

Representatives Hornstein, Petersburg, Tabke, Koegel, Brand,

It is my hope you are not thinking about permitting teacher-less online driver education but if you or other conferees are, please consider these concerns.

There must be a big company that wants to get students to be able to pass the permit test for basically no cost after the program is set up. Where are those students to get their behind-the-wheel training?

I have long been an advocate that we should not "teach" in the behind-the-wheel phase. In my last class I spent a small amount of time in the first three classes in order to get the students prepared for the permit test. The bulk of those classes and the rest of the classes, I spent on the skills needed behind-the-wheel. When the students got to behind-the-wheel phase they were given experiences based on their classroom learning.

I do not know of any behind-the-wheel program or teacher who would accept the **liability** of taking on a student when they do not know what classroom preparation they had. I believe all would refuse and then what are those students to do. No program should dump out students they are not prepared to complete the whole process and I do not believe that big company could do that.

Remember we are trying to make the roads safer and not raise the income of businesses.

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Joe Christensen

Lions "We Serve", MDTSEA "Key to Safer Drivers", Helping Hands Outreach & Living at Home Network
"Keeping people safely in their homes"