



~~219~~ Stephanie Swisky
219-6197
x127

Art Basel Coalition
Messages, Correspondence



116 NEW MONTGOMERY STREET, SUITE 850 • SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94105
PHONE: 1-800-CRASH12 • 415-777-3942 • FAX: 415-777-1950
E-MAIL: crashsf@aol.com www.trucksafety.org

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North Carolina

James Towery
President
California State Bar Association*
San Jose, CA

* For Identification Purposes only.

August 6, 1997

Ms. Elizabeth Drye
Special Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy
222 Old Executive Office Building
17th Street and Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20502

Dear Ms. Drye:

Citizens for Reliable and Safe Highways (CRASH), a truck safety organization with more than 43,000 members representing victims, highway users, truck drivers, and safety advocates, urges you to make truck safety a top priority in the reauthorization of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Assistance (ISTEA) legislation currently being debated in the 105th Congress. Our members, as well as millions of constituents in your home state, are concerned about their safety when sharing the road with bigger and heavier trucks and with good reason. Each year nearly 5,000 people are killed and more than 100,000 injured in truck crashes. Big trucks make up 3% of all registered vehicles but account for 21% of all deaths in crashes involving two or more vehicles. Furthermore, 96% of people killed in two-vehicle crashes involving a passenger vehicle and a large truck were occupants of the car.

CRASH is committed to reducing deaths and injuries on our nation's roads caused by big rig crashes. That commitment is reinforced in the consistent results of nationwide public opinion polls showing strong support to maintain the freeze on Longer Combination Vehicles (LCVs) enacted in the 1991 ISTEA and to freeze the size and weight of trucks in this year's reauthorization bill. American voters of all ages, income levels and political affiliation are concerned about the dangers of big trucks and support stronger federal truck safety laws to save lives and prevent injuries.

The enclosed July 20th issue of *PARADE Magazine* documents the safety concerns shared by Americans across the country. This story about truck safety reached over 36 million households who share the road with big trucks every day. As the article stated, solutions do exist. Parade readers, the members of CRASH, and millions of motorists nationwide are looking to the 105th Congress to implement those solutions. We therefore urge you to adopt the following safety agenda in the reauthorization of ISTEA:

- Support continuation of the 1991 freeze on the operation of Longer Combination Vehicles.
 - Enact a freeze on the size and weight of trucks to prevent bigger, longer and heavier trucks from jeopardizing our safety and damaging our roads. This can be accomplished with the inclusion of HR 551 sponsored by Rep. Jim Oberstar.
 - Promote safe and healthy working conditions for all truck drivers by opposing any legislative increases in the number of hours truckers can drive, reducing their off-duty time, or exempting certain categories of truck drivers from current federal regulations governing Hours of Service. Truck driver fatigue is a serious safety problem and expanding the hours truck drivers are behind the wheel will only threaten highway safety.
 - Oppose any legislative exemptions to federal truck safety rules for certain categories of truck operations. Uniform application of federal safety rules for all trucking operations will enhance safety.
- The Administration would never consider exempting certain airlines from federal aviation rules and the federal truck safety rules should apply to all trucking operations.**

CRASH looks forward to working with you in the coming months to enact an ISTEA reauthorization bill that will advance safety and not retreat. Your support and commitment to truck safety is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Joan Claybrook
Chair

Michael Scippa
Executive Director



ADVOCATES FOR HIGHWAY AND AUTO SAFETY

Co-Chairs:

Richard D. Crabtree,
President & COO
Nationwide Mutual
Insurance Company

Andrew McGuire
Executive Director
Trauma Foundation

President:

Judith Lee Stone

Consumer and Safety Organizations:

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Consumer Federation
of America

Joan Claybrook
Public Citizen

Clarence Ditlow
Center for Auto Safety

Donald Friedman
MCR Technology Inc.

Jay R. Halfon
New York Public Interest
Research Group

Stephen W. Hargarten, M.D., MPH
American College of
Emergency Physicians

Ralf Hotchkiss
Wheeled Mobility Center
San Francisco State University

Katherine P. Prescott
Mothers Against Drunk
Driving (MADD)

Stephen Teret
American Public Health
Association

Hubert Williams
Police Foundation

Insurance and Agents Organizations:

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National Association of
Professional Insurance Agents

Herman Brandau
State Farm
Insurance Companies

Len Brevik
Independent Insurance Agents
of America

John Connors
Liberty Mutual
Insurance Company

Steve Hasenmiller
The Hartford

Rodger S. Lawson, PhD
Alliance of American Insurers

Gerald Maatman
Kemper Insurance Companies

Robert J. McMillan
Progressive Insurance

Robert Vagley
American Insurance Association

A USA Today story on the effects of increasing speed limits contained inaccurate information. USA Today subsequently printed Advocates' rebutting letter to the Editor which provided accurate information. This article and a fact sheet on the impact of increased speed limits on highway safety follows.

July 29, 1997

USA TODAY
JULY 18, 1997
PAGE 14A

Fatalities, injuries higher on roads where speed limits have been raised

USA TODAY's article "Fewer dying despite faster speed limits" misleads the public into believing that higher speeds are safe (News, Monday).

In fact, quite the opposite is true. The article said highway fatalities were down in 1996, when final data released by the government and reported in Thursday's USA TODAY show highway deaths and injuries increased for the fourth year in a row to 41,907 ("Fast times," Newsline).

Clearly, traveling at 75 mph is not as safe as traveling at 55 mph. Repealing the national maximum speed limit undoubtedly has put the brakes on any significant decreases in highway fatalities.

Despite our expressed concerns about making a correlation between the increase in speed limits and overall fatality numbers for all roads, USA TODAY printed the results of an informal study that is not accurate. A variety of data consistently show fatalities are up on roads that have raised their posted maximum speed limits.

For example, in California, preliminary state data indicate that fatal crashes on interstates and other freeways posted at 65 mph and 70 mph have increased dramatically, as much as 12%. On freeways where speed limits were increased from 55 mph to 65 mph, fatal crashes were 22% higher. By comparison, California freeways that remained at 55 mph experienced over an 8% reduction in fatal crashes.

While motor vehicle deaths may be down in California overall, the trend is the opposite on roads where speeds were increased — and this is the point USA TODAY does not make. New Mexico, Texas and Nebraska had similar experiences where higher speeds on interstates resulted in increased deaths and injuries.

A look back at history provides strong proof that higher speeds contribute to more fatalities. After the 55 mph limit was established in 1974, highway fatalities dropped by almost 9,000, or 16%. The National Academy of Sciences attributed

3,000 to 5,000 of the lives saved to the decrease in speed limits.

Furthermore, in 1987 when Congress allowed states to raise their speed limits to 65 mph on some rural roadways, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration concluded the increases resulted in 500 additional deaths each year.

Judith Lee Stone, president
Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety
Washington, D.C.



ADVOCATES
FOR HIGHWAY
AND AUTO SAFETY

THE IMPACT OF INCREASED SPEED LIMITS ON HIGHWAY SAFETY

BACKGROUND:

- The 55 mile per hour (MPH) national maximum speed limit was a temporary measure in response to the 1973 oil embargo but was made permanent in 1974 because highway deaths dropped precipitously in that one year, there were 9,000 fewer deaths than in 1972.
- A 1985 National Academy of Sciences (NAS) study estimated that the national speed limit was responsible for saving one half or more of the 9,000 lives in 1973. The study also concluded that the national speed limit was saving between 2,000 and 4,000 lives annually. The NAS study predicted that a 65 MPH speed limit on Interstate highways would result in 500 more deaths each year.
- In 1987 Congress permitted states to raise rural Interstate highway speed limits to 65 MPH. Subsequent data analysis by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) concluded that States experienced an average 15-20% increase in deaths on Interstate highways posted at 65 MPH, nearly 500 more deaths per year, just as the NAS study had estimated.
- The national speed limit was repealed by the 1995 National Highway System Designation Act, returning the issue to the States.

EXPERIENCE SINCE REPEAL OF THE NATIONAL SPEED LIMIT:

- 34 States have raised speed limits on portions of their highway system, 23 States have maximum speed limits of 70 or 75 MPH and Montana has no specific daytime maximum speed limit.
- The percentage of vehicles exceeding even the higher posted speed limit increased. In California 41% of vehicles were travelling over 70 MPH on highways posted at 65 MPH, and in Texas more than 50% of all vehicles were travelling over the 70 MPH speed limit, 17% were travelling faster than 75 MPH.
- Data collection on higher speed limits is voluntary and only a few states have reported any data:
 - CALIFORNIA: 18% increase in fatal crashes on highways posted over 55 MPH;
 - NEW MEXICO: crash severity increased dramatically on highways posted above 55 MPH and where vehicle speeds increased resulting in significant increases in fatalities and serious physical injuries;
 - TEXAS: increase in the frequency and rate of serious crashes and injuries on urban Interstates posted at 70 MPH is associated with the higher speed limit, and NHTSA reports an 18% increase (560) in deaths in 1996 compared to 1995;
 - IOWA: survey on surrounding States reports increases of 10-20% in four States (Kansas, Nebraska, Missouri, South Dakota) that adopted speed limits of 70 and 75 MPH, but fatalities declined in states with speed limits posted at or below 65 MPH.

NEED FOR DISAGGREGATED DATA ANALYSIS:

- There are over 3 million miles of highways and roads in the U.S.
- Highways built to the highest safety standards, Interstates, freeways, and other median divided, limited access roads, comprise only a small portion of the nation's highway mileage and are built to higher design standards so they have relatively low crash and fatality rates.
- The bulk of the nation's highways, however, are state roads, including 2- and 4-lane undivided roads and lower class, county and local roads, built to lower design and safety standards. The vast majority of vehicle miles of travel, crashes, deaths, and injuries take place on these roads.
- Accurate analysis of crash and fatality experience must look at the data on these different groups of highways separately. In order to accurately assess the impact of higher speed limits, data on crashes, fatalities, and injuries on just those highways that are posted at speeds higher than 55 MPH must be analyzed independently of the data from other highways. Significant increases in crashes, fatalities, and injuries occurring on highways posted above 55 MPH will be submerged if combined with the larger body of data from roads posted at or below 55 MPH. California is an example of this, while the overall State fatality total for 1996 decreased, highways posted with higher speed limits experienced a significant increase (18%) in fatalities. This also happened on the national level after the 1987 speed limit increase to 65 MPH on rural Interstates. The annual increase of 500 deaths experienced on those highways was partially or completely offset by the safer fatality trends on the majority of highways that were still posted at or below 55 MPH, giving the false impression that increased speed limits and vehicle speeds do not adversely affect highway safety.

April 23, 1997

Ms. Mary E. Houlihan
Executive Director
State of New York
Governor's Traffic Safety Committee
Empire State Plaza
Albany, New York 12228

Dear Mary:

Thank you for your letter. I deeply appreciate your support for my Administration's efforts to improve safety on our nation's roads, and I have shared your letter with my staff in the Domestic Policy Council.

We have made steady progress in improving highway safety over the years. However, there are still far too many deaths and injuries on our nation's roads. Increasing seat belt use will save lives and reduce injuries.

Your involvement is important as law enforcement officials work to increase compliance with safety laws, as manufacturers work to make air bags and child safety seats safer for children, and as we all work to make it clear that, on America's roads, there is no room for alcohol or drugs.

Thanks again for your support.

Sincerely,

BILL CLINTON

BC/LIJ/RSM/RLM/ws-ws
(4.houlihan.me)

(Corres. #3468192)

cc w/copy of incmg to Elizabeth Drye, 222 OEOB
cc: IGA, 106 OEOB

211807



MARY E. HOULIHAN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

STATE OF NEW YORK
GOVERNOR'S TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
EMPIRE STATE PLAZA
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12228

March 17, 1997

The Honorable William J. Clinton
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Clinton:

Thank you for promoting the importance of wearing seat belts and using child restraints. We applaud and support your efforts to develop a plan to get more Americans to wear their seat belts.

New York State has had a long-standing commitment to occupant protection. We were the first state in the nation to enact a seat belt law. Today, we remain dedicated in our efforts to reduce injuries and deaths on our highways through the enforcement of our passenger safety laws and the promotion of proper occupant restraint use.

There is broad public support for more high visibility enforcement to save the lives of children, and we as a nation should not tolerate any child unbuckled in a motor vehicle. The Governor's Traffic Safety Committee, through the efforts of our state and local enforcement agencies, is taking a leadership role to coordinate a statewide occupant protection initiative. We support the National Air Bag Safety Campaign, and we are actively working with the Campaign and private/public partnerships to promote air bag and child passenger safety throughout New York State.

As always, we look forward to the opportunity to partner with the federal government in our collective efforts to increase seat belt and child restraint usage and to reduce unnecessary deaths and injuries.

Yours truly,

Mary E. Houlihan
Executive Director

tm

April 23, 1997

Mr. Timothy E. Jones, Sr.
Director
Governor's Office of Highway Safety
The Equitable Building
Suite 2000
100 Peachtree Street
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Dear Timothy:

Thank you for your letter. I deeply appreciate your support for my Administration's efforts to improve safety on our nation's roads, and I have shared your letter with my staff in the Domestic Policy Council.

We have made steady progress in improving highway safety over the years. However, there are still far too many deaths and injuries on our nation's roads. Increasing seat belt use will save lives and reduce injuries.

Your involvement is important as law enforcement officials work to increase compliance with safety laws, as manufacturers work to make air bags and child safety seats safer for children, and as we all work to make it clear that, on America's roads, there is no room for alcohol or drugs.

Thanks again for writing.

Sincerely,

BC/LIJ/RSM/RLM/ws-ws
(4.jones.te)

(Corres. #3468150)

cc w/copy of incmg to Elizabeth Drye, 22²OEOb
cc: IGA, 106 OEOb
cc: Wayna Wondwossen, 93 OEOb

210126



Zell Miller
GOVERNOR

Governor's Office of Highway Safety

The Equitable Building
100 Peachtree Street
Suite 2000
Atlanta, Georgia 30303
(404) 656-6996
FAX (404) 651-9107

Timothy E. Jones, Sr.
DIRECTOR

February 24, 1997

The Honorable William Jefferson Clinton
President of the United States of America
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Clinton:

As the new Governor's Representative for the Georgia Governor's Office of Highway Safety, I have become extremely impressed with the level of support for highway safety, both locally and nationally. Accordingly, I wanted to take a moment to thank you for your leadership on the myriad of issues facing all of us as we work to make travelling on our highways and roads safer for the public.

We in Georgia are particularly fortunate to have a governor who has also taken a strong leadership role on highway safety. Through Governor Miller's efforts, Georgia has passed primary seat belt laws and stronger DUI legislation. During the current legislative session, Governor Miller is proposing even tougher DUI legislation, graduated licensing, zero tolerance and mandatory jail time for first-time DUI offenders. Your leadership, as exemplified in your February 15th Radio Address to the nation, will add strength to our local efforts to increase enforcement on safety belt, child passenger safety and DUI laws. Our resolve to continue our fight for safe roads for all our citizens is fortified by your leadership.

Again, thank you for all that you do for highway safety.

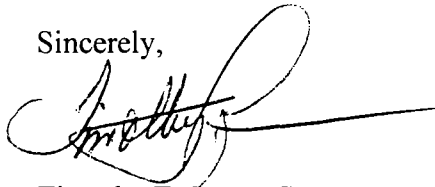
CONTINUED

MAR 12

The Honorable William Jefferson Clinton
February 24, 1997
Page Two

With warm regards, I remain

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Timothy E. Jones, Sr.", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Timothy E. Jones, Sr.
Director

TEJ:pma

cc: The Honorable Zell Miller, Governor of Georgia
Rodney Slater, Secretary, Department of Transportation
Ricardo Martinez, Administrator, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
Janet Dewey, Executive Director, Air Bag Safety Campaign

April 30, 1997

Mr. John F. Smith, Jr.
Chairman of the Board, Chief
Executive Officer, and President
General Motors
Post Office Box 431301
Detroit, Michigan 48243-7301

Dear Jack:

Thanks for writing. I appreciate your support for my Administration's efforts to improve safety on our nation's roads, and I have shared your letter with my staff in the Domestic Policy Council. Thanks, too, for your kind words of concern following my recent knee surgery.

We have made steady progress in improving highway safety over the years. However, there are still far too many deaths and injuries on our nation's roads. Increasing seat belt use will save lives and reduce injuries.

Your involvement is important as law enforcement officials work to increase compliance with safety laws, as manufacturers work to make air bags and child safety seats safer for children, and as we all work to make it clear that, on America's roads, there is no room for alcohol or drugs.

Thanks again for writing.

Sincerely,

BILL CLINTON

BC/LIJ/RSM/RLM/WW/ws-ws-efr-ech (Corres.
#3468178)
(4.smith.jf)

cc w/copy of incmg to Elizabeth Drye, 222 OEOB

3429024
#Z10817

JOHN F. SMITH, JR.
Chairman of the Board
Chief Executive Officer and President

General Motors

March 17, 1997

The President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Your recent radio addresses on traffic safety issues and related comments by Secretary of Transportation Slater have sent an important message to the American people -- safety belt and proper child safety seat use need to be increased to further reduce highway fatalities and injuries.

In recent years, substantial progress has been made in the national belt use rate. However, we know from the experience in Canada, Australia, and some European countries that much higher belt use levels are achievable.

The plan for increasing safety belt use, which you have requested from the Department of Transportation, should establish a national commitment to achieving world-class levels of safety belt use in the U.S. We applaud your action in requesting the DOT plan and pledge our support in helping to implement it.

I was very sorry to hear of your mishap this past week. We all trust that you will have a rapid recovery.

Sincerely,

Jack

(S)

MAR 19 1997

The White House Office of Presidential Messages

Telephone 202-456-7487

Fax 202-456-2806



Facsimile Transmittal Sheet

No. of pages (including Cover): 2 Date: 5/19/97Fax Number: 67431To: Elizabeth DwyerComments: Here is the infamous message.From: Catherine Kitchen

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 19, 1997

Warm greetings to everyone gathered for the kickoff of "Operation ABC." I applaud the Air Bag Safety Campaign on this important national effort, which will help us meet my Administration's goal of increasing seat belt use in this country to 85 percent by the year 2000.

Campaigns such as this one are vital as we seek to improve passenger safety on America's roads. I am grateful for the Air Bag Safety Campaign's leadership in bringing together federal, state, and local government officials, law enforcement officials, and community organizations to ensure that children are properly buckled up. By increasing seat belt and child safety seat use, we can save thousands of lives each year. I commend the law enforcement officials across the country who are conducting child safety checks and other compliance efforts to ensure that children are properly secured when travelling on our nation's highways.

We must continue to do all we can to help parents fulfill their greatest responsibility -- the care and safety of their children. We must work together to make our roads safer and our children more secure. There are still far too many deaths and injuries on our nation's roads, and seat belts must be our first line of defense.

Today, I renew my call to all Americans to buckle up and to make sure that children are properly secured in the back seat. With a strong national commitment from both the public and private sectors, and with the cooperation of families across our nation, we can save thousands of lives and make America's roads safer for us all.

Hillary joins me in extending best wishes for every success for Operation ABC.

Bill Clinton

May 5, 1997

The Honorable Parris N. Glendening
Governor of Maryland
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Parris:

Thank you for your thoughtful letter. I deeply appreciate your support for my Administration's efforts to improve safety on our nation's roads, and I'm glad to know that you were not seriously injured in your recent accident.

Maryland has done much to increase passenger safety, and I am particularly grateful for your leadership in implementing primary enforcement of seat belt laws in your state. This strategy is important as we seek to improve law enforcement efforts across America to increase compliance with safety laws.

We must continue to do all we can to help parents fulfill their greatest responsibility -- ensuring the care and safety of their children. We have made steady progress in improving highway safety over the years. However, there are still far too many deaths and injuries on our nation's roads. Seat belts must be our first line of defense. I am convinced that increasing their use will save lives and reduce injuries.

I look forward to continuing our work together on this and other crucial challenges facing us.

Sincerely, **BILL CLINTON**

BC/LIJ/RSM/RLM/DWB/efr-ws-ckb (Corres. #3482272)
(4.glendening.p)

cc: IGA, 106 OEOB
cc: Wayna Wondwosser, 93 OEOB
cc: Elizabeth Drye, 222 OEOB

CABINET AFFAIRS ROUTING SLIP

DATE: 5/15/98 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: _____
 FOR APPROPRIATE ACTION: ✓
 FOR YOUR INFORMATION: _____

FROM: STEPHEN B. SILVERMAN
 DEPUTY SECRETARY TO THE CABINET
 DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: DOT Scheduling Request
 COMMENTS: _____

ERSKINE BOWLES	1FL WW	RONDA JACKSON	260 OEOB
SYLVIA MATHEWS	1FL WW	ELAINE KAMARCK	271 OEOB
JOHN PODESTA	1FL WW	RON KLAIN	276 OEOB
KITTY HIGGINS	2FL WW ✓	JOHN KOSKINEN	260 OEOB
DON BAER	GFL WW ✓	JACK LEW	252 OEOB
KRIS BALDERSTON	160 OEOB	MIKE MCCURRY	1FL WW
DAVID BEAUBAIRE	160 OEOB	ANNE MCGUIRE	160 OEOB
EMILY BROMBERG	106 OEOB	LORRIE MCHUGH	1FL WW
PHIL CAPLAN	GFL WW	CHERYL MILLS	2FL/WW
DAWN CHIRWA	130 OEOB	LINDA MOORE	115 OEOB
LYNN CUTLER	106 OEOB	JENNIFER PALMIERI	184 OEOB
MICHEAL DEICH	209 OEOB	VICKI RADD	1FL WW
RAHM EMANUEL	1FL WW ✓	DOUG SOSNIK	1FL WW
JASON GOLDBERG	1FL WW	GENE SPERLING	2FL WW
T.J. GLAUTHER	246 OEOB	TODD STERN	GFL WW
MARY ELLEN GLYNN	GFL WW	STEPHANIE STREETT	GFL WW
MARCIA HALE	2FL WW	GINY TERZANO	274 OEOB
LARRY HAAS	253 OEOB	BARRY TOIV	1 FL WW
NANCY HERNREICH	1 FL WW	LORRAINE VOLES	274 OEOB
JON KAPLAN	233 OEOB ✓	MICHAEL WALDMAN	196 OEOB
ELENA KAGAN	216 OEOB ✓	DAN WEXLER	117 OEOB
CABINET AFFAIRS STAFF	160 OEOB	Elizabeth Dye 222 ✓	

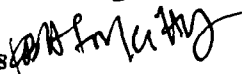
Dorothy Brown 226 ✓

Eli Attie 126 ✓

FEMA	DOT	ANNOUNCEMENTS	SUMMIT
MATHEWS 1/WW	HIGGINS 2/WW	MATHEWS 1/WW	MATHEWS 1/WW
HIGGINS 2/WW	DEICH 209 OEOB	HIGGINS 2/WW	HIGGINS 2/WW
CHOW 107/EW	GLYNN G/WW	BAER G/WW	BAER GFL/WW
GLYNN G/WW	MCHUGH 1/WW	HALE 2/WW	LEWIS GFL/WW
HALE 2/WW	TOIV 1/WW	GLYNN G/WW	ATTIE 126 OEOB
MURGUIA 112/EW	MAYOCK 1/WW	MCHUGH 1/WW	PALMIERI 184 OEOB
MCHUGH 1/WW		C. SMITH GFL/WW	KAMARCK 271 OEOB
C. SMITH GF/WW		SPERLING 2/WW	VERVEER 100 OEOB
VOLES 274 OEOB		TOIV 1/WW	MATSUI 122 OEOB
		VOLES 274 OEOB	FORBES 107 EW
			HALE 2FL/WW
			MOORE 115 OEOB
			LOCKHART 161 OEOB
			OCA STAFF 160 OEOB

May 1997

TO: Stephanie Street
Director of Scheduling

FROM: Kitty Higgins 
Secretary to the Cabinet

REQUEST: Weekly Radio Address

PURPOSE: For POTUS to promote his plan for increasing seat belt use in America to 85% by 2000 during Buckle Up America! Week -- and -- for POTUS to announce new PSAs -- and -- for POTUS to announce initiatives underway to support the plan (CEO meeting in Chicago, Federal agency efforts) -- and -- for POTUS to reaffirm his commitment to the safety and health of all Americans -- and -- for POTUS to endorse the "Mobilization for America to Buckle Up Children".

BACKGROUND: "National Buckle Up, America! Week" is May 18 -24. The week is marked by local community-based activities that will reinforce the seat belt and child seat message. The "National Mobilization" is a centerpiece activity of the Air Bag Safety Campaign (ABSC), a public/private partnership encouraged by the Secretary of DOT in response to the rising number of fatalities from unintended air bag deployments. The "National Mobilization" will result in activity in all 50 states. The presidential message is part of the national "call to action" to impress upon Americans that the transporting of unbuckled children in this country is not only unlawful, but simply, unacceptable.

PREVIOUS PARTICIPATION: POTUS has done one radio address calling for all Americans to buckle-up. In that address POTUS called for a national plan to increase seat belt use. ABSC has been an active partners with DOT and NHTSA in efforts to inform Americans how to avoid the risk from air bags, and a strong and vocal supporter of the President's initiative to increase seat belt use across the country.

DATE AND TIME: ASAP

DURATION: One hour taping session

LOCATION: Oval Office

**REMARKS
REQUIRED:**

Draft radio script.

**PROPOSED
ATTENDANCE:**

President

RECOMMENDED BY:

Secretary of Transportation Slater

CONTACT:

Ricardo Martinez, Administrator
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
(202) 366-1836

*Jackie -
We drafted
at Air Bag Safety
Campaign's request.
Are you ok w/ this?
Need by 10:05am
Thanks*

*Elizabeth Dye.
456-5573*

May 19, 1997

Warm greetings to everyone gathered for the kickoff of "Operation ABC." I applaud the Air Bag Safety Campaign on this important national effort, which ~~underscores~~ ^{will help us meet} my Administration's goal of increasing seat belt use in this country to 85 percent by the year 2000.

Campaigns such as this one are vital as we seek to improve passenger safety on America's roads. I am grateful for the Air Bag Safety Campaign's leadership in bringing together federal, state, and local government officials, law enforcement officials, and community organizations to ensure that children are properly buckled up. By increasing seat belt and child safety seat use, we can save thousands of lives each year. I commend the law enforcement officials across the country who are conducting child safety checks and other compliance efforts to ensure that children are properly secured when travelling on our nation's highways.

We must continue to do all we can to help parents fulfill their greatest responsibility -- the care and safety of their children. We must work together to make our roads safer and our children more secure. There are still far too many deaths and injuries on our nation's roads, and seat belts must be our first line of defense.

Today, I renew my call to all Americans to buckle up and to make sure that children are properly secured in the back seat. With a strong national commitment from both the public and private sectors, and with the cooperation of families across our nation, we can save thousands of lives and make America's roads safer for us all.

Hillary joins me in extending best wishes for every success for Operation ABC.

BC/CTK/LIJ/MAH/MAH/jfc-jfc (Corres. #3512834)
(5.buckle.up)
(Event: 5/19/97)
cc: Presidential Messages, 91 OEOB

SENT TO:
Mr. Frank Greer
Suite 800
1010 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20007

Man

DO NOT MAIL -- RETURN TO CARMEN FOWLER, 91 OEOB, FOR DISPATCH

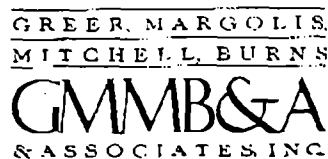
GREER, MARGOLIS
MITCHELL, BURNS
GMMB&A
& ASSOCIATES, INC

DATE: 5/5/97
TO: ELIZABETH DRYE
FROM: DAVID MITCHELL
RE: SEE FOLLOWING MEMO
PAGES TO FOLLOW: 8

COMMENTS: _____

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Any questions or comments, please call: 202/338-8700. Telecopier # 202/338-2334.



MEMORANDUM

TO: Elizabeth Drye

FROM: David Mitchell

RE: Background Information on *Operation ABC – Mobilizing America to Buckle Up Children*

DATE: May 5, 1997

I appreciate our conversation this morning. In the following fax, I have included the memo and proposed Presidential Statement sent to Don Baer on April 23rd. I also have attached basic background on *Operation ABC – Mobilizing American to Buckle Up Children*.

I will call you if I hear anything. Thanks very much.

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: DON BAER

FROM: FRANK GREER

DATE: APRIL 23, 1997

RE: OPERATION ABC KICKOFF

This is a request for the President to do a short video on a project the President has already stated he supports.

On May 19th, the Air Bag Safety Campaign will be holding a press conference highlighting the unprecedented scope of *Operation ABC* — the first major national initiative in support of President Clinton's recently released plan to increase seat belt use across the country. I think this would be a great opportunity for the President to highlight his endorsement of *Operation ABC* by taping a short video clip that could be used at the media event in Washington, DC as well as those around the country.

Operation ABC: Mobilizing America to Buckle Up Children will take place during Buckle Up America! Week, May 19-26. It is aimed at increasing compliance with child passenger safety laws and protecting children and families from potential crash related injuries. In all 50 states, law enforcement will step up efforts to increase compliance with child passenger safety laws under the *Operation ABC* banner.

Operation ABC comes at a time when there is growing public support for stronger enforcement and strengthening of child passenger safety laws. Our latest poll shows 76% favoring creation of new laws requiring children to be properly restrained in child safety seats. In addition, almost a 2:1 margin of those polled support high visibility enforcement such as police conducting safety check points to assure children are properly restrained in the back seat.

The President has already pledged his support for *Operation ABC* in an April 9th statement — which I have attached for your information. It is our hope that the President will deliver a short message along the same lines as his statement, stressing the importance of supporting law enforcement and pledging his support for *Operation ABC*.

I think this is a great opportunity for the President to emphasize the support he has already pledged for *Operation ABC*, stand behind a group that has taken the lead in promoting the President's seat belt plan and will place the President on the front lines saving children's lives.

We have attached some suggested language.

I want to thank you for your help on this and look forward to seeing you later this week.

**Suggested language for remarks by the President at the kickoff of:
*Operation ABC: Mobilizing America to Buckle Up Children***

May 19, 1997

Good morning. I am delighted to join you at the kickoff of *Operation ABC*. My administration has set a goal to increase seat belt use in this country to 85 percent by the year 2000. It is a truly ambitious goal, but one that can save thousands of lives each year. To fulfill this goal will require a strong national commitment from both the public and private sectors.

That's why the Air Bag Safety Campaign's *Operation ABC* is so important. *Operation ABC* is a national effort of unprecedented scope that brings Governors, Mayors, law enforcement and community organizations together to make sure children are properly buckled up. Law enforcement officials in all 50 states will be conducting high-visibility events such as child safety checks to increase compliance with child passenger safety laws. We know enforcement is effective in increasing seat belt and child safety seat use, and we must support law enforcement in its efforts. I want to applaud the Air Bag Safety Campaign on this important drive and I pledge the Administration's support for their efforts as, together, we move towards our goal of bringing seat belt usage to 85 percent.

Today, I renew my call on all Americans to buckle up and always properly buckle their children in the back seat. If there is one thing we can do to save thousands of lives, it is to increase seat belt use nationwide. In addition, I want to commend the law enforcement officers – who are on the front lines – for their dedication to this important effort. To all of you, I want to extend my thanks for all you are doing in this fight to make America's roads safer for us all.



AIR BAG SAFETY: BUCKLE EVERYONE! CHILDREN IN BACK!

DRAFT

MEDIA ADVISORY:
May 15, 1997

CONTACT:
Janet Goss
Sam Heitner
202/338-8700

LAW ENFORCEMENT LEADS NATIONAL COALITION IN *OPERATION ABC: MOBILIZING AMERICA TO BUCKLE UP CHILDREN*

Laws Protecting Children in Vehicles Enforced On An Unprecedented Scale

Tens of thousands of officers representing all 50 state patrols and more than 1000 municipal law enforcement agencies nationwide are spearheading an unprecedented national effort this week to make "unbuckled children unacceptable in America." *Operation ABC* is being launched with the support of the President, the nation's governors and mayors, and a broad national coalition committed to increasing seat belt and child safety seat use. In every state, in communities large and small, law enforcement will conduct high visibility enforcement and education of child passenger safety laws under the banner of *Operation ABC* throughout Buckle Up America! Week, May 19-26.

-
- WHAT:** National news event to kick off *Operation ABC*
Safety check point in Washington DC, with motor vehicle crash simulator demonstration
- WHO:** Rodney Slater, Secretary of Transportation (invited)
Ricardo Martinez, NHTSA Administrator (invited)
Janet Reno, Attorney General (invited)
Darrell Saunders, President of the International Association of Chiefs of Police (invited)
Janet Dewey, Executive Director, Air Bag Safety Campaign
DC, Maryland and Virginia law enforcement
Diane Loffert and her grandson, Zach, crash survivors
- WHEN:** Monday, May 19, 1997 at 10:30 AM
- WHERE:** Washington, DC, 5260 Western Avenue (parking available. Associate Parking lot only)

Operation ABC comes just six weeks after President Clinton announced a plan to reduce child occupant fatalities by 15 percent and to increase seat belt use to 85 percent by the year 2000. Currently seat belt use stands at 68 percent. And only 60 percent of children are restrained in safety belts or child safety seats. *Operation ABC* is one of the first major steps toward putting the President's plan into action.

For information about other *Operation ABC* news events and activities around the nation that day and throughout the week, including feed times for B-roll, please contact Sam Heitner at 202/338-8700.

DRAFT

OPERATION ABC: MOBILIZING AMERICA TO BUCKLE UP CHILDREN MAY 19-26, 1997

Selected State and Local Highlights

Alaska

The Alaska State Troopers will mobilize more than 200 law enforcement across the state to step up enforcement of the state's child passenger safety law. In addition, the Juneau Police Department will conduct child safety seat checks and provide the public with McDonald's coupons for correct seat use.

California

The Commissioner of the California Highway Patrol (CHP) is working with *Operation ABC* and all eight barracks statewide will participate in high visibility enforcement throughout the week. The CHP will distribute press releases statewide with assistance from 125 health centers. The health centers will work with the CHP to make 10,000 child safety seats available to the public. Also, the Los Angeles Police Department will distribute *Operation ABC* material during roll call each day of the week and will conduct at least four checkpoints at various points in the city.

Colorado

Governor Roy Romer will announce an 18-month kickoff of Colorado's commitment to step up enforcement of child passenger safety, seat belt and speed violations called "Do the Twist." As part of *Operation ABC*, checkpoints and other high visibility enforcement activities will occur statewide, in 52 police department and sheriff's office in the state and the Colorado Highway Patrol.

District of Columbia

The Metropolitan Police Department will conduct motor vehicle occupant checkpoints at various points in the city five days during the week of May 19-23. The purpose of the checkpoints is to enforce through citations and education the District's standard seat belt law and to particularly ensure children are buckled up properly as part of *Operation ABC*.

Florida

The Florida Highway Patrol is taking the lead to step up enforcement of seat belt and child passenger safety laws through checkpoints and increased patrolling in 67 counties, including at least 11 cities, under the *Operation ABC* banner. The Miami Police Department will conduct both daytime and evening checkpoints, with specific traffic enforcement at high crash intersection sites, and will conduct safety demonstrations at schools throughout the week.

Georgia

In a statewide, coordinated effort of state and local law enforcement, Georgia is behind *Operation ABC*. They will hold high visibility child passenger safety checkpoints, stepped up patrols and child safety seats checks throughout the state in the first 5 days of *Operation ABC*. Over the Memorial Day weekend they will increase enforcement to over 900 patrols. Georgia will kick off *Operation ABC* with a safety caravan in coordination with county health departments and community groups.

Hawaii

The Hawaii Police Department, Honolulu Police Department and Maui Police Department all are participating in *Operation ABC* by conducting checkpoints and other high visibility enforcement activities during the week.

Illinois

The Chicago Police Department's 25 districts will execute full enforcement of child passenger safety laws with safety checkpoints and saturation patrols during May 18th-31st as part of *Operation ABC*. In addition, the Illinois State Police is committed to stepped up enforcement during the week in all 21 districts. Eighteen hundred patrol officers and as many as 75 municipal police agencies including - Deerfield, Hickory Hill, Des Plaines, Lombard, and Montgomery County also are planning specific activities such as checkpoints.

Indiana

All 18 districts of the Indiana State Police will participate in *Operation ABC* by conducting high visibility enforcement activities May 25-June 7. The state police currently are negotiating airing a PSA on child passenger safety and displaying the *Operation ABC* banner at the Indianapolis 500 over Memorial Day weekend. Over 300 agencies throughout Indiana will be participating in high visibility enforcement activities May 25-June 7 as part of Indiana Operation Pull Over Program and *Operation ABC*.

Maine

In Brunswick Maine, officers will be stationed at traffic lights to identify occupant protection violations and enforce the child passenger safety law. In addition, officers will be on foot handing out *Operation ABC* materials to local citizens. The Maine State Police also are committed to participate in *Operation ABC*, with confirmed activities in at least six municipal departments across the state.

Michigan

Michigan will kick-off *Operation ABC* on May 19 in Detroit, Lansing, and four other markets, with state police chiefs, sheriffs, and state troopers announcing a two-week, statewide *Safe and Sober Campaign* called "The Heat is On." The campaign ties in with *Operation ABC* as it focuses on the need to move children from child safety seats to booster seats.

Minnesota

Minnesota will have 65 agencies participating in *Operation ABC* and *Safe and Sober*. In St. Paul, Minnesota the police department will be involved in *Operation ABC* by committing officers to saturation patrols and will encourage the media to "ride along" with police officers.

Nebraska

Governor Nelson has asked that all municipal police agencies participate in *Operation ABC*. The Nebraska State Police will conduct joint selective enforcement operations with local police statewide. This will include increased enforcement of child passenger safety laws.

New Jersey

The New Jersey State Police and local departments throughout the state are committed to conduct safety checkpoints and saturation patrols during *Operation ABC*.

New Mexico

Throughout the state on May 11-May 24th *Operation Buckle Down* in conjunction with *Operation ABC* will focus on child passenger safety laws. Every police department with populations over 5,000 will participate in saturation patrols at schools and Walmart shopping centers. New Mexico State Police committed to stepped up enforcement of child passenger safety laws.

New York

State police will be conducting safety checkpoints and intense enforcement throughout the state. Education activities will include "rollover simulators" which are steel cage vehicles that simulate crash effects with and without safety belt usage.

North Carolina

In a coordinated effort with state police, DMV uniformed patrol and 550 local agencies statewide, North Carolina is behind *Operation ABC* and plans to conduct occupant protection checkpoints from May 19-July 4. Governor Hunt will kick-off the week at a news conference in Raleigh on May 20.

Washington

The state has designated the week of May 19-26 as "Zero Tolerance Week," with Governor Locke signing a proclamation in support of *Operation ABC*. All eight state police districts throughout Washington will conduct child safety checks in collaboration with local safety groups and local law enforcement agencies. The state police also will focus increased enforcement on the state's highways where low seat belt rates are prevalent.