

MEMORANDUM



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Date: August 5, 2008

To: The Honorable Mark Leno, Chair
The Honorable Mimi Walters, Vice Chair
Members, Assembly Appropriations Committee

From: Rex D. Frazier, President
Michael A. Gunning, Vice President
Kimberley Dellinger, General Counsel
Ermelinda Ruiz, Legislative Advocate

Re: SB 28 (Simitian): Motor vehicles: mobile service device
As Amended August 4, 2008
Assembly Appropriations Committee Hearing August 7, 2008
PIFC Position: Support

The Personal Insurance Federation of California, representing insurers who write over 50 percent of the auto insurance sold in the state, including State Farm, Farmers, Safeco, aigdirect.com, Progressive and NAMIC, **is in support of SB 28 authored by Senator Simitian.**

SB 28 would 1) prohibit all drivers from using an electronic wireless communications device to write, send or read a text-based communication, 2) define "write, send or read a text-based communication" and, 3) make driving while texting punishable by a \$20 fine for the first offense and a \$50 fine for each subsequent offense.

PIFC and its member companies have a long history of supporting legislation that serves to prevent injuries and enhance public safety. Text messaging while driving is a distraction and is dangerous. With text messaging growing in popularity among drivers, other states have passed laws to prohibit this practice. California should follow Connecticut, Minnesota, New Jersey and Washington and ban driving while texting.

SB 28 is a common sense measure that will help minimize driver distraction and will ensure safer driving conditions for everyone.

For these reasons, **PIFC supports SB 28**, and urges your **aye** vote. If you have additional questions regarding our position, please do not hesitate to contact Ermelinda Ruiz at (916) 442-6646.

cc: Senator Joe Simitian (Author)
Mike Proso, Chief Deputy, Legislative Affairs Secretary, Office of the Governor
Steve Archibald, Consultant, Assembly Appropriations Committee
Allan Cooper, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus
Manolo Platin, Office of the Insurance Advisor

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