



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

August 11, 2020

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## Carlucci's Bill to Require All Passengers Wear a Seat Belt in the Back Seat is Signed Into Law

(Albany, NY) – Today, Senator David Carlucci's and Assemblyman Walter Mosley's legislation (S.4336/A.6163), requiring passengers buckle up in the back seat was signed into law by Governor Cuomo. Now, adult passengers over 16-years of age who do not buckle up in the back seat can be ticketed \$50 along with the driver. The new law applies to passenger vehicles and individuals using ride sharing services like Uber and Lyft outside of New York City.

**Senator David Carlucci (D-Rockland/Westchester) said,** "The injuries you can sustain from not wearing a seat belt can be deadly, and that's a fact whether you sit in the front or the back of a vehicle. With this bill signed into law, we will help prevent tragedies and save lives in New York. Thank you to the advocates, including AAA for their strong support of this legislation."

**Assemblyman Walter Mosley (D-Brooklyn) said,** "Seat belts are a proven way to make our roads safer and lower the number of automobile fatalities. This legislation will go a long way towards achieving that goal and ensuring that all passengers are safe when traveling. I thank Governor Cuomo for signing this bill into law and look forward to the positive impact it will have on our state."

"AAA has worked tirelessly to educate lawmakers and the public about the importance of buckling up in the back seat. This comprehensive seat belt law will save lives and prevent injuries on New York State roadways. We greatly appreciate Governor Cuomo signing this

lifesaving legislation,” said **Lauren Paterno, Government Affairs Representative for AAA New York.**

It is a common misconception that a seat belt is not needed in the backseat because it is safer. However, AAA Northeast found an unbelted rear seat passenger in a vehicle accident is two times more likely to be killed, eight times more likely to be seriously injured, and two times more likely to kill a front seat occupant by becoming a projectile. In New York State, over the last decade, 289 people have been killed, and 25,596 people have been injured, while unrestrained in the back seat of a motor vehicle.

In 1984, New York became the first state in the nation to require drivers and all front-seat passengers wear a seat belt. At that time, about 16 percent of individuals wore seat belts. By 2008, 24 years after the law was enacted, the compliance rate was up to 89 percent.

**Carlucci added,** “The new law was long overdue.”

Dozens of organizations, representing traffic safety, public health, health care and the insurance industry supported a rear seat belt requirement.

The new law will take effect on November 1, 2020.

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*Organizations who supported a rear seat belt requirement: AAA, Advocates for Highway Safety, American College of Surgeons, Brain Injury Alliance, Cohens Children's Hospital, Kids&Cars, National Safety Council/Northeastern New York Safety and Health Council, Inc., New York Coalition of Transportation Safety, New York State Nurses Association, New York State Association for Rural Health, New York State Volunteer Ambulance & Rescue, SADD, American Academy of Pediatrics, Columbia University's Center for Injury Science and Prevention, MADD, New York Insurance Association, Inc., FASNY, NYS Society of Plastic Surgeons, NYU Langone Health, Safe Kids, New York State-The American Trauma Society, The Center for Auto Safety, NYS Society of Plastic Surgeons, Consumer Reports, National Association of Mutual Insurance Companies, and Northwell Health Trauma Institute*

**VIDEO CONTENT:**

*Press Conference on February 11, 2020 available for download:*

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1FJXj3JkdRZTTvFF6gM1Oo-wDoplT2a3o/view?usp=sharing>

**PHOTOS:**

*Photo 1, Senator Carlucci Holds Press Conference, Calling for Passage of Rear Seat Belt Bill in Albany, February 11, 2020*

(Left to Right): Lauren Paterno, AAA, Dr. Kurt Edwards, Chief of Trauma and Critical Care at Albany Medical Center, Advocate Laura Casellini, Senator David Carlucci, Assemblyman Walter Mosley

*Photo 2, Senator Carlucci Holds Press Conference on Importance of Rear Seat Belt Bill in Albany, May 13, 2019*

(Left to Right): Patricia Clancy, Medical Society of the State of New York (MSSNY), Senator David Carlucci, Assemblyman Walter Mosley, and John Corlett, AAA

*Photo 3, Senator Carlucci Holds Press Conference, Calling for Passage of Rear Seat Belt Bill in Albany, February 11, 2020*

(Left to Right): Lauren Paterno, AAA, Assemblyman Walter Mosley, Senator David Carlucci, Advocate Laura Casellini, Dr. Kurt Edwards, Chief of Trauma and Critical Care at Albany Medical Center