

HB

131



Representative Lindsey Holmes

List of recommended witnesses and interested parties

CS HB 131 - Child Safety Seats and Seat Belts

1. Gordon Glaser, Education Specialist – Injury Surveillance & Prevention Programs;
State of Alaska, Department of Health and Social Services

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2. Cindy Cashen, Administrator – Alaska Highway Safety Office;
State of Alaska, Department of Transportation & Public Facilities

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3. Representative from the Alaska Department of Public Safety
4. Representatives from the Alaska medical and public health profession



National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
Our Mission: Save lives, prevent injuries, reduce vehicle-related crashes



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Child Passenger Safety



Our Mission - Saving Lives

Securing our Most Precious Cargo

Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death among children ages 2 to 14, due in large part to the nonuse or improper use of child seats and seat belts. Working with parents and our partners our goal is to ensure every child is properly secured and safe every trip, every time.

Parents - Not Sure Which Car Seat to Use?

Are you looking for a new car seat for your infant, toddler or 4-8 year old child but overwhelmed by the choices and worried about how to properly install your car seat? Our 4 Steps for Kids campaign will help you properly choose and install the correct car seat for your child. Simply click on the link below that best matches your child.

CPS Advocates - Seeking Resources for your Local Efforts?

If you are a traffic safety advocate, law enforcement officer, or other CPS stakeholder, click [HERE](#) for our 2008 CPS Week Planner designed to help you promote, enhance, and enforce child passenger safety.

4 Easy Steps to Protect America's Children



REAR-FACING SEATS in the back seat from birth to at least 1 year old and at least 20 pounds.



FORWARD-FACING TODDLER SEATS in the back seat from age 1 and 20 pounds to about age 4 and 40 pounds.



BOOSTER SEATS in the back seat from about age 4 to at least age 8, unless 4'9" tall.



SAFETY BELTS at age 8 and older or taller than 4'9". All children age 12 and under should ride in the back seat.

Latest News:

- [LATCH Child Safety Seat System Confusing, Says NHTSA Study](#)
 - [Details of LATCH study \(pdf\)](#)
- [Key Provisions of Occupant Restraint Laws](#)
- [LATCH Child Restraint System](#)
- [Low Child Booster Seat Use Called "Unacceptable"](#)

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NEW!





Child Safety Seats

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Traffic crashes are the leading cause of death and injury to children ages 0-15

- NHTSA, 2001

Is your child in the right seat?

	Infants	Toddlers	Youngsters
Weight*	Up to 20-35lbs	Over 1 year and 20-40lbs	Over 40lbs up to 80lbs
Type	Infant only or rear-facing convertible	Forward-facing/convertible	Belt positioning booster
Position	Rear-facing only	Forward-facing	Forward-facing
Notes	Harness straps at or below shoulder level	Harness straps at or above shoulders	Must be used with lap and shoulder belts

Keep children rear facing as long as possible.

* Manufacturer weight/height limits vary.

Always buckle children in the back seat!!

What are Alaska's laws on child safety seats?

- ❖ As of 2006 the Alaska law requires all passengers regardless of age to use a seat belt or appropriate restraint device.
- ❖ Children under four years of age must be properly secured in a federally approved child safety seat.
- ❖ Children over four must be secured in an approved child safety seat, booster seat or safety belt, whichever is appropriate for the particular child.
- ❖ The driver of a car is responsible for every passenger under the age of 16.

A driver convicted of violating the child restraint portion of the law is guilty of an infraction, punishable by a fine of up to \$50 and two demerit points on his/her operator's license.



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American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™



Alaska Chapter

January 26, 2009

Alaska Chapter Executive Committee

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Alaska State House of Representatives
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Honorable Representatives,

On behalf of the Alaska Chapter AAP I would like to lend our chapter's support for HB 131 that will update and modernize our Child Safety Seat laws to include the use of booster seats, and to spell out safe practices of child restraint devices that are appropriate for infants and children of all ages.

Seat belts are made for adults. Children should stay in a booster seat until adult seat belts fit correctly, usually when the child reaches 4' 9" in height and is between 8 and 12 years of age. The Alaska Chapter AAP recommends that state child safety seat laws are brought up to this standard.

Results from the 2007 National Survey of the Use of Booster Seats conducted by the National Center for Statistics and Analysis of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration reveals alarmingly that booster seat use rates for children ages 6 and 7 dropped from 36 percent in 2006 to 25 percent in 2007. The study concludes that there is premature graduation of children from birth to age 12 to restraint types that are inappropriate for their height or weight.

SB 72 would help to alleviate confusion among parents and caregivers as to which safety devices are appropriate for their children. Alaska's pediatricians are happy to do their part by counseling parents during doctors' visits on how to keep their children safe while riding in vehicles.

Sincerely,

Jodyne L. Butto,

Jodyne L Butto MD, FAAP
President

MAR 09 2009

**Representative
Lindsey Holmes**

Capitol Room 405
465-4919
465-2137 fax



MEMORANDUM

Date: 26 February 2009

To: Representative Peggy Wilson, Chair
House Transportation Committee

From: Representative Lindsey Holmes 
Lisa Valenta, Staff for Representative Lindsey Holmes

RE: Scheduling of HB 131 (Child Booster Seats)

I respectfully request that HB 131 be scheduled in front of the House Transportation Committee at the earliest convenient opportunity.

Please find enclosed the following supporting documentation:

- 1) Current version of bill with accompanying proposed Committee Substitution;
- 2) Sponsor Statement;
- 3) Sectional Analysis;
- 4) List of recommended witnesses and interested parties; and
- 5) Additional back-up information.

House Transportation Committee, March 17, 2009, Room 17

Department of Health and Social Services testimony regarding **Senate Bill 72**
(Child Safety and Seat Belts)

Offered by Lee Parham, State EMS Training Coordinator, Division of Public Health

The Department of Health and Social Services supports Senate Bill 72, the Child Safety Seats and Seat Belt bill. This bill amends AS 28.05.095(b) to set specific standards for the use of child passenger restraints.

- Motor vehicle related injuries are the leading cause of death in the U.S. of children between the age of two and 14 years of age, and one of the leading causes of hospitalization and leading cause of mortality for children <1 and 14 years of age.

• In 2006, seven children were severely injured in Alaska in motor vehicle crashes. From 2002 to 2006, 63 children have been injured in motor vehicle crashes in Alaska, per the Alaska Trauma Registry (ATR).

- Children who are restrained in booster seats are 59% less likely to be injured in a crash than children restrained by a lap belt only.

• Nationally, voluntary seatbelt inspection stations report that 80-85 % of children are improperly restrained, and one-third of children under age 14 use the wrong type of restraint.

- According to the ATR, >85% of the children hospitalized were improperly restrained (lap belt/shoulder harness only) or were not restrained at all.

• The current statute that references child safety devices is confusing about specific standards for age and weight based restraints.

- **This bill is designed to eliminate confusion about which restraints are appropriate for each age/weight level.**

• The bill clarifies the types of passenger restraints required by children of various ages and sizes to prevent and minimize vehicular injuries.

- Currently 43 states have passed booster seat legislation qualifying them for U.S. Department of Transportation highway safety grants.