



County Sheriffs of Colorado

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Executive Director: Chris Johnson

January 24, 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 SB18-053.

When a person does not buckle up in a car, they endanger more than just their own lives. They risk the lives of everyone else in the car. In an accident, unbelted occupants become human missiles within the car, regardless of their position in the car according to CDOT.

- Unbuckled rear seat passengers in a car increases the risk of fatality of the driver by 137%, compared with a belted rear-seat passenger.
- An unsecured driver who swerves to avoid a collision can easily be thrown in the passenger seat and lose control of the vehicle.
- Being unbuckled makes you 30 times more likely to be ejected from the vehicle, which is one of the most lethal outcomes of a motor vehicle crash.

Colorado seat belt use rate is currently 84%, lagging the National average of 91%. Increasing seat belt use to 100% could save 63 additional lives per year.

For these reasons, the County Sheriffs of Colorado would ask for a vote of support on SB18-053.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chris Johnson', is written over a light, textured background.

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