



County Sheriffs of Colorado

9008 N US Hwy. 85 Unit C

Littleton CO. 80125

Telephone: 720-344-2762

Fax: 720-344-6500

Web: www.csoc.org

Executive Director: Chris Johnson

January 23, 2018

Colorado General Assembly
Senate State Affairs Committee Members
200 East Colfax Avenue
Denver, Colorado 80203

Dear Senators:

The County Sheriffs of Colorado urge your support of SB18-049.

- Distracted driving causes an average of 40 crashes each day;
- In 2016, 67 deaths involved distracting drivers;
- Distracted driving fatalities are increasing in Colorado. In 2015, 68 (13%) of the 546 Colorado traffic fatalities were caused by distracted driving. In 2014, 59 (12%) of the 488 Colorado traffic fatalities were caused by distracted driving; and
- Distracted Driving is a problem across all age groups. CDOT found that 34.7 percent of Colorado distracted driving crashes between 2012-2014 were people between the ages of 21 and 34.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, (NHTSA), distracted driving is probably very much under reported. Many users of mobile devices while driving believe that the devices have no impact on their driving performance; yet as passengers, 90 percent said they would feel very unsafe if they were in a car with a driver who was talking on a hand-held cell phone or doing other activities with the phone while driving according to the National Phone Survey on Distracted Driving Attitudes and Behaviors published by NHTSA in 2011.

For these reasons the County Sheriffs of Colorado urge passage of SB18-049.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Johnson", written over a faint, larger version of the same signature.

Sheriff Chris Johnson (ret.)
Executive Director
County Sheriffs of Colorado