**CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY WEEK 2012**

A PROCLAMATION

Children are our future. As parents and caregivers it is our responsibility to keep America’s children safe. Every day in 2010, an average of 2 children 12 and younger were killed and 325 were injured in motor vehicle traffic crashes as occupants of passenger vehicles. For children 1 to 13, it is the leading cause of death. It is hard to overstate the toll this takes on families but together we can help put an end to this tragedy.

Today, all 50 States, the District of Columbia, and our Territories require the use of car seats for children traveling in motor vehicles. These laws were enacted because they save lives and prevent injuries. Research shows car seats reduce the risk of fatal injury by 71 percent for children younger than 1 and by 54 percent for children 1 to 4 years old in passenger cars. We know that car seats help save lives and reduce injuries. We also know they are most effective when installed and used correctly. Starting now, we must work together to prevent these deaths and injuries.

That is why **[insert city/state]** is committed to working closely with our partners and safety advocates to help you make the kind of choices that will keep your kids alive and safe. Our goal is to educate parents and caregivers about best practice when traveling with children from birth through age 12. During Child Passenger Safety Week hundreds of free car seat inspection stations will be set up across the country. I encourage all parents and caregivers to take advantage of this service and ensure that their children are getting the very best protection and are in the right seat for their age in size. To locate an inspection station in your area, please go to [www.safercar.gov/therightseat](https://remote.dot.gov/owa/%2CDanaInfo%3Doutlooksfc.dot.gov%2CSSL%2Bredir.aspx?C=b54f59e8732c4498b2e9ae07b9330e83&URL=http%3a%2f%2fwww.nhtsa.gov).

 Now, therefore, I, **[insert official's name and title]**, do hereby proclaim September 16-22 as “Child Passenger Safety Week” and September 22 as “National Seat Check Saturday.” I urge everyone to help reduce injuries and the tragic loss of life by buckling up themselves and their children — every trip, every time.