

May 19, 2010

Dear Editor,

Recently, the House of Representatives passed a proposal to prohibit Delaware motorists from using hand-held cell phones to hold conversations, send text-messages or browse the Internet.

It's hard to believe we need to legislate what common sense should dictate, but the examples of motorists driving irresponsibly while misusing electronic devices are legion.

Due to the inaction of state government, the City of Wilmington and the Town of Elsmere have already enacted ordinances barring motorists from using hand-held cell phones. Six states have enacted similar bans, as have the nearby cities of Philadelphia and Washington D.C. Additionally, 25 states have laws prohibiting texting while driving.

While it's true that the act of engaging in a conversation is what provides the primary distraction, consider that someone holding a cell phone is using one hand and one ear, while limiting their peripheral vision. A motorist who voluntarily uses only one hand, one ear and one eye to drive is inherently less safe than one who employs all their faculties.

I urge my colleagues in the State Senate to make Delaware's roads a little safer by passing my bill (HS 1 for HB 229).

Sincerely,

State Rep. Joe Miro