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Jesse White's Proposal to Crack Down on Court Supervision Involving Fatal Crashes Receives Unanimous Support from the State's Advisory Committee on Traffic Safety

Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White today asked his Advisory Committee on Traffic Safety to consider and deliberate a change in law that would prohibit the issuance of court supervision for drivers involved in fatal crashes. The committee unanimously supported the proposal. White chaired the committee today in Chicago.

"My mission as Secretary of State is to make the roads of Illinois as safe as possible," said White. "The Advisory Committee on Traffic Safety is made up of dedicated experts whose aim coincides with mine. I applaud the committee for its unanimous recommendation to further crack down on court supervision."

Under current law, drivers involved in fatal crashes may seek and obtain court supervision. White emphasized his desire to end this practice. The parents of the late Patricia McNamara, Walter and Carol Speer, spoke at the hearing in support of a prohibition of court supervision in cases in which a fatality occurred. In addition, a representative for the family of the late Koral Kier read a statement also supporting this position. Ms. McNamara and Ms. Kier were fatality injured in automobile crashes in which the drivers both received court supervision.

"Since I took office in 1999, I have continually worked to improve traffic safety laws, particularly those involving court supervision," said White. "Over the last decade, my office has initiated legislation to limit the issuance of court supervision, and we established a central database to help judges and court personnel better track the dispositions of court supervision from county to county across the state."

White's Advisory Committee on Traffic Safety is charged with making Illinois roads safer, reducing traffic fatalities and considering increased penalties for those who blatantly disregard traffic laws. The committee's first action this year was to recommend legislative changes to crack down on fraud and abuse of the state's disability parking program. The legislation, House Bill 5056, passed the General Assembly and was signed into law by the governor in August.

The Advisory Committee on Traffic Safety consists of ten members, including: White as chair; Representatives John D'Amico (D-Chicago) and Mike McAuliffe (R-Chicago); Senators Martin Sandoval (D-Cicero) and Darin LaHood (R-Peoria); Anne Schneider, Secretary, Illinois Department of Transportation; Mike Witter, Regional Administrator, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration; Commander Jay Keeven, Illinois State Police; John Ulczycki, Vice President, National Safety Council; and Ray Bradford, Executive Director, Northwestern University Center for Public Safety.

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