October 2, 2025

Chair Neilson, Vice Chair Benninghoff, and members of House Transportation Committee:

On behalf of our organizations, we urge your support and swift passage of House Bill 1862, a bill that reforms and streamlines the interlock licensing process in Pennsylvania. This bill, the product of ten years of work between traffic safety stakeholders and PENNDOT, will save lives in Pennsylvania. Alcohol impaired driving causes hundreds of deaths and thousands of injuries in the Commonwealth every year, altering lives and costing millions of dollars in damage and lost wages. Each impaired driving crash is 100% preventable.

Interlocks are a valuable tool in the fight against drunk driving, and their effectiveness is well established. Studies show that ignition interlocks reduce recidivism—by up to 70%— among first-time, repeat and high-risk offenders while they are installed. Additionally, a study from the University of Pennsylvania showed that ignition interlocks reduced instances of alcohol involved fatal crashes, and stated that ignition interlocks "are a lifesaving technology that merit wider use."

Unfortunately, the process to apply for and receive an interlock license in Pennsylvania is slow, confusing, and inefficient. House Bill 1862 makes much-needed common-sense changes that will greatly improve the processing time, and overall ease of attaining an interlock license.

By creating a unifying ignition interlock driver's license and allowing immediate application to the program, program participation is incentivized. Designating certain Driver's License Centers where individuals can apply for an interlock license will increase ease of access to the program. Laying out maximum turnaround times will ensure processing is smooth and communication is consistent. Finally, House Bill 1862 sets out the timeframe for the establishment of an online portal where individuals can apply for an interlock license and process the required paperwork. This, along with the other changes, will make the interlock program easier to understand, more accessible, and of better service to the Commonwealth. It will also save lives on our roadways. We urge you to pass this bill before other deadly crashes occur.

Sincerely,

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