

GHSA Testifies on Highway Safety Reauthorization

Before Senate Subcommittee

Distracted Driving, Impaired Driving and Occupant Protection among Topics

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Governors Highway Safety Association Chairman Vernon F. Betkey, Jr. testified today before the Subcommittee on Consumer Protection, Product Safety and Insurance of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation. The hearing was held to examine draft legislation to reauthorize the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). GHSA Members administer the behavioral highway safety programs funded by NHTSA.

GHSA is generally supportive of the Committee's two-year reauthorization proposal, and its suggestions are largely technical in nature. The Association appreciates the Committee's support of performance-based planning as well as the Committee's support of streamlining, consolidation and flexibility.

Chairman Betkey urged the Committee to make occupant protection a higher priority while he offered some minor suggested changes to sections dealing with impaired driving and distracted driving. On distracted driving, GHSA is concerned that the draft requirements for state grants may be too stringent and that few, if any, states would qualify.

GHSA's full written testimony is posted online at www.ghsa.org.