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**Teen Driver Safety Week To the Editor:**

National Teen Driver Safety Week is Oct. 18 to 24. Beginning drivers occasionally make mistakes. Some can easily be corrected. Others result in crashes with property damage, injury and even death.

The Illinois Insurance Association, a property-casualty trade organization, encourages parents, families and local communities to get behind teen driver safety initiatives.

- Support state graduated driver license laws and adopt house rules to protect teen motorists. Illinois' GDL gives teens more supervised time behind the wheel, bans hand-held mobile devices while driving, limits passengers, restricts night driving and more. These measures have reduced teen driving fatalities. Candid, open and ongoing family

discussions about driving safety, expectations and responsibilities are equally important.

- Model and reinforce good driving habits. Obey traffic laws, never drink and drive, always wear a seatbelt and routinely scan the roadway. Avoid distractions that take eyes, hands or focus away from driving, such as cellphones, temperature controls, mapping, food, passengers and even scenery are others.

- Choose the right vehicle for your teen driver. A bigger, heavier car, truck, or SUV equipped with safety features is best. Avoid those with high horsepower engines and always check NHTSA safety ratings.

Fatal teen crashes are devastating. Family members, friends and entire communities are forever affected. We can help young motorists reach destinations intact and improve roadway safety for everyone by taking time to talk to teens about safe driving practices.

**Kevin J. Martin**  
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