



Jesse White

SECRETARY OF STATE

NEWS

ILLINOIS SECRETARY OF STATE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Secretary White Urges Parents to Buckle Up Their Kids During Buckle Up America Week

SPRINGFIELD — Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White reminds parents and children to wear their safety belts during Buckle Up America week from May 22nd through the 29th.

"Our children are our future," White said. "Let's make sure not only on this Memorial Day week, but everyday, we show our children how much we care for them by taking the time to buckle them and ourselves up."

Nationally, traffic crashes are the number one killer of children ages 5 to 14 and 60 percent of those children killed are unrestrained. Half of those who are killed in crashes would be alive today if they had been wearing safety belts.

On the positive side, more than 90 percent of infants and children ages one to four ride restrained. Child safety seats reduced the rate of fatal injury by 69 percent. White reminds parents to use them properly.

Parents should never place the rear-facing safety seats in the front passenger seat if the car is equipped with a passenger airbag that has not been shut off, White said.

Another good piece of advice, put children under age 12 in the back seat, where they are the safest.

For more information on child safety, write the Secretary of State's Traffic Safety Division, Attn. Child Passenger Safety, 2701 S. Dirksen Pkwy. Springfield, IL 62723.