



4525 Allendale Drive
White Bear Lake, Minnesota 55127

Rick Schroeder, Managing Partner

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(651) 426-8740

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Schroeder calls bill for parental liability on accidents “anti-family”

Attorney Richard Schroeder of the Law Offices of Schroeder and Mandel is warning Wisconsin families of legislation currently being considered in the Wisconsin Assembly.

“As an attorney licensed to practice in Wisconsin and Minnesota, I keep tabs on bills introduced in both legislatures that pertain to accidents, accident victims, insurance and a host of other legal aspects that can help or hinder justice,” Schroeder explained. “The Wisconsin Assembly is debating a bill that would up the ante for families with a young driver.”

Committees in the Wisconsin Legislature are currently reviewing [AB-706](#) and [SB-592](#) which would change the level of direct financial responsibility to which a parent or guardian of a minor driver may be held. As proposed, the bills increase the liability to a maximum total of \$300,000 for all parents or adult sponsors (people who affirm the young driver’s license application). The \$300,000 applies to any single accident and is limited to accidents caused by a minor (under 18 years old) driver.

“Growing up in Waunakee and Oconomowoc, kids I knew couldn’t wait to get their license. The independence of being able to drive helped us get jobs, run errands for the family, take siblings to school all taught us responsibility. I can easily see this type of law will create huge conflicts with the auto insurance companies, denials of coverage following an accident, and pitting families against other families. Think about how this will affect ride-share families, traveling arrangements for kids organized activities, car pooling and the like,” Schroeder explained.

“Lawmakers clearly haven’t thought this one through. This law was written by insurance lobbyists and is simply an attempt to help insurance companies at the consumer’s expense. Insurance rates will not go down—they never do. Our insurance rates will continue to rise and a law like this adds more government interference and regulation where it’s not needed.

Schroeder encourages Wisconsin residents to read [AB-706](#) and [SB-592](#), and contact their representatives and senators to urge them to vote against more government regulation and interference in to our personal lives. “This is anti-consumer, placing an unfair burden on families with young drivers.”