

Resolution

ENROLLED SENATE
RESOLUTION NO. 41

By: Bullard, Allen, Bergstrom,
Boren, Brooks, Burns,
Coleman, Dahm, Daniels,
David, Dossett (J.A.),
Dossett (J.J.), Dugger,
Floyd, Garvin, Hall,
Hamilton, Haste, Hicks,
Howard, Jech, Jett, Kidd,
Kirt, Leewright, Matthews,
McCortney, Merrick,
Montgomery, Murdock,
Newhouse, Paxton, Pederson,
Pemberton, Pugh, Quinn,
Rader, Rogers, Rosino,
Simpson, Standridge,
Stanley, Stephens, Taylor,
Thompson, Treat, Weaver,
and Young

A Resolution raising awareness of the dangers of distracted driving; committing the Legislature to model safe driving; and encouraging Oklahomans to avoid distracted driving.

WHEREAS, in the last decade, distracted driving has been rampant on U.S. roadways, endangering not only the distracted drivers, but their passengers, pedestrians and others on the road; and

WHEREAS, distracted driving claimed 3,142 lives in the U.S. in 2020, and 8% of all fatal crashes nationwide involved distracted drivers; and

WHEREAS, texting is the worst distraction. Sending or reading a text takes your eyes off the road for five seconds. At 55 mph, that would be equivalent to driving the length of an entire football field with your eyes closed; and

WHEREAS, in 2020, nearly 7,300 accidents were caused in Oklahoma by distracted driving, impacting around 17,000 people; and

WHEREAS, 43 Oklahomans were killed in those distracted driving accidents and nearly 3,800 others were injured; and

WHEREAS, Oklahomans between the ages of 20 and 49 are the most common to be distracted while driving; and

WHEREAS, 48 states including Oklahoma, along with Washington, D.C., have passed laws outlawing texting while driving; and

WHEREAS, following the passage of Oklahoma's Trooper Nicholas Dees and Trooper Keith Burch Act of 2015, the state saw 12% fewer total crashes, a 22% decrease in injury-causing crashes, 30% less traffic fatalities, and a 6% decrease in non-injury crashes; and

WHEREAS, Oklahoma law enforcement officers recently took a pledge to educate the public and model appropriate driving behavior to ensure that future Oklahoma generations are not lost to needless distractions.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 2ND SESSION OF THE 58TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

THAT the Oklahoma State Senate commits to model safe driving behaviors for their fellow Oklahomans and to do all they can within the Constitution and the proper role of government to educate others on the dangers of distracted driving.

THAT the Oklahoma State Senate encourages Oklahomans to take personal responsibility to make themselves aware of and educate their families and loved ones about the dangers of distracted driving and take the pledge to avoid distractions while driving.

Adopted by the Senate the 17th day of May, 2022.

Presiding Officer of the Senate

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Received by the Office of the Secretary of State this _____
day of _____, 20 _____, at _____ o'clock _____ M.
By: _____