

PROCLAMATION

A PROCLAMATION by the Mayor of the City of Bainbridge Island, Washington, declaring support for Kitsap SAFE KIDS and National Child Passenger Safety Week.

Whereas, February 11, 2001, Kitsap County officially welcome's KITSAP SAFE KIDS;

Whereas, February 11-17, 2001, has been declared National Child Passenger Safety Week;

Whereas, Traffic crashes are the number one cause of death and injury for children after the first year of life;

Whereas, Each year, 1,700 children die and almost 300,000 are injured in motor vehicle crashes;

Whereas, Six out of ten children killed in crashes are completely unrestrained;

Whereas, 96 percent of parents believe they properly install seats; however, from actual inspections, we know that at least four out of five children placed in child safety seats are improperly restrained.

Whereas, The best thing families can do to safeguard the health and well being of our children is to establish safety habits that set a pattern for safety for the rest of their lives, this week must extend beyond child safety seats and seat belts to include good safety habits for young pedestrians and bicyclists;

Whereas, 70-80 percent of fatal bicycle crashes involve head injuries, but if helmets are worn they are more than 85 percent effective in reducing head and brain injuries, and young people should be educated about the importance of wearing a bicycle helmet and practicing safe riding skills;

NOW, THEREFORE, The Mayor of the City of Bainbridge Island proclaims his support for Kitsap SAFE KIDS and National Child Passenger Safety Week and urges everyone to help reduce injuries and the tragic loss of life on our highways by buckling up every child in an approved restraint, in the vehicle's back seat. It is important these lifelong safety rules become habits - patterns for life - as passengers, pedestrians, and bicyclists. Let us help spread these important child safety messages throughout our communities. By doing so, we can save many lives. I call upon all citizens, government agencies, public and private institutions, businesses, hospitals, and schools in KITSAP COUNTY to welcome Kitsap SAFE KIDS and observe this week as National Child Passenger Safety Week.

DWIGHT SUTTON, Mayor

