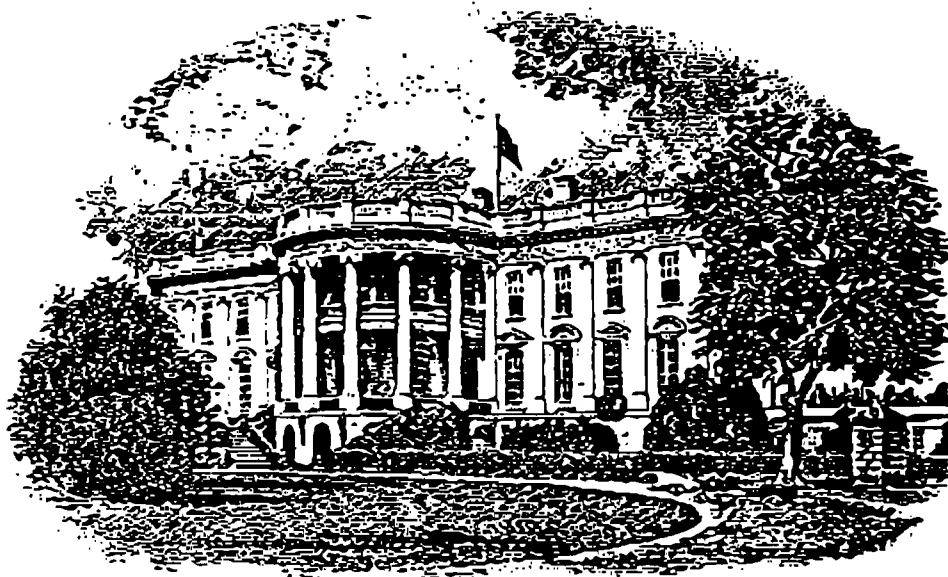


4/29

The White House
Office of Presidential Letters and Messages



facsimile from: Leanne Johnson
phone: 202-456-5512
fax: 202-456-5426

To: Elizabeth Mize

No. of pages (including cover): 4 Date: 4.25.97

Phone: _____ Fax: 67028

Comments: _____

215311



STATE OF MARYLAND
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

PARRIS N. GLENDENING
GOVERNOR

ANNAPOLIS OFFICE
STATE HOUSE
100 STATE CIRCLE
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401
(410) 974-3901

WASHINGTON OFFICE
SUITE 311
444 NORTH CAPITOL STREET, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20001
(202) 638-2215

TDD (410) 333-3098

April 16, 1997

The Honorable William J. Clinton
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Thank you for inviting me to participate in the announcement of the Occupant Protection Incentive Grant Program. While I regret that I am unable to attend this event because of a prior commitment in Maryland, I strongly support this important safety component of your Administration's proposal for reauthorization of the nation's surface transportation program.

Several weeks ago, I was involved in an automobile accident near my home. Fortunately, I was wearing my seat belt at the time of the collision and was not seriously injured. I know that wearing my seat belt properly made it possible for me to safely walk away from that accident. I am confident that your Occupant Protection Program will help to reduce highway deaths and injuries that result when people ride without seat belts in motor vehicles. The incentive awards you propose will encourage states to make positive changes to obtain much needed safety funds while simultaneously improving safety standards across the nation.

As Governor, I am gratified that Maryland's General Assembly session passed a primary enforcement seat belt law during the recently completed legislative session. When I sign this legislation into law in a few weeks, Maryland will become one of the first states in the nation to comply with all five of the Basic Grant A criteria specified in your Administration's proposal.

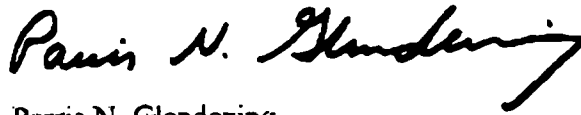
By changing our seat belt enforcement from secondary to primary, we conservatively estimate that we will save dozens of lives and prevent thousands of injuries each year. As a result, Maryland citizens will save \$138 million in health care, worker's compensation and other insurance expenses. While we may know the names of people who are tragically killed in automobile accidents, we will never know the names of those Marylanders whose lives will be saved because of your Occupant Protection Program and the primary enforcement seat belt legislation that was passed in our State legislature this year.

APR 18 1997

The Honorable William J. Clinton
April 16, 1997
Page 2 of 2

On behalf of all Marylanders, I commend you for your leadership in moving this vital public safety initiative forward. We look forward to working with you and Transportation Secretary Rodney Slater as we continue our efforts to reauthorize the nation's surface transportation program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Parris N. Glendening". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail on the final "g".

Parris N. Glendening
Governor

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 have shared your letter with my staff in the Domestic Policy Council.

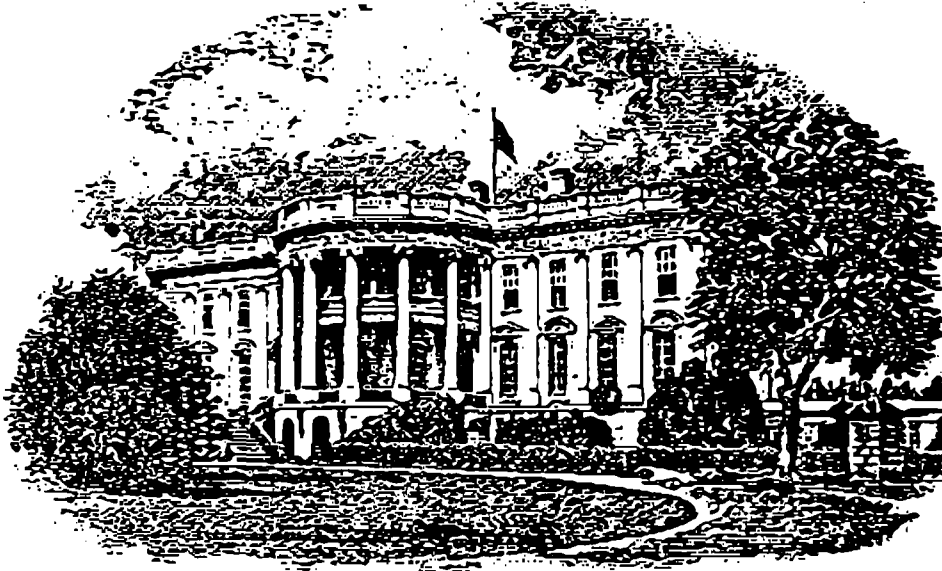
Maryland has done much to increase passenger safety ~~by changing its seatbelt enforcement from secondary to primary. This is important as we seek to increase law enforcement efforts across America to increase compliance with safety laws.~~ *I thank you for your leadership on primary seat belt laws.* *md*

We must continue to do all we can to help parents fulfill their greatest responsibility -- ensuring the care and safety of their children. As I said in a memo to the Secretary of Transportation earlier this year, 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 seat belt use will save lives and reduce injuries.

I look forward to continuing our work together as we also ^{to} work to make air bags and child safety seats safer for children, and make it clear that, on America's roads, there is no room for alcohol or drugs. *md*

4/29

The White House
Office of Presidential Letters and Messages



facsimile from: Leanne Johnson
phone: 202-456-5512
fax: 202-456-5426

To: ELIZABETH DRAKE

No. of pages (including cover): 45 Date: 4.23.97

Phone: _____ Fax: 67028

Comments: DRAFT RE: SEAT BELT SAFETY
FOR CLEARANCE.
THANKS.

215340

Full Michael
Jim Rhodes
State Representative

District 44B
Hennepin County



Minnesota House of Representatives

COMMITTEES: ETHICS; CAPITAL INVESTMENT; HOUSING AND HOUSING FINANCE DIVISION;
TRANSPORTATION AND TRANSIT

April 14, 1997

President Bill Clinton
White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing you in regards to your idea which would create primary stop seat belt laws across the country. I too am concerned about seatbelt laws and their enforcement - especially for children. I am the chief author of a bill in the Minnesota House of Representatives which would require children under the age of 15 to wear their seatbelts. This law would be enforced by allowing peace officers to stop violators as a primary offense. I believe this legislation will keep unbuckled children from becoming missiles in cars when accidents occur.

I have enclosed a copy of my bill and I would appreciate a letter of support from your office. I believe your endorsement would greatly improve the chances of this legislation becoming law.

I can be reached at (612) 296-9889 if you have any questions regarding this bill. Thanks in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature of Jim Rhodes in dark ink, written over a horizontal line.
Jim Rhodes
State Representative

APR 18 1997



01/15/97

[REVISOR] RR/WS 97-1208

SP

State of Minnesota
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

EIGHTIETH
SESSION

HOUSE FILE No. 221

January 27, 1997

Authored by Rhodes, McElroy, Marto, Hausman and Broecker

Read First Time and Referred to the Committee on TRANSPORTATION AND TRANSIT

1 A bill for an act

2 relating to traffic regulations; requiring all

3 passengers between ages three and 15 to wear seat

4 belts, and making violation a primary offense;

5 amending Minnesota Statutes 1996, section 169.686,

6 subdivision 1.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

8 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 1996, section 169.686,

9 subdivision 1, is amended to read:

10 Subdivision 1. [SEAT BELT REQUIREMENT.] A properly

11 adjusted and fastened seat belt, including both the shoulder and

12 lap belt when the vehicle is so equipped, shall be worn by:

13 (1) the driver of a passenger vehicle or commercial motor

14 vehicle;

15 (2) a passenger riding in the front seat of a passenger

16 vehicle or commercial motor vehicle; and

17 (3) a passenger riding in any seat of a passenger vehicle

18 who is older than three but younger than 15 years of age.

19 A person who is 15 years of age or older and who violates

20 clause (1) or (2) is subject to a fine of \$25. The driver of

21 the passenger vehicle or commercial motor vehicle in which the

22 violation occurred is subject to a \$25 fine for a violation of

23 clause (2) or (3) by a child-of-the-driver under the age of 15

24 or ~~any child under the age of 11~~. A peace officer may not issue

25 a citation for a violation of this section clause (1) or (2)

26 unless the officer lawfully stopped or detained the driver of

Section 1

1

01/15/97

[REVISOR] RR/WS 97-1208

1 the motor vehicle for a moving violation other than a violation
2 involving motor vehicle equipment. The department of public
3 safety shall not record a violation of this subdivision on a
4 person's driving record.

5 Sec. 2. [EFFECTIVE DATE.]

6 Section 1 is effective August 1, 1997, for violations
7 committed on and after that date.

Thank you for writing to me.

Like you, I believe that we must do all we can to help parents fulfill their greatest responsibility -- ensuring the care and safety of their children. I have shared your letter and the copy of your bill with my staff in the Domestic Policy Council, and I encourage you to contact them with your concerns.