Advisory Opinion

Based on national research and the potential for saving lives throughout the state, the Nevada SHSP Occupant Protection Task Force strongly recommends the following:

- Upgrade NRS 484D.495 to a Primary Seat Belt Law

Statement of Scope

Advise the Nevada Executive Committee on Traffic Safety (NECTS) concerning issues relating to transportation safety, including, without limitation, occupant protection through proper seat belt usage and proper child restraint usage.

1. Upgrade NRS 484D.495 to a Primary Seat Belt Law

   1.1 Recommendation
   Upgrade Nevada’s seat belt law (NRS 484D.495) to include primary enforcement of seat belts.

   1.2 Issues
   The current seat belt law (NRS 484D.495) allows officers to cite individuals who are not properly restrained as a secondary offense. This means that a citation can be issued only after another traffic violation has been observed by the officer. Because a primary seat belt law is not in effect, there is no direct enforcement of proper restraint use within the state.

   1.3 Explanation
   In Nevada among vehicle occupants, 57% of fatally injured vehicle passengers were unbelted (2013-2017). An individual who is not properly restrained is twice as likely to be killed or seriously injured in a crash. Improper use of seat belts in Nevada results in over $250M annually in societal costs.

   Nevada is one of 15 states that does not currently have a primary seat belt law.

   Based on National and local statistics, we believe that revising NRS 484D.495 will result in lives saved and the number of serious injuries reduced, to aid in reaching the goal of zero fatalities in Nevada.