

According to the Department of Motor Vehicles, at least 9 people are killed every day because of a distracted driver, and more than 1,000 people are injured every day due to a distracted driver.¹ Though this number might seem small in comparison to other accidents, it is extremely consequential. In order to diminish the number of accidents due to technological distractions, society must commit to not using technology while driving, and governmental regulations on technology must be implemented.

Prominent automotive companies like Toyota Motors, Honda Motors, Ford Motors, and BMW crave to make their product better than the next. The whole concept of competition revolves around being better than the next business. So, advancement in motor vehicles technology is inevitable. This makes attempting to slow down technological advancements nearly impossible. Additionally, technology use in this generation is at an all-time high. Millennials are seemingly connected to their smartphones and devices, which can cause conflict while driving. "Phone use – particularly calling and texting – while driving is one of the most common distractions."² This predicament enhances the responsibility of this generation comes to play. In order to decrease distractions with technology, we must become responsible as adults. We must be aware that our actions have consequences, and those consequences can end up being fatal. Not only that, we must understand that our actions can and will affect others. Additionally, we need to realize the dangers that come with technology. We must acknowledge that some things can wait. And using technology while driving can lead to catastrophic events and is not worth it.

Although being responsible drivers seems like the obvious and easiest answer to the problem, there is always going to be a degree of irresponsibility in drivers. It is naturally every driver's responsibility to be careful while on the road and pledge to obey the laws that are set to keep them safe, but sadly is common that drivers are inconsiderate can ignore these laws. Additional implementations that can be made to decrease distractions with technology is government establishing and going through with policies that regulate the use of technology while driving. The United States currently has laws in place to prevent accidents, but obviously more precautions need to be implemented. Only 16 states, D.C., Puerto Rico, Guam and the U.S.

¹ "Texting & Driving." *DMV.ORG*, www.dmv.org/distracted-driving/texting-and-driving.php.

² "Distracted Driving | GHSA". *Ghsa.Org*, 2019, <https://www.ghsa.org/issues/distracted-driving>.

Virgin Islands prohibit all drivers from using hand-held cell phones while driving and no state bans all cell phone use for all drivers.³ New governmental regulations in concern of cellphone use need to be imposed and abided by. In order to make these new laws effective the responsibility is put on the federal government, the state government, the local and regional governments, law enforcement, and the American citizens. Revisions like this can be made to decrease car accidents, eliminated injuries and deaths due to distracted driving, and overall help all drivers on the road.

Specifically speaking for teenage drivers, distracted driving is a constant battle. As an adolescent, I've encountered drivers who constantly use their cellphones while driving. Whether the cause of the distraction was peer passengers, texting, changing the radio, or eating all dangerous distractions caused issues for teens. Changes need to be addressed in order to prevent tragedies like that from happening. The initial change come from the parent of the teen. "Beyond sharing facts and statistics about distracted driving, parents need to model safe driving behaviors by not using a cell phone."⁴ Being a role model for teens can show them how to be safe drivers. In addition to the support from a parent, for teens, the most important change come from the governmental regulations. I believe governmental laws would affect teenagers' more than general responsibility. This is because teens are more careless in the act of driving, and demanding responsibility from a teen is dubious. As a teen and a neophyte to driving, I know it seem trite for people today, "Don't text and drive.", but the message is crucial. If regulations that prevent teenagers from using their phones while driving are implemented nationwide, America would see a drastic drop in distracted driving accidents. So, the best and most effective solution is government putting strict regulations on cell phone use while driving. This solution to this problem is a necessity especially for novice drivers, like myself.

Advancements in motor vehicle technology and smart phone technology is inevitable and are drastically becoming more common. These innovations are created to improve the lifestyle and experiences of a person. However, they come with risks of car accidents, injuries, and even deaths due to distracted driving. With both responsibility and governmental assistance, this generation can diminish the distracted driving rates.

³ "GHSAs." *GHSAs*, www.ghsa.org/state-laws/issues/Distracted-Driving.

⁴ "Distracted Driving". *Teen Driver Source*, 2019, <https://www.teendriversource.org/teen-crash-risks-prevention/distracted-driving>.

