I am OPPOSED to Senate Bill 886 (as proposed)

My name is Robert Cornish

I am a senior Driver's Education instructor for Semi Academy, driving school, located in Lawton Michigan.

I am an educator with a Master's Degree in education. I am a former faculty member of the School of Education, Department of Teacher Education at Western Michigan University. I have a commercial pilot's license. I was one of the first Peace Corps Volunteers and enjoyed years of language training, cultural differentiation, and mechanical education in a non-western far side of the world. Today, just a training book and some students is a plan for disaster. Training with just a computer is a grand disaster. There is a major difference between a program of Driver's Education, and a Driver's School, and Driver's Training. They are not the same! The failures are very demonstrative, just go for a drive and see for yourself.

Many of my Driver's Education students in Michigan are disadvantaged in the same way that I encountered students in a primal environment. They are starting from zero and need to understand and learn to manage a new reality. Some cannot operate a riding lawnmower.

Senate Bill 866 as proposed is very immature. It is very economically motivated. It is very green.

This proposed Senate Bill comes to my attention today without any prior notice. I am not able to travel to Lansing on 3-15-18. Before endorsing any substantial changes to any instructional program requirements, I would be pleased to discuss any program with my fellow instructors, business contacts, school communities, State Representative, State Senator, school students, and school parents.

(Form Letter)
Driver Education is very important in Michigan to our Graduated Licensing System and the lives of our teenagers and their families. I believe our students deserve the best teachers that we can produce.

Senate Bill 886 provides for changes in our Driver Education Instructor Preparation law that would greatly degrade the quality of the new instructors completing the Driver Education Instructor Preparation Program. These new teachers need time to learn the curriculum and apply it in the classroom and in the behind-the-wheel lessons.

I believe is it best that the Instructors of this program have a Master's degree in education as they are educating a large number of non-teacher participants. The Instructors of the

Instructor Preparation classes need many years of experience in both Driver Education classroom and behind-the-wheel instruction.

Driver Education programs need instructors that are well educated and ready to teach when hired. Providers do not have time or resources to conduct additional training. It would be best, from an education perspective, for these new teachers to go through each class, one at a time and spend more than one week in each class with their instructor.

I'm not in favor of an online format for a Driver Education course. The teachers need hands-on experiences just like the teenage students.

I encourage you to table Senate Bill 886

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