

DISTRACTED DRIVING

WHEREAS, The number one cause of distracted driving is the use of handheld devices; drivers using a handheld device are four times more likely to cause a crash serious enough to cause injury, and in one year, accidents or near misses caused by distracted drivers affected 38% of Americans; an estimated one million drivers talk on their phones, whether handheld or hands free, while driving; and

WHEREAS, More than 80% of all drivers admit to hazardous behavior including changing clothes, painting nails, shaving, eating, or steering with body parts other than their hands; in addition, 9 out of 10 teen drivers say they have seen people driving distracted; and

WHEREAS, According to recent studies, in one year approximately 6,000 people were killed due to distracted driving and half a million more were injured; when accidents resulting from distracted driving occurred, 16% were fatal and 20% caused injury, and using a phone while driving, whether handheld or hands free, delays a driver's reactions as much as having a blood alcohol level of 0.08%; and

WHEREAS, Adult drivers are just as likely to text and drive as teens; out of 2,252 adults surveyed, 27% admitted to texting on the road and 61% admitted to talking on the phone while driving, and deaths due to distracted driving have surpassed the number of deaths due to drunken drivers; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Missouri Congress of Parents and Teachers (Missouri PTA), its units and councils, urge the Missouri State Legislature to create and promote the enforcement of laws that restrict the use of hand-held and portable communication devices while driving; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Missouri PTA, its units and councils, urge the Missouri State Legislature to require the Department of Transportation to promote and provide educational resources on the dangers of distracted driving; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Missouri PTA, its units and councils, urge adults and students when driving to serve as an example by refraining from driving distracted; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Missouri PTA, its unit and councils, collaborate with school districts, the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and other organizations to promote awareness and education of distracted driving in the community.

Adopted 2011