

Public Law 100-245  
100th Congress

Joint Resolution

Feb. 10, 1988  
[H.J. Res. 402]

To designate the week of February 7-13, 1988, as "National Child Passenger Safety Awareness Week".

- Whereas motor vehicle crashes are the number one cause of death of children over the age of 6 months in the United States;
- Whereas motor vehicle crashes are the number one cause of the crippling of children in the United States;
- Whereas more children under the age of 5 years are killed or crippled as passengers involved in motor vehicle crashes than the total number of children killed or crippled by the 7 most common childhood diseases; pertussis (whooping cough), tetanus, diphtheria, measles, mumps, rubella (German measles), and polio;
- Whereas motor vehicle crashes are the leading trauma related cause of spinal cord injuries, epilepsy, and mental retardation in the United States;
- Whereas, during the years 1978 through 1986, nearly 9,300 children under the age of 5 years were killed in traffic crashes and more than 450,000 children were injured in the United States;
- Whereas an unrestrained child is less protected by padding and energy-absorbing materials than an adult in a motor vehicle crash as a result of protective devices being placed in areas more likely to benefit adults;
- Whereas unrestrained children are subject to a significantly higher risk of serious head, spine, chest, and abdominal injury in motor vehicle crashes than adult passengers because the bodies of children are less developed and provide less protection;
- Whereas an unrestrained child in a motor vehicle crash faces an increased danger of fatal or serious injury from ejection as well as injuries resulting from contact with the vehicle interior;
- Whereas an unrestrained child in a motor vehicle not involved in a collision may be killed or injured as a result of sudden stops, turns, swerves, or falling from a moving vehicle;
- Whereas all 50 States and the District of Columbia have enacted laws mandating the use of child passenger protection systems;
- Whereas the latest national surveys show that 72 percent of children under the age of 5 are placed in child safety seats in the United States and that one-third of such seats are used incorrectly;
- Whereas current nationwide studies estimate that only 48 percent of children under the age of 5 are fully protected in cars in the United States through the correct usage of child safety seats;
- Whereas numerous government and private sector organizations have agreed to work in concert to achieve a minimum 70 percent correct usage of child passenger protection devices and adult safety belts by the year 1990;
- Whereas research shows that the correct use of child passenger protection devices is 90 percent effective in preventing death and 67 percent effective in preventing injury; and

Whereas death and injuries may be reduced significantly through greater public awareness, information, education, and enforcement: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That the week of February 7-13, 1988, is designated as "National Child Passenger Safety Awareness Week", and the President is authorized and requested to issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to observe such week with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities to maximize correct usage of child safety seats.

Approved February 10, 1988.

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LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—H.J. Res. 402 (S.J. Res. 214):

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 134 (1988):

Feb. 3, considered and passed House.

Feb. 4, considered and passed Senate.