State of Connecticut

By Her Excellency M. Jodi Rell, Governor: an

# Official Statement

WHEREAS, April 17, 2008 is the first T-A-L-K to Teen Drivers Night in Connecticut and focuses on parents reaching out and having candid conservations with their teenagers about safe driving; and

WHEREAS, T-A-L-K to Teen Drivers stands for **T**each **A**ccountability, **L**aws and **K**nowledge, to encourage parents with their teenagers or soon-to-be-teens to have this important and timely discussion regarding the rules of the road; and

WHEREAS, car accidents are the leading cause of death among teenagers; already in 2008, Connecticut has lost seven teens due to traffic fatalities; motor vehicle accidents have also claimed the lives of fifteen teens in 2007 and fourteen teens in 2006; and

WHEREAS, traffic fatalities should not continue to be the leading cause of death for teenagers, and reckless and distracted driving should not claim any more lives of Connecticut's youth on our roadways; and

WHEREAS, parents can have a real impact on their teen's life and have far more influence on teens than any law we have on the books; parents need to set the limits before their teen gets behind the wheel of an automobile; and

WHEREAS, it is essential that parents know and enforce driving laws at home, hold firm to any rules and penalties set for new drivers, and discuss the perils of distracted driving and speeding; and

WHEREAS, along with a knowledge of the current laws governing new drivers, parents should be aware of the proposed tougher teen driving laws being considered during the 2008 Legislative Session, which include rolling back curfew times, stiffer penalties for moving violations, including drunk driving, and increasing training requirements; now

THEREFORE, I, M. Jodi Rell, Governor of the State of Connecticut, do hereby proclaim April 17, 2008, as

**T-A-L-K TO TEEN DRIVERS NIGHT**

in the State of Connecticut. I encourage all parents to make a real difference in the lives of their children and start a conversation with teen drivers about the privileges and responsibilities that come with having a Connecticut driver's license.

STATE OF CONNECTICUT EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

M. Jodi Rell
Governor