



STATE of MINNESOTA

Proclamation

- WHEREAS:** In the State of Minnesota, it is illegal for drivers to read, compose, or send texts and e-mails or to access the internet while behind the wheel of a car, even at stop lights, or when idling in traffic; and
- WHEREAS:** Texting and driving is one of the most dangerous activities in which a driver can engage, taking a driver's eyes off the road for an average of five seconds, the equivalent of traveling the length of a football field when traveling at 55 miles per hour; and
- WHEREAS:** According to the National Safety Council, more than 200,000 car crashes on United States roadways each year, including residential and neighborhood streets, involve texting while driving, often causing injuries and death; and
- WHEREAS:** According to the Minnesota Department of Public Safety, in the State of Minnesota in 2013, distracted driver-related crashes resulted in 68 deaths and 8,034 injuries; and
- WHEREAS:** Teenagers are particularly at risk regarding texting and driving, with 75 percent saying texting while driving is common among friends, and 43 percent admitting to texting behind the wheel; and
- WHEREAS:** This fall, the Toward Zero Deaths Coalition, law enforcement, AT&T, and the Minnesota Safety Council are partnering with high schools around the state to focus attention on the real dangers of texting while driving — to drive home the dangers and often deadly consequences of texting and driving, and to encourage all drivers to take the pledge to never text while behind the wheel of a car.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARK DAYTON, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim the month of September 2014, as:

DON'T TEXT AND DRIVE AWARENESS MONTH

in the State of Minnesota.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Minnesota to be affixed at the State Capitol this 15th day of September.


GOVERNOR


SECRETARY OF STATE