



MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION OF CHIEFS OF POLICE

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May 25, 2017

Re: HB 4466 – Driving While Texting

Honorable Michigan Legislature,

The Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police strongly supports the passage of HB 4466 which will reduce traffic crashes, injuries, and fatalities caused by distracted driving.

The dangers of distracted driving are well known and documented. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration reports in 2015 alone, 3,477 people were killed and 391,000 were injured in motor vehicle crashes involving distracted drivers. Teens were the largest age group reported as distracted at the time of fatal crashes.

Distractions for these drivers included such devices as cell phones, tablets, lap-top computers, GPS units, pagers, and other portable electronic devices. HB 4466 would require that these devices be operated in a hands free-mode which will allow the drivers to keep their eyes on the road. Passage of similar legislation in other states has had the direct effect of reducing fatalities and injuries attributable to distracted driving.

As first responders, our members witness first-hand the devastation of traffic crashes. Passage of HB 4466 will reduce the amount of traffic crashes and injuries making it safer to travel Michigan roadways. We reiterate our support of HB 4466 and are ready to assist the effort to get it enacted.

Very truly yours,

Robert M. Stevenson
Executive Director (Ret. Chief)