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MEMORANDUM

Date: April 20, 2006

To: The Honorable Jenny Oropeza, Chair
Members, Assembly Transportation Committee

From: Rex D. Frazier, Vice President & General Counsel
Michael A. Gunning, Vice President
Michael A. Paiva, Senior Legislative Advocate

Re: AB 2108 (Evans) Child Passenger Seats
Assembly Transportation Committee Hearing – April 24, 2006
PIFC Position: Support

The Personal Insurance Federation of California, representing insurers who write 44% of the auto insurance sold in the state, including Farmers, 21st Century, Safeco, Progressive, State Farm and NAMIC, **supports Assembly Bill 2108** by Assemblymember Noreen Evans.

PIFC and its member companies have a long history of support for sound public safety measures that serve to reduce injuries and enhance public safety. In fact, one of our members, State Farm, has been involved in a partnership with Children's Hospital of Philadelphia since 1999. The partnership, Partners for Child Passenger Safety (PCPS) is the world's largest study of children in crashes. In 2005 they published their first report, *Partners for Child Passenger Safety Fact and Trend Report* (http://www.statefarm.com/kidsafety/pdfs/trauma_report.pdf). The report provides updated facts and trends about children involved in U.S. motor vehicle crashes from 1999 through 2004.

Motor vehicle crashes remain the leading cause of death for children between the ages of 2 to 14 years in the United States. In 2002, 227,000 children were injured and 1,543 children were killed in car crashes. (Source: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration) For decades, safety advocates have stressed the importance of using car seats, booster seats and seat belts for children riding in motor vehicles. Yet, motor vehicle crashes remain the leading cause of death and disability in children over age 1 in the United States.

There are precautionary measures parents can take to ensure that their children are riding safely in vehicles. When used correctly, child restraints effectively reduce the risk of death and serious injury in a crash. AB 2108 would update the current child passenger safety laws to reflect the current research on child passenger safety.

For the foregoing reasons, **PIFC supports AB 2108 and urges your "yes" vote.** If you have any questions regarding PIFC's support, please contact Michael Gunning at (916) 442-6646.

CC: Honorable Noreen Evans, Author
Gus Khouri, Assembly Transportation Committee
Gregson Porteous, Assembly Republican Caucus
Cynthia Bryant, Deputy Legislative Secretary for the Governor
Kathleen Webb, Office of the Insurance Advisor