

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS



A PROCLAMATION



BY HIS EXCELLENCY

GOVERNOR DEVAL L. PATRICK

Whereas Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for adolescents and young adults in Massachusetts, and many of these deaths are preventable; and

Whereas Almost 7,500 drivers between the ages of 15 and 20 years were involved in fatal crashes in 2005 throughout the United States, with 88 of these being Massachusetts drivers; and

Whereas The fatality rate in the United States for drivers between the ages of 16 and 19 years, based on miles driven, is four times the fatality rate for drivers between the ages of 25 and 69 years; and

Whereas The majority of teen driver crashes in the United States are due to driver error and speeding, and 15 percent of the crashes are due to drunk driving. Roughly two-thirds of the teenagers killed in motor vehicle crashes in the United States each year do not use seatbelts; and

Whereas The Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles, Executive Office of Public Safety and Security's Highway Safety Division, Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Massachusetts State Police, local police departments, and others continue to work collaboratively to promote and enforce the Commonwealth's enhanced Junior Operator Law, and explore effective ways to reduce the crash risk for young drivers by focusing outreach efforts on areas of teen driving that show the most promise for improving safety; and

Whereas Teenage drivers, in particular during the first months of the school year, face many decisions involving driving, such as peer passenger and nighttime driving restrictions, how to safely deal with cell phones and other driving distractions, the dangers of speeding as well as impaired and fatigued driving, and the need to have all vehicle occupants properly buckled,

Now, Therefore, I, Deval L. Patrick, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, do hereby proclaim October 15th - 20th, 2007, to be

TEEN DRIVER SAFETY WEEK

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 fifteenth day of October, in the year two thousand and seven, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and thirty-first.

By His Excellency

Handwritten signature of Deval L. Patrick.

DEVAL L. PATRICK

Governor of the Commonwealth

Handwritten signature of William Francis Galvin.

WILLIAM FRANCIS GALVIN

Secretary of the Commonwealth

GOD SAVE THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS