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## Letter from

Hon. Jeffrey W. Runge, M.D.

October 29, 2002

Mr. Alan C. McMillan  
President and CEO  
National Safety Council  
1121 Spring Lake Drive  
Itasca, IL 60143-3201

Dear Mr. McMillan:

I regret that I will not be able to join you for the Symposium on Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL). The meeting will underscore the importance of a data-driven approach to public policy development and provide a definitive justification to adopt and strengthen GDL programs.

We should be encouraged by the data that show GSL is having the intended impact in states where legislatures have passed laws affecting younger drivers. Those of us who are involved with the issue are confident that a GDL system is an effective tool for saving lives and reducing injuries among inexperienced drivers.

Efforts to further GDL legislation and programs are underway in state capitals across the country. The information provided at this symposium will provide a foundation for the future GDL programs. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) is pleased to join with the National Safety Council and our many other partners from the highway safety community to plan initiatives that will save lives and reduce injuries in the teenage driving population.

NHTSA is pleased to have the opportunity to join General Motors and Nationwide Insurance Company to provide the funding for this event. I applaud their continuing efforts as valued and reliable corporate partners to improve highway traffic safety. My best wishes for a successful and rewarding symposium.

Sincerely yours,

Jeffrey W. Runge, MD  
Administrator  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
US Department of Transportation  
Washington DC 20590