

From: MADD Online
Sent: 3/7/2016 2:40:56 PM
To: Haley, Nikki
Cc:
Subject: Please support ignition interlocks for all convicted drunk drivers

Mar 7, 2016

Governor Nikki Haley
Office of the Governor
1205 Pendleton Street
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Governor Haley,

As your constituent, I strongly urge you to support ignition interlocks for all convicted drunk drivers. I believe this will save lives by virtually eliminating all repeat drunk driving offenses at minimal cost.

People who have previous drunk driving convictions make up approximately one-third of the drunk driving problem in America. These are people who have been failed by a system that has in turn failed to keep the rest of us safe. Additionally, even first-time offenses are serious indicators that a person is likely to become a repeat offender. Conservatively, a first-time convicted drunk driver has driven drunk at least 80 times prior to being arrested.

I support requiring interlocks for all convicted drunk drivers because 50 to 75 percent of convicted drunk drivers continue to drive without a license. License suspension is not the most effective way to protect the public from convicted drunk drivers or to rehabilitate the offender.

Requiring these drivers to have an interlock device on their car after their license is reinstated would keep our roads safer from these drivers. According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), interlock systems have been shown to reduce repeat offenses by 67 percent on average. These laws must be mandatory, as fewer than 10 percent of offenders who are offered a choice between installing such a device or receiving a license suspension elect to enter an interlock program. Keeping our roads safe must not be optional.

Currently, 25 states have laws requiring interlocks for all convicted drunk drivers. Since Arizona and West Virginia implemented their interlock law, drunk driving deaths have decreased by 50 and 40 percent.

I believe requiring all convicted drunk drivers to have interlock systems on their cars would help us save lives by eliminating drunk driving repeat offenses. Thank you for your time and consideration of this important request.

Sincerely,

Mr. JOE Spears