



The Nation's Premier Youth Health & Safety Organization

April 2, 2018

Dear Mr. Solov:

As the National President & CEO of SADD, Students Against Destructive Decisions, I am writing to express support from SADD Nation and California SADD for Senate Bill 1273.

For over thirty years, SADD has worked to reduce teen crashes. SADD began in the wake of a series of underage drinking crashes that claimed the lives of several teens in a small town in the suburbs of Boston. The students realized that if they were to change the tide on impaired driving, they would need to be that change.

As a network of over 10,000 chapters across the country with hundreds in California, SADD stands as the nation's premier youth health and safety organization. I'm writing today on behalf of the hundreds of SADD students in California who support this legislation.

Our students are tired of watching their friends, families, and community members lose their lives to preventable crashes because of poor decisions made around alcohol and drugs. They spend time every day leading by example and conducting activities to promote safe driving habits.

Researchers at Colorado State University and Colorado School of Public Health looked at data from the NEXT Generation study that followed a group of more than 2,000 teens (they began in 10th grade) from 81 schools across America as they emerged into adulthood. They looked at driving-related behaviors in relation to alcohol, marijuana and illicit drug use, with data from two years -- one year after high school and, again, two years after high school. The survey asked, "How many times in the past 12 months did you ride with someone drinking alcohol," asking again for marijuana and illicit drugs, like ecstasy or cocaine. Researchers also asked who was driving and if the students participated in binge drinking or used marijuana in the past 30 days. California students know Senate Bill 1273 will save lives. This bill also sends the message that underage drug use is not acceptable and complements the efforts of our chapters to curb marijuana usage.



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SADD firmly believe that SB 1273 will help prevent underage marijuana use while driving and make the roads safer for all Californians resulting in safer communities for all. We are pleased to support this bill and look forward to its passage. Thank you for your efforts. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to let me know.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rick Birt". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rick Birt
President & CEO
SADD Inc.