



STATE of MINNESOTA

Proclamation

- WHEREAS: One out of every four crashes on Minnesota roadways in 2013 was distracted driver related, resulting in 68 deaths; and
- WHEREAS: A National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) study found that 71 percent of teens and young adults send text messages while driving and 78 percent read messages while behind the wheel. Another NHTSA study found that 90 percent of passengers feel unsafe in a car when the driver texts; however, 50 percent of the same group text while driving; and
- WHEREAS: Teens who witness their parents engaging in distracted driving behaviors more frequently demonstrate the same behaviors when they drive; and
- WHEREAS: The probability of a crash due to texting and driving is 23 times more likely than a crash in which the driver has a 0.08 percent blood alcohol content; and
- WHEREAS: Driving while using a cell phone reduces the amount of brain activity associated with driving by 37 percent and reaction time by 18 percent; and
- WHEREAS: Texting while driving diverts attention from the road for about 4.6 seconds, the equivalent of driving blindfolded across an entire football field at 55 miles per hour; and
- WHEREAS: Statistics from the year 2013 show that 60 percent of the top ten deadliest distracted driving days for Minnesota crash involved teenagers were between Memorial Day and Labor Day.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARK DAYTON, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim Saturday, August 2, 2014, as:

DISTRACTION-FREE DRIVING DAY

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 21st day of July.


GOVERNOR



SECRETARY OF STATE