

THE FLORIDA PROVIDERS FOR TRAFFIC SAFETY, INC.

*Working to Promote Traffic Safety, Ethics & Integrity
in the Florida Driver Improvement Industry*

Legislative Positions for 2010

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 2010 Florida Legislative recommendations for your consideration.

- Drivers License Handbooks:** TFPTS supports a fee to traffic school providers that would underwrite the cost associated with the production, printing, and delivery of the *Official Florida Drivers License Handbook* without advertisement. The current book containing advertising has led to a monopoly, which has severely impacted traffic schools throughout Florida. This monopoly will eventually remove the choices for available quality driver education throughout Florida, if not corrected.
- Cell Phone Usage:** TFPTS supports a ban on cell phone usage and related devices while driving a motor vehicle; we base this decision on FHP's statistics indicating that traffic crashes have reached epidemic proportions due to the use of these devices while operating a motor vehicle. TFPTS strongly recommends that Florida join the ranks of other states that have banned this dangerous activity in an effort to reduce the number of traffic crashes.
- Aggressive Drivers:** TFPTS supports legislation aimed at educating aggressive drivers. 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:** 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 driver's license. We also believe that new drivers shouldn't be allowed to transport more than one passenger under the age of 18 at a time. Additionally, the use of cell phones and related devices while driving should be banned for first time drivers under the age of 18.
- Commercial Drivers:** TFPTS supports legislation that would mandate that each person who holds a Florida Commercial Driver's License be required to attend a FL DOT approved re-qualification course every three years.
- Motorcycle Helmets:** TFPTS supports the reinstatement of mandatory helmet use for all motorcycle operators and passengers. DHSMV's *Traffic Crash Facts* reports that motorcycle fatalities have more than doubled since abolishment of the mandatory helmet requirement.
- Mandatory Driver Education:** In an effort to reduce the number of fatal traffic crashes that occur to 16 and 17 year old unskilled new drivers, TFPTS supports legislation that would require all individuals under the age of 18 to successfully complete both classroom and behind the wheel driver education prior to receiving their Florida Driver's License.

For further discussion on these legislative requests please contact Ms. Kimberly Jowell, Executive Director, Suncoast Safety Council, 727-608-2940.