

From: MADD
Sent: 4/9/2016 12:57:54 PM
To: Haley, Nikki
Cc:
Subject: Please Support a Stronger Child Endangerment Law

Apr 9, 2016

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

Dear Governor Haley,

As a constituent, I strongly urge you to create and/or support an effective DUI law to protect our most vulnerable population, children. Child endangerment, because it causes significant emotional and potentially physical harm to the child, is a form of child abuse. Strengthening our child endangerment laws will keep our children safe from this child abuse.

In 2011, 226 child (under the age of 15) passengers died in drunk driving crashes. Children riding with a drunk driver are not only at risk from erratic, dangerous driving, they are also more than 40 percent less likely to be properly restrained in either a seat belt or a car seat.

MADD recommends a number of science-based solutions that should be taken to help stop DUI/DWI child endangerment:

- Adding administrative license revocation/suspension as a sanction
- Requiring alcohol/drug assessment and treatment (if necessary)
- Requiring the use of an ignition interlock device by offenders
- Considering the offense of DUI child endangerment to be a felony
- Eliminating eligibility of offenders for diversion programs that circumvent a record

I believe that passing child endangerment legislation that contains these components will help stop drunk driving and is vital to our children's future. Thank you in advance for your prompt consideration of creating a stronger DUI child endangerment law.

Sincerely,

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