
Does our state do enough to prevent distracted driving?

Cell phones along with many other things are distracting drivers from paying attention and may be the cause of your death. Distraction while driving is a weapon that causes an unimaginable amount of deaths per year. Moreover, Florida is the 41st state to eliminate texting while driving. Unfortunately, unlike the majority of those states, the law is a secondary offense. In addition to that, calling while driving is still allowed and a ticket can't be written unless the officer witnesses other violations. By all means, the state does not have a law preventing phone use for talking which is one of the main causes of distracted driving.

Therefore, these facts along with many more are the reason why the state of Florida does not do enough to prevent distracted driving. People's death could've and still can be prevented if only the usage of phones while driving was against the law in the state of Florida. Deaths caused by distracted drivers increases more and more everyday. Distracted driving is any activity that diverts attention from driving, such as talking or texting on your phone. In fact, studies show that drivers who are talking on the phone while driving are four times more likely to get into an accident than people who are not talking on the phone. Even though some may say that the hand-free calling systems are safer, that's misleading and incorrect because what causes the distraction is not the hands not being on the wheel but the individual's mental focus indeed. Driving is most definitely a privilege, along with freedom. For this reason, high mental alertness, selective attention, and extreme focus are demanded when it comes to driving. In that case, Florida should set a law that prevents phone usage while driving and that allows officials to pull people over and give them a ticket in case they see you.

Furthermore, in the state of Florida about 11 teenagers are killed everyday by drivers who are texting and driving and about 25% of car accidents are caused by distracted driving. In 2015 alone, 391,000 were injured in motor vehicle crashes involving distracted drivers. Not to mention, approximately 660,000 drivers use cell phones while driving. Moreover, according to statistics, distracted driving crashes have increased 26 percent since 2013. As a result, it creates an enormous potential for deaths and injuries on U.S. roads. Even with these statistics running through their minds, Florida has yet to take charge and teach teenagers the dangers of distracted driving. Although the law states that a person cannot operate a motor vehicle while typing and/or viewing a wireless device, a police officer cannot issue a ticket without him/her witnessing other violations along with it. To summarize, Florida does not do enough to prevent distracted driving because calling while driving is still allowed and regulations are very limited. People are being killed everyday due to other people's distractions while driving. As a matter of fact, humanity nowadays believe that their phones are more important than the steering wheel, which causes them to lose control and getting into fatal crashes.

Therefore, the state of Florida should try to administer and regulate the roads more. Additionally, they should also make a greater effort in trying to stop distracted drivers from being on these roads because not only are they putting their lives at risk, but many more lives as well. After all, it's believed that some simple regulatory laws will put a stop to the increase of fatalities caused by distracted drivers.