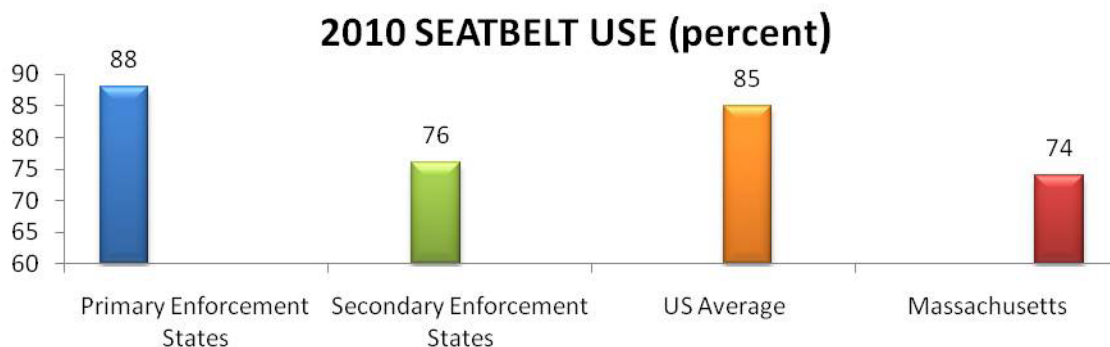




## 2011 Massachusetts Primary Seat Belt Bill “Natalie’s Bill” - Bill#: HB 2401/ SB 1211 (Public Safety Committee)

- 1. Primary seat belt enforcement will save Massachusetts millions of dollars.**
  - Over \$170 million total savings annually: medical, productivity and property
  - \$55 million annual private health insurance savings
  - \$13.6 million in federal transportation grants if signed by 6/30/11 and in effect by 9/30/11
- 2. Primary seat belt enforcement will save lives in Massachusetts**
  - Increased seat belt use will save 18 lives each year
  - Over 650 serious injuries per year will be prevented
- 3. Massachusetts seat belt use is unacceptably low**
  - Massachusetts use rate: 74% (ranks 48<sup>th</sup> in the nation)
  - National average use rate: 85%
  - Primary enforcement will increase belt use by approximately 11 percentage pts.
  - Unbelted passengers act as projectiles; they increase the risk of injury to belted drivers by 40%
- 4. Primary enforcement reduces racial disparities in seat belt use and related injuries, and does NOT change race-based ticketing**
  - Studies from California, Louisiana, Georgia, South Carolina, Oklahoma and Michigan all reached similar conclusions
  - Primary enforcement is supported by Urban League, National Conference of Black Mayors and National Hispanic Council on Aging



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**For more information or to join BEST, contact co-chairs:**  
Dr. Greg Parkinson • [gparkinson@massmed.org](mailto:gparkinson@massmed.org) • 508-540-1801  
Mary Maguire • [mmaguire@aaasne.com](mailto:mmaguire@aaasne.com) • 401-865-9414



## Remembering Natalie De Leon (1985-2006)

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Natalie De Leon was a vibrant 21 year-old woman. On July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2006, Natalie and her boyfriend were on their way to visit a friend when her boyfriend was forced to swerve and their car rolled over. They were not speeding or using alcohol, but Natalie, who was not buckled in, was ejected from the car and was killed.

“The Friends of Natalie” was started by her mother, Beatriz Fuentes, in order to raise awareness of the importance of seat belt use. “If my daughter’s tragedy can save lives and prevent brain injury, she will not have died in vain,” says Beatriz.

For this reason, BEST has dedicated this bill to Natalie and her family. With your help and support, we will see “Natalie’s Bill” passed by the Massachusetts legislature this session.



### TAKE ACTION

Contact the Public Safety Committee Chairs:

Senator James Timilty  
c/o State House  
Room 507  
Boston, MA 02133  
617-722-1222  
james.timilty@masenate.gov

Representative Harold Naughton  
c/o State House  
Room 167  
Boston, MA 02133  
617-722-2230  
harold.naughton@mahouse.gov

Find your State Representative and Senator at:

<http://www.malegislature.gov/People/FindMyLegislator>

Tell them you support “Natalie’s Bill” and Primary Seat Belt Enforcement.



### GET INVOLVED

Join us on Facebook by clicking on the “like” icon at

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/I-Support-a-Primary-Seat-Belt-Law-in-Massachusetts/130169690369797>



## **BEST Coalition Members**

Alcohol Substance Abuse Program  
Adaptive Driver Program  
American College of Surgeons - Massachusetts Chapter  
American College of Surgeons - Massachusetts Chapter of the Committee on Trauma  
AAA Southern New England  
Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety  
American Insurance Association  
American Academy of Pediatrics - Massachusetts Chapter  
Anna Jaques Hospital Medical Staff  
Baystate Franklin Medical Center  
Baystate Mary Lane Hospital  
Baystate Medical Center  
Boston Medical Center  
Brain Injury Association of Massachusetts  
Brigham & Women's Hospital Trauma Service  
Cape Cod Hospital  
Cape & Islands End Driving Deaths Among Youth  
Caritas Christi Hospital Emergency Physicians  
Children's Hospital Boston  
Falmouth Hospital Medical Staff  
Friends of Natalie  
Injury Free Coalition of Worcester  
Lahey Clinic Trauma Service  
MADD Massachusetts  
Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Association  
Massachusetts Emergency Nurses Association  
Massachusetts Fire Chiefs  
Massachusetts General Hospital Trauma Service  
Massachusetts Health Council  
Massachusetts Hospital Association  
Massachusetts Medical Society  
Massachusetts SADD  
Medford Police  
Kiwanis Pediatric Trauma Institute  
National Traffic Safety Board  
Spaulding Rehabilitation Network  
Safe Kids Western Massachusetts  
Safe Roads Alliance  
St. Luke's Hospital Medical Staff  
Tufts NEMC Trauma Service  
University of Massachusetts Medical Center Trauma Service