



## **THE FLORIDA PROVIDERS FOR TRAFFIC SAFETY, INC.**

*A coalition of non-profit and for-profit safety organizations working to promote traffic safety, ethics, & integrity in the Florida Driver Improvement industry.*

**[www.fpts.us](http://www.fpts.us)**

### **THE FLORIDA PROVIDERS FOR TRAFFIC SAFETY** **Legislative Positions for 2011**

*The Florida Providers for Traffic Safety (TFPTS) is a not-for-profit safety association representing the majority of traffic schools throughout Florida. The mission of TFPTS is to promote highway safety through training. TFPTS members employ thousands of registered voters. We are proud of our commitment to safety and the responsibility that we have to provide effective training. Because of our constant vigilance of traffic safety and industry issues we respectfully submit the following 2011 Florida Legislative recommendations for your consideration.*

#### **Aggressive Drivers:**

TFPTS supports legislation aimed at enforcing and educating aggressive driving behavior. There is a significant upward trend in the number of citations issued in Florida for aggressive drivers. It is duly noted that aggressive driving is not the same as road rage, as road rage is a crime; however, aggressive driving often leads to road rage. A state approved specifically tailored Aggressive Driver/Road Rage course for convicted drivers involved with incidents of aggressive driving and road rage behaviors would be effective in curbing these deadly, irresponsible, dangerous activities.

#### **First Time Drivers:**

It is well documented that traffic crashes are the leading cause of deaths among teens. With the elimination in many school districts of driver education programs TFPTS supports legislation that would require that all first time drivers be required to attend a mandatory Florida approved 4-hour defensive driver education course prior to receiving their drivers license. TFPTS also believes that new drivers should not be allowed to transport more than one passenger at a time that is under the age of 18. Additionally, the use of hand held cell phones while driving should be banned for first time drivers under the age of 18.

#### **Motorcycle Helmets:**

TFPTS supports the reinstatement of mandatory helmet use for all motorcycle operators and passengers. In 2000 Florida became one of five states to repeal or amend motorcycle helmet use laws. Fatal motorcycle crashes increased by 43.8% in the 18 months following the helmet repeal. According to the Center for Urban Transportation Research (CUTR), after accounting for the increasing number of motorcycle registrations and vehicle miles traveled over the study period, the number of fatal crashes per 10,000 registered motorcycles increased by 20.8%. The CUTR Helmet Use Observation Study suggests motorcyclists without helmets are more likely to suffer serious and fatal injuries.

*For further discussion on these or other legislative requests please contact Sue Holley, President, at (904) 399-3119*

