

The Honorable Ted Stevens
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-6025

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The Conference Report accompanying the U. S. Department of Transportation's Fiscal Year 2004 Appropriation Act (H. Rpt. 108-401, dated November 25, 2003) directed the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) to report the results of a combined safety mobilization effort in Tennessee conducted during the summer of 2003. This campaign combined both safety belt and impaired driving messages in a high visibility enforcement campaign. The Conference Report directed NHTSA "to report to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations by February 16, 2004, with the findings of the Tennessee effort as well as any other State mobilizations that may combine seat belt and impaired driving messages."

NHTSA's Report to Congress is dependent upon receiving data from the four quadrants of the State of Tennessee that conducted various combinations of safety belt and impaired driving messages. The ultimate outcome data will come from an analysis of the fatal and injury crash data for the State. The Fatality Analysis Reporting System data will become available in August 2004. In the interim, NHTSA is collecting evaluation data--law enforcement activity data, safety belt observations, public awareness data from telephone surveys, and roadside breath testing surveys in each quadrant of the State. An Interim Combined Tennessee Campaign Report will be completed by the end of June 2004 and a final evaluation report incorporating all outcome measures will be completed in the fall of 2004. NHTSA is gathering information about other combined campaigns.

An identical letter has been sent to the Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Appropriations; the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Senate Subcommittee on Transportation, Treasury and General Government; the Chairman and Ranking Member of the House Committee on Appropriations; and the Chairman and Ranking Member of the House Subcommittee on Transportation, Treasury and Independent Agencies. If you or a member of your staff have questions or need additional information, please contact Richard Compton at (202) 366-2699.

Sincerely yours,

Jeffrey W. Runge, M.D.