

Driving and Cell Phone Regulations

Should texting and/or talking on a cell phone while driving be regulated? If so, how?

Public comments as of October 27, 2011, 1:59 AM

All Participants



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Introduction

Cell phones are a convenience. Many people manage their lives through these little devices. Should laws limit your use of cell phones while driving? Many states are scrambling to pass legislation that bans talking and texting on cell phones while driving. Should either or both of these practices be regulated? What is your opinion?

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As of October 27, 2011, 1:59 AM, this forum had:

Attendees:	82
Participants:	7
Minutes of Public Comment:	21

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RICHARD HAHN in Montgomery

August 25, 2010, 9:46 AM

The Digest of Ohio Motor Vehicles states (in part) ".you must have your safety belt fastened and drive with both hands on the steering wheel for complete control."

We have a law and fine for not wearing a safety belt, so why not for driving with one hand?

Anyone caught driving with his or her cellphone held against the ear is committing a moving violation and is subject to a fine. The laws are there, we just need to enforce them.

Lynn McNay in Montgomery

August 23, 2010, 7:12 PM

I think texting should be banned while driving, both sending and receiving texts as this requires you to take your eyes off the road and therefore endangering others. I don't think that talking on a cell phone should be regulated as most drivers are capable of listening to the radio/stereo, talking to a passenger and still drive and obey traffic rules.

Name not shown in Montgomery

August 23, 2010, 3:07 PM

No, we need to hold a driver accountable for actions behind the wheel in general but we don't need to have laws specific to phones. I see people driving while reading, looking at maps, eating, smoking, drinking coffee, applying make up, arguing with kids sitting in the back seat, etc. All of these activities can distract the driver.

Rather than creating laws to enumerate what should be common sense, let's just hold folks accountable what they fail to operate the car safely.

Gary Gross in Montgomery

August 23, 2010, 1:45 PM

Absolutely, every insurance and highway patrol study has shown driving while texting or even talking with a phone in your ear greatly reduce your ability to safely handle your vehicle. The studies have shown talking or typing has the same effects as being legally drunk. The only reason most states have not passed restrictive laws is mainly due to the financial backing of the corporations like AT&T and Verizon. With technology enabling cells phone to be operated hand free, there are no excuses for drivers not have both hands on the steering wheel and eyes on the road.

Matt Neumann in Montgomery

August 23, 2010, 1:19 PM

If by "regulated" you mean "banned" then YES! The stories I've seen/read suggests that you are at least as likely to get in an accident while texting or talking on the cell phone (even hands free) as you are from driving drunk. I'm not a big fan of more laws, but these stories have been run countless times with no stories to the contrary and people still don't get it. Hang up and drive.

Name not shown in Cincinnati

August 23, 2010, 10:42 AM

Statistics suggest that texting while driving is worse than driving drunk. Texting takes your eyes off the road. I would favor laws against texting, given the public hazard.

However careful cell phone use (e.g. over speaker so both hands are on wheel while talking) can be helpful, especially in emergencies. I would favor a public education approach to promote sensible use.

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Dennis Riedmiller in Montgomery

August 23, 2010, 8:34 AM

It's true many states and cities are prohibiting the use of cell phones. From a safety viewpoint it makes sense. With that said, here is my problem. Why do we need more laws prohibiting behavior when common sense should suffice? Just one more enforcement issue that takes away from quality police and safety time. A strong statement from the City requesting common sense is enough. Please no more laws.

Denny Riedmiller

Montgomery Woods Neighborhood
