OAKLAND®
COUNTY MICHIGAN

L. BROOKS PATTERSON, OAKLAND COUNTY EXECUTIVE

May 19, 2017

Dear Legislators:

I give my wholehearted support to House Bill (H.B.) 4466 which will amend the Michigan vehicle code to make holding or using a portable electronic device while driving a civil infraction.

The current law is too narrow. I have heard from some law enforcement officers that if they pull someone over for texting while driving, to avoid a traffic ticket the driver only has to say "I was dialing a number." It's a serious loophole that has largely made enforcement of the current law ineffective.

H.B. 4466 will broaden the law to the point that a driver will have little choice but to utilize the hands-free options on the phone. Some may consider this inconvenient. Yet, how inconvenient would it be for a driver to end up with life-altering injuries from a distracted driving accident?

According to the U.S. Department of Transportation, drivers who use a hand-held device are four times more likely to get into a crash serious enough to cause injury. Texting drivers are 23 times more likely to be involved in a crash. It is abundantly clear that we can make our roads safer by enacting H.B. 4466.

Yours very sincerely,

L. Brooks Patterson
Oakland County Executive

EXECUTIVE OFFICE BUILDING 41 WEST • 2100 PONTIAC LAKE RD DEPT 409 • WATERFORD MI 48328-0409 • (248) 858-0484 • FAX (248) 452-9215