

State of North Carolina

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

DISTRACTED DRIVING AWARENESS MONTH

2017

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, distracted driving is any non-driving activity that takes your eyes off the road, hands off the wheel or interrupts your concentration while driving that increases the risk of crashing; and

WHEREAS, distractions can be visual, manual or cognitive, and drivers who use hand held devices are four times as likely to get into crashes serious enough to injure themselves; and

WHEREAS, driving while using a cell phone reduces brain activity associated with driving by 37 percent;

WHEREAS, text messaging, browsing, and dialing results in a driver taking their eyes off the road for an average of 23.3 seconds, a duration of time that doubles the risk of a crash or near-crash; and

WHEREAS, in 2016, 177 people were killed in motor vehicle crashes in North Carolina involving distracted drivers, which is a nine percent increase from the previous year; and

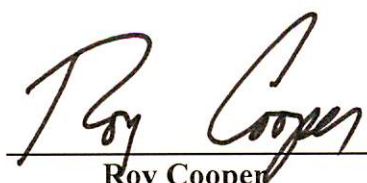
WHEREAS, in 2016, approximately 26,982 people were injured in motor vehicle crashes in North Carolina involving distracted drivers, down slightly from the 27,296 people who were injured in 2015; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina law bans all cell phone use, both handheld and hands-free, for bus drivers and all drivers under the age of 18 years old, and bans texting and emailing for drivers of all ages; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Transportation, Governor's Highway Safety Program, and all law enforcement agencies continue to educate the public on the dangers of distracted driving;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ROY COOPER, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim April 2017, as "**DISTRACTED DRIVING AWARENESS MONTH**" in North Carolina, and commend its observance to all citizens.




Roy Cooper
Governor

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in Raleigh this twenty-fourth day of March in the year of our Lord two-thousand and seventeen and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-first.