Distracted Driving in Missouri

- 70% of the motor vehicle accidents in Missouri in 2018 due to texting and driving were in people over the age of 22
- 9 out of 10 people use their smartphones in some way while driving
- Missouri is 1 of 3 states that do not explicitly ban texting and driving for all drivers

- Distracted driving is texting, eating, talking, changing the radio, etc. while driving. It's the cause of up to 80% of all automobile accidents.
- The current law in Missouri prohibits drivers under the age of 21 and bus drivers from texting and driving. All Missouri drivers can make calls with cell phones.
- Fourteen percent of 2015-2017 crashes involved some form of distracted driving.
- Drivers who check their phones are three times more likely to be involved in a crash than those who don’t.
- Texting drivers spend up to 400% more time with their eyes off the road. At 55 mph, a vehicle can travel the length of a football field in the time it takes to text.
- Nationally, vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for 15-25 year-olds.
- 50% of teen drivers say they text while driving.
- Missouri’s population is 30% rural, yet 62% of traffic fatalities occur on rural roads.
- On average, there is a distracted driving car crash in Missouri every 3 hours.

What is Missouri doing about distracted driving?

- Since 2009, Missouri has had a law banning texting while driving for persons under age 21. Penalty is a $200 fine and 2 points added to license.
- The fine for texting and driving would be $50.00, $100.00 if texting and driving in a school zone.

We urge legislators to make Missouri roads safer by passing laws banning texting while driving for all drivers regardless of age.