

1 A MEMORIAL

2 REQUESTING AUTOMOBILE MANUFACTURERS AND THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT  
3 TO CONTINUE TO RESEARCH AND DEVELOP NEW UNOBTRUSIVE VEHICLE  
4 TECHNOLOGIES TO REDUCE DRUNK DRIVING.

5  
6 WHEREAS, the department of transportation cites alcohol  
7 involvement in forty percent of all fatal traffic crashes that  
8 occur in the state, making alcohol-related traffic deaths the  
9 single largest component of all traffic fatalities; and

10 WHEREAS, according to mothers against drunk driving,  
11 during a typical prom weekend in 2005, two hundred ninety  
12 young adults between fifteen to twenty years of age were  
13 killed in alcohol-related crashes in the United States, and  
14 one hundred ninety-eight of those deaths involved an impaired  
15 driver; and

16 WHEREAS, New Mexico has seen a significant reduction in  
17 the number of alcohol-related crashes since requiring that  
18 ignition interlock devices be installed on the vehicles of all  
19 first-time drunk driving offenders; and

20 WHEREAS, the number of alcohol-related crashes declined  
21 thirty percent from 2002 to 2006, and the recidivism rate of  
22 New Mexico drivers after a DWI conviction dropped thirty  
23 percent since 2003, when the Ignition Interlock Licensing Act  
24 was enacted; and

25 WHEREAS, alcohol-related crash fatalities have dropped

1 twenty-two percent over the past five years in New Mexico;  
2 and

3 WHEREAS, despite the strides made by the state to  
4 protect its residents from drunk drivers, New Mexico has  
5 still been plagued by tragedy and devastation to New Mexico  
6 families that can never be repaired; and

7 WHEREAS, a non-invasive, seamless technology to measure  
8 driver blood alcohol content and reduce the incidence of  
9 drunk driving should be pursued by the automotive industry  
10 with the intention to support a non-regulatory, market-based  
11 approach to preventing drunk driving; and

12 WHEREAS, the current technology of breath alcohol  
13 ignition interlock devices is too intrusive for more  
14 widespread use among the general public, but potential lives  
15 may be saved in the United States if motor vehicle technology  
16 limited vehicle operation to specified blood alcohol content  
17 levels; and

18 WHEREAS, a cooperative research agreement between  
19 industry and the national highway traffic safety  
20 administration was entered into in 2008 to explore the  
21 feasibility, the potential benefits of and the public policy  
22 challenges associated with a more widespread use of  
23 unobtrusive technology to prevent drunk driving; and

24 WHEREAS, devices being studied are intended to prevent  
25 alcohol-impaired drivers from driving their vehicles; and

1           WHEREAS, potential technology includes tissue  
2 spectrometry, which allows estimation of blood alcohol  
3 content by measuring how much light has been absorbed at a  
4 particular wavelength from a beam of near-infrared light  
5 reflected from the subject's skin, or touch-based systems  
6 that require skin contact; and

7           WHEREAS, potential technology also includes distant  
8 spectrometry, which uses a near-infrared or laser light that  
9 is transmitted to the subject from a source that receives and  
10 analyzes the reflected and absorbed spectrum, to assess  
11 chemical content of tissue or liquid in vapor, and no skin  
12 contact is required; and

13           WHEREAS, potential technology also includes  
14 electrochemical means, by which chemical-reaction-based  
15 devices such as transdermal and breathalyzer-based systems,  
16 or alcohol in the presence of reactant chemical systems that  
17 produce colorimetric changes measured by spectral analysis or  
18 semi-conductor sensors; and

19           WHEREAS, potential technology also includes behavior  
20 detection systems that detect impaired driving through  
21 objective behavioral measures, including ocular gaze  
22 movement, gaze, eye movement and driving performance  
23 measures; and

24           WHEREAS, the long-term viability of the automobile  
25 industry and the protection of the jobs it provides to the

1 American people is a great concern to New Mexicans;

2 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE  
3 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that automobile manufacturers and the  
4 federal government be requested to research and develop new  
5 unobtrusive vehicle technologies to reduce drunk driving to  
6 ensure the safety of all New Mexicans; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that state policymakers continue  
8 to explore emerging technology that may help New Mexicans  
9 avoid further DWI tragedy; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
11 transmitted to the major automobile manufacturers, the  
12 governor's office, the department of public safety, the  
13 traffic safety bureau of the department of transportation and  
14 the national highway traffic safety administration. \_\_\_\_\_

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