



THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

JAMES N. TEDISCO
Assemblyman 110th District

April 25, 2012

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo
Executive Chamber
State Capitol
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo:

Thank you for your continued efforts to promote safe driving and public safety across New York State.

As I'm sure you'll agree, unlike the right to be safe on New York's roads, driving is not a right, it's a privilege. That privilege comes with the obligation to respect the safety of others. Families have a right to know they and their loved ones will be protected from serial drunk and dangerous drivers who become human weapons when they get behind the wheel of a vehicle.

Sadly, some people take advantage of their privilege to drive by placing innocent lives at risk when they get behind the wheel of a vehicle while being intoxicated or driving recklessly. Serial drunk and dangerous drivers should not be given the opportunity to repeatedly turn their car into a two-ton weapon.

That's why Senator Hugh Farley and I have joined with families and advocates who lost loved ones to drunk and dangerous drivers to call for new legislation to help make our roads safer by permanently terminating the driver's license privileges for serial drunk and dangerous drivers.

Our measure, (A.8934A/S.6496), would **permanently terminate** all driving privileges of an individual convicted of a **combination** of three or more of the following: a conviction for DWI/ DUI; actions causing an accident where there is serious personal injury to another and the person is at fault; or vehicular manslaughter.

Currently, there is no provision in state law that permanently terminates driving privileges for those who are chronic drunk, drugged and/or dangerous drivers.

Under this law, anyone caught behind the wheel after their driver's license privileges are permanently terminated would face long-term incarceration. This is a deterrent because under this law any time a designated incorrigible driver gets behind the wheel of a car after getting their license permanently terminated they would go to jail for years - no matter when or why they were stopped - unlike the present system where law enforcement has to catch a repeat offender driving drunk again.

In addition to seeking your support for this measure, I would respectfully ask you to do everything in your power, administratively, to implement the spirit of this legislation and permanently terminate driver's license privileges of serial drunk and dangerous drivers.

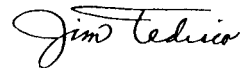
It's been said that the definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results. Is it any surprise that serial drunk and dangerous drivers continue to wreak havoc and carnage on our streets when the state enables them to keep getting their driver's licenses again and again?

Addiction to drugs and alcohol is a difficult illness to overcome and those that suffer from it deserve help but our concern and compassion for them can't override our obligation to keep chronic drunk and dangerous drivers off our highways and protect innocent, law-abiding citizens and their families.

New York State's message for serial drunk and dangerous drivers should be clear: "three strikes and you're out. You lose your driving privileges in New York State forever."

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at 518-370-2812. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



110th Assembly

CC: Commissioner Barbara J. Fiala
New York State Department of Motor Vehicles
6 Empire State Plaza
Albany, New York 12228