

SUBJECT: Seatbelt Usage and Endorsement of Primary Enforcement Laws
SUBMITTED BY: Mackenzie Denton, OMS II, Student Delegate, Kentucky Delegation
REFERRED TO: 2017 ACOFP Congress of Delegates

RESOLUTION NO. 20

- 1 WHEREAS, motor vehicle accidents are the leading cause of death in those less than 30 years of
2 age; and
3
4 WHEREAS, approximately 53% of those age 16-19 years who died in fatal motor vehicle
5 accidents were not wearing a seatbelt at the time of crash [1]; and
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7 WHEREAS, the use of safety belts, especially among drivers and front seat passengers, has been
8 shown to reduce the risk of death in the case of a car accident by 45% and serious injury
9 by 50% [2]; and
10
11 WHEREAS, the American Osteopathic Association (AOA) endorsed and reaffirmed the passage of
12 primary seatbelt enforcement laws in every state (H294-A/05) [3]; and
13
14 WHEREAS, only 34 states, District of Columbia and five territories have primary seatbelt
15 enforcement laws for front seat passengers, with only 21 of these extending the primary
16 law to rear seat passengers and only 15 states have secondary enforcement laws [4]; and
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18 WHEREAS, the presence of primary enforcement laws has been shown to increase seatbelt usage
19 in states compared to states with secondary enforcement laws or no enforcement laws
20 [5]; now, therefore be it
21
22 RESOLVED, that the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians (ACOFP) stand in strong
23 support of endorsing seatbelt usage in all patient populations, but especially in those with
24 the lowest rate of seatbelt use and highest risk of death in a motor vehicle accident (teens
25 and young adults); and, be it further
26
27 RESOLVED, that the ACOFP recommends that all states pass a primary seatbelt enforcement law.

FINAL ACTION: APPROVED as of March 16, 2017

References:

1. Center for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Division of Unintentional Injury Prevention. (2016) *Teen Drivers: Get the Facts- Injury Prevention & Control: Motor Vehicle Safety*. Retrieved from https://www.cdc.gov/motorvehiclesafety/teen_drivers/teendrivers_factsheet.html.
2. Center for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Division of Unintentional Injury Prevention. (2016) *Seat Belts: Get the Facts- Injury Prevention & Control: Motor Vehicle Safety*. Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/motorvehiclesafety/seatbelts/facts.html>.
3. American Osteopathic Association. (2016) *American Osteopathic Association Policy Compendium 2011*. Retrieved from <http://www.osteopathic.org/inside-aoa/public-policy/Documents/2011-Policy-Compendium.pdf>.
4. Governors Highway Safety Association. (2016) *Seat Belts*. Retrieved from <http://www.ghsa.org/state-laws/issues/seat%20belts>.
5. U.S. Department of Transportation, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. (2016). *Traffic Safety Facts Research Note*. Retrieved from <https://crashstats.nhtsa.dot.gov/Api/Public/ViewPublication/812243>.