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**Jesse White Announces Illinois Road Safety Laws Ranked Top in a National Report by the Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety**

Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White announced that Illinois road safety efforts have received the top ranking in a national report released by the Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety. The 2014 Roadmap of State Highway Safety Laws issues grades to all 50 states based on 15 traffic safety laws. Illinois received the top grade along with Oregon and the District of Columbia.

“This report is further proof that Illinois is a national leader in traffic safety,” said White. “Our innovative efforts to combat drunk driving and distracted driving, as well as our comprehensive Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL) program for teens are paying off by making our roads safer and saving lives.”

White cited the following initiatives that have contributed to safer roads in Illinois and factored positively into the Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety’s top ranking of Illinois.

- Breath Alcohol Ignition Interlock Device (BAIID) program – Illinois’ BAIID program requires all first-time DUI offenders who wish to obtain driving relief to install a BAIID on their vehicle. Motorists are required to blow into the BAIID, which measures their blood alcohol content (BAC) levels. The device is designed to prevent DUI offenders from driving after having consumed alcohol. Since 2009, alcohol-related traffic fatalities have declined in Illinois by 24 percent.
- Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL) – Since Illinois implemented its comprehensive GDL program in 2008 to help better prepare novice, teen drivers, teen driving deaths have dropped by nearly 60 percent.
- Texting while driving ban – Since the statewide texting while driving ban took effect Jan. 1, 2010, more than 5,000 people have been convicted of texting while driving.

Since its founding in 1989, the Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety, located in Washington, D.C., has been dedicated to improving upon car, driver and road safety.

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