



April 27, 2009

Dear Representative Ryden:

I am writing to ask for your support of SB 296- the "primary seat belt bill".

As the President and CEO of Craig Hospital I too often see the tragic effects of individuals not buckling up.

Clinically, we know that seat belts save lives and reduce the extent of injuries and long term disability.

Financially, we know that seat belts save insurance companies and taxpayers millions of dollars.

We know that not having a primary seat belt law causes us to lose millions of federal highway dollars.

We appreciate the "freedoms" issues, but without mandatory seat belts we are supporting the loss of freedoms of those injured and the public who will fund the costs of their lifetime care.

We have been advocating for seat belts since the early 1980s and hope this is the year the Colorado legislature approves such a bill.

Sincerely,

Michael Fordyce
President and CEO