



STATE of MINNESOTA

Proclamation

WHEREAS: Statistical analysis of 2011 motor vehicle crashes in the United States estimated that distracted drivers were the cause of as much as 20% of traffic fatalities and 80% of all traffic collisions; and

WHEREAS: Car crashes occur within an average of three seconds after a driver gets distracted, and a distracted driver can be more dangerous than a driver with an 0.08% blood alcohol level; and

WHEREAS: According to the National Traffic Safety Administration, sending or receiving a text message while driving takes the driver's attention from the road for an average of 4.6 seconds, the equivalent, at 55 miles per hour, of driving the length of a football field while blindfolded; and

WHEREAS: Texting while driving is the number one cause of fatalities among teenagers, with teenage drivers being four times more likely than adult drivers to be involved in a crash related to texting; and

WHEREAS: Distracted driving behavior is not confined to a single cause, age group, level of education, or driver demographic; and

WHEREAS: Driver distraction is approaching epidemic proportions, with the annual cost of traffic accidents involving distraction from a cell phone estimated at \$43 billion. Minnesotans must examine their driving habits and pledge to protect each other on the road through distraction-free driving behavior.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARK DAYTON, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim August 4, 2012 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 31st day of July.


GOVERNOR



SECRETARY OF STATE