

**Remarks prepared for
Ron Medford
Deputy Administrator
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration**

Kansas Primary Belt Law Press Event

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Topeka, Kansas

Good morning. Thank you Secretary Miller. Good morning, Governor Parkinson. On behalf of United States Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood and National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Administrator David Strickland, I'd like to thank and congratulate you and the State of Kansas for enacting a primary seat belt law. You are the 31st State in the Nation to take this important step in preventing death and injury on your roadways.

Primary seat belt laws are good news stories. In Kansas, this primary law will potentially save 25 lives, prevent 262 serious injuries, and save \$70 million dollars in costs to the State every year.

Going forward, NHTSA estimates that Kansas could see a 9 percentage point increase in seat belt use. That translates into an 8 percent decrease in fatalities in passenger cars and light trucks.

In addition to the priceless benefit of reducing human suffering caused by crash-related fatalities and serious injuries, Kansas stands to make some economic gains from passage of this law. The State can use its \$11 million dollars in Federal funds to improve highway safety – including improving bridges and roads, educating the motoring public, installing safety

hardware, or funding law enforcement. The bottom line is you will be saving lives.

I would like to take a moment to recognize the many hardworking safety advocates who worked tirelessly to help promote passage of this law:

- **Kansas Secretary of Transportation Deb Miller**
- **Superintendent of the Kansas Highway Patrol**
Col. Terry Maple
- **Kansas Secretary of Health and Environment**
Roderick Bremby, and
- **Senator Dwayne Umbarger, Chair, Kansas Senate**
Transportation Committee

I'd also like to recognize the Driving Force Safety Coalition members for working continuously to get the word out on the importance of a Primary Belt Law in saving lives.

Governor Parkinson, I would like to present you with a check for \$11,184,630 in Section 406 funds for enacting this law.

Thank you.