: Vehicles: Driver's Licenses by Assemblymember Cooley.**

Assembly Bill 724 would expand California's existing Graduated Drivers License [GDL] law to include 18 and 19 year olds.

PIFC and its member companies have a long history of supporting legislation that serves to prevent injuries and enhance public safety, especially when it comes to teenage drivers. Our members have a long-standing interest in reducing auto accidents for teen drivers.

Recent studies have reported that many young people delay the start of licensing until after reaching 18 years of age so that they can avoid GDL requirements altogether. This makes them inexperienced behind the wheel and, thus, more likely to become involved in automobile crashes and fatalities. Assembly Bill 724 addresses this situation by extending existing GDL requirements to 18 and 19 year old novice drivers.

For these reasons, PIFC **supports AB 724: Vehicles: Driver's Licenses by Assemblymember Cooley and urges your "aye" vote.** If you have any questions regarding PIFC's position, please contact Michael A. Gunning at (916) 442-6646.

cc: Assemblymember Ken Cooley, Author
Manny S. Leon, Senior Consultant, Assembly Transportation Committee
Gregson Porteous, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus
Gareth Elliot, Secretary of Legislative Affairs, Office of the Governor