



PIFC

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21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY  
SAFECO  
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## MEMORANDUM

**Date:** May 22, 2007

**To:** The Honorable Alan Lowenthal, Chair  
Members, Senate Transportation and Housing Committee

**From:** Rex D. Frazier, President  
Michael A. Gunning, Vice President  
Ermelinda Ruiz, Legislative Advocate

**Re:** AB 881 (Mullin): Vehicles: child passengers: restraint system  
As Amended April 30, 2007  
Senate Transportation and Housing Committee Hearing: June 12, 2007  
**PIFC Position: Support**

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The Personal Insurance Federation of California (PIFC), representing insurers who write over 50% of all personal lines insurance sold in California, including State Farm, Farmers, Safeco, 21<sup>st</sup> Century, Progressive, and NAMIC, **supports Assembly Bill 881** authored by Assembly Member Mullin.

PIFC and its member companies have a long history of supporting legislation that enhances children's safety. In fact, one of our member companies, State Farm has teamed up with the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia to produce the *Partners for Child Passenger Safety Fact and Trend Report*, the world's largest study in child related crashes. The October 2006 report provides current data about children involved in motor vehicle crashes and highlights the circumstances, people and vehicles that are involved in crashes in which children are injured.

Partners for Child Passenger Safety (PCPS) found that 62% of children between the ages of 4 and 8 years of age are inappropriately restrained in seat belts and are 3.5 times more likely to suffer serious injury while restrained only in a seat belt rather than in a booster seat and a seat belt. Belt positioning booster seats provide an added 60% reduction in injury risk when compared to children in seatbelts alone through age 7.

The need for enhanced child passenger safety laws is clear. AB 881 is the next step in injury prevention among infants and children between the ages of 4 and 8. This bill would expand the current child passenger safety law by requiring that children ages 6 and 7 be placed in a booster seat in the rear seat of a car. In addition, this bill would require that infants be placed in a rear facing child passenger restraint system until they are at least one year of age or weigh 20 pounds or more.

For the above reasons, **PIFC supports AB 881 (Mullin)**. If you have any questions, please contact Ermelinda Ruiz at (916) 442-6646.

cc: Assembly Member Mullin, Author  
Carrie Cornwell, Senate Transportation Committee  
Mike Proso, Deputy Legislative Secretary for the Governor  
Senate Floor Analyses

Ted Morley, Sen. Republican Caucus  
Kathleen Webb, Office of the Insurance Advisor

4. AB881-SenBFI-5-07

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