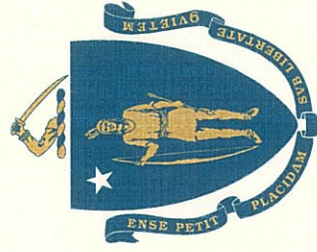


The Commonwealth of Massachusetts



A Proclamation

Whereas Distracted Driving is any activity that could divert a person's attention from the primary task of driving; and

Whereas All distractions endanger driver, passenger, pedestrian, and other road users' safety; and

Whereas Distracted Driving occurs any time drivers take their eyes off the road, their hands off the wheel, and their minds off their primary task of driving; and

Whereas Studies show that Texting While Driving involves manual, visual, and mental distraction, and is among the worst of all driver distractions; and

Whereas Distracted Driving is not confined to a single cause, age group, level of education or driver demographic; and

Whereas While Distracted Driving can take many forms and affects all road users, young drivers are at particular risk; and

Whereas Drivers less than 25 years of age are two to three times more likely than older drivers to send text messages or e-mails while driving; and

Whereas According to national statistics, in 2014, 3,179 people were killed and 431,000 injured in crashes involving a Distracted Driver, and

Whereas The best way to end Distracted Driving is to educate all Massachusetts citizens about the dangers it poses; and

Now, Therefore, I, Charles D. Baker, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, do hereby proclaim April 2017, to be,

DISTRACTED DRIVING AWARENESS MONTH

And urge all the citizens of the Commonwealth to take cognizance of this event and participate fittingly in its observance.

Given at the Executive Chamber in Boston, this Thirty-First Day of March, in the year two thousand and seventeen, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and forty-first.

BY HIS EXCELLENCY

Handwritten signature of Charles D. Baker in blue ink.

CHARLES D. BAKER
GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH

Handwritten signature of Karyn E. Polito in blue ink.

KARYN E. POLITO
LT. GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH

Handwritten signature of William Francis Galvin in blue ink.

WILLIAM FRANCIS GALVIN
SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH

God Save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts