

SENATE RESOLUTION

8608

By Senator Liiias

1 WHEREAS, The National Road Safety Foundation recognizes January
2 22nd through January 28th as National Passenger Safety Week; and

3 WHEREAS, Everyone has an important role to play in increasing
4 road safety; and

5 WHEREAS, Passenger car occupant deaths accounted for 35 percent
6 of all traffic fatalities nationwide in 2020; and

7 WHEREAS, Traffic deaths increased 7 percent in 2020 and 10
8 percent in 2021, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety
9 Administration's (NHTSA) preliminary estimates; and

10 WHEREAS, Passenger car occupant deaths rose 9 percent in 2021;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, These historic increases in traffic deaths occurred even
13 though there was a 13 percent decrease in the miles that vehicles
14 traveled; and

15 WHEREAS, NHTSA's data shows that the main behaviors behind these
16 increases were speeding, impaired driving, and failure to wear seat
17 belts; and

18 WHEREAS, Whether a driver is impaired by alcohol or drugs, is
19 speeding, is driving too aggressively, is driving distracted, or is
20 unable to stay awake behind the wheel, bad driving choices put
21 passengers at risk of serious injury or death; and

1 WHEREAS, Many of those lives might have been saved had a
2 passenger in the car insisted that the driver slow down, stop
3 texting, or not get behind the wheel in the first place; and

4 WHEREAS, Passengers, especially teens and young adults, need
5 education and encouragement to empower them to save lives by
6 stopping unsafe driving practices as they happen; and

7 WHEREAS, Parents also need education and encouragement to
8 teach their children about the importance of speaking up or not
9 getting in a car with someone who is drunk, drugged, or
10 distracted;

11 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State
12 Senate recognize National Passenger Safety Week, January 22-28,
13 2023, and encourage passengers in motor vehicles to educate
14 themselves and advocate for their own safety and the safety of
15 others during this week and throughout the year.

16 I, Sarah Bannister, Secretary of the Senate,
17 do hereby certify that this is a true and
18 correct copy of Senate Resolution 8608,
19 adopted by the Senate
20 January 24, 2023

21 SARAH BANNISTER
22 Secretary of the Senate