

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING HOUSE BILL NO. 4280 [STANDARD ENFORCEMENT OF SAFETY BELT USE] AND RECOMMENDING ITS PASSAGE BY THE SENATE

WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

March 18, 1998

WHEREAS, the State House of Representatives on October 28, 1997 passed House Bill 4280 which provides for "standard enforcement" of the State's 12 year old safety belt use law; and

WHEREAS, the proposed legislation allows motorists who do not buckle up to be stopped by the police, given a warning if first offense, and subsequent violations could be fined \$25 as civil infraction with the funds to go to a special fund for "safety belt education"; and

WHEREAS, the proposed legislation now goes to the Senate for their consideration; and

WHEREAS, Safety belt use currently stands at 70.1% statewide, down from the rate a year ago of 70.8% (Traffic Association of Michigan); and

WHEREAS, about 80% of those killed in motor vehicle crashes in Washtenaw County in 1991 were not wearing safety belts (Health Atlas of Washtenaw County, 1996); and

WHEREAS, The Michigan Safety Belt Coalition estimates that the change to "standard enforcement" would, in just one year, result in 100 fewer fatalities, 3,000 fewer serious injuries and a monetary savings of up to \$127 million in medical and insurance costs; and

WHEREAS, the Michigan Association for Local Public Health supports the proposed legislation

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners supports House Bill No. 4280 and recommends its swift passage by the Senate.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners directs the County Clerk to forward copies of this resolution to all Washtenaw County representatives and the remaining 83 Counties of Michigan.



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