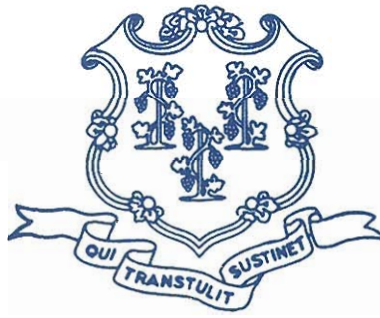


State of



Connecticut

By Her Excellency M. Jodi Rell, Governor: an

## Official Statement

WHEREAS, public awareness of the hazards of inexperienced and/or alcohol impaired driving has been increased through the collaborative efforts of state government and national organizations including the Governor's Highway Safety Association and the National Association of Women Highway Safety Leaders; and

WHEREAS, the people of the State of Connecticut appreciate the local citizen activist groups such as Mourning Parents ACT, Inc. (!MPACT) and the Connecticut Teen Driving Safety Partnership who help to promote teen driver safety; and

WHEREAS, motor vehicle accidents are the leading cause of death for United States teens, accounting for thirty-six percent of all deaths in that age group; and

WHEREAS, in 2005, approximately 400,000 teenagers incurred nonfatal injuries due to motor vehicle accidents; and

WHEREAS, teens make up ten percent of the United States population and twelve percent of all motor vehicle deaths in 2005 involved teen drivers; and

WHEREAS, the suffering caused by inexperienced and/or impaired driving touches the lives of countless families and the needless emotional anguish from these tragedies far exceeds any dollar amount associated with crashes and fatalities; and

WHEREAS, every individual must make a strong commitment to ensure safe and cautious driving practices by new, young drivers who may be too inexperienced behind the wheel to avoid accidents; and

WHEREAS, Mourning Parents ACT, Inc. has developed a teen driver safety program for teens and parents throughout Connecticut to spread awareness and information on safe driving practices; now

Therefore, I, M. Jodi Rell, Governor of the State of Connecticut, do hereby officially proclaim the week of December 14 -- 20, 2008, as

### **TEENAGE SAFE DRIVING AWARENESS WEEK**

in the State of Connecticut.



*M. Jodi Rell*  
Governor