



DATE January 19, 2005

SENATE COMMITTEE ON Judiciary

BILLS BEING HEARD TODAY: SB 43, SB 104

**PLEASE PRINT**

NAME	PHONE	REPRESENTING	BILL #	SUPPORT	OPPOSE
Jim KEMBEL	439-6791	MT ASSOC. OF CHIEFS OF POLICE MT POLICE PROTECTIVE ASSOC	SB 43	✓	
Marge Olsen	442-1233	MT Auto Dealers Assn	SB 43	✓	
Bruce Spencer	459-2112	MADDA	SB 43	✓	
C. Wesley Choc	447-8111	AAA Montana	SB 104	✓	
Denice Harris	447-8130	AAA	SB 104 / SB 43	X	
KATHLEEN DOUGHTY	442-6710	MT NURSES ASSN	SB 43 / SB 104	X	
KEN CRIPPEN	523-3889	ATTIC, RRG	SB 43	X	
JOHN DELANEY	442-3410	self	43	X	
Clint Hays	531-6121	Watkins & Shepard Trucking	SB 43	X	
BARRY SLANG	442-6600	MMCA	SB 43 / SB 104	X	
Tom Ahrens	442-1911	MT Hospital Association	SB 43 / SB 104	✓	
Bill Muhs	587-3672	MADD	SB 43 / SB 104	✓	
Krisman	443-8716	self	SB 43 / SB 104	✓	

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**VISITOR REGISTER**

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH COMMITTEE SECRETARY

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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NAME	PHONE	REPRESENTING	BILL #	SUPPORT	OPPOSE
Greg Van Housen	2-0230	State Farm Ins.	SB 104, 43	✓	
Jacqueline Benmark	2-0230	AIA JNTU	SB 104, 43	✓	
Frank Cote	3-9070	FARMERS <sup>Mutual</sup> Unions	SB 104, 43	✓	
Kristi Blazer	4-1318	MT Beer & Wine Wholesaler	SB 104	✓	
Jim Smith	3-1570	MCAA	SB 104 SB 43	✓	
Steve Yeakel	3-1674	MT Council for Maternal & Child Health MT Traffic Educators Ass'n MT Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics	SB 104 SB 43	✓ ✓	
Jani McCall	670-3084	ABC	SB 104	✓	
Jacqueline Benmark	2-0230	AIA; AAI; MT Health System	SB 104, 43	✓	
Jon Metropoulos	2-8560	Farmers Insurance	SB 104, 43	✓	
To Ann Patson	4-4743	DPHHS	SB 104	✓	
Mark Taylor	3-6820	Assoc. MT Highway Patrolmen	SB 43	✓	
Paul Crimsted	4695	MHP	SB 43	✓	
Kristi Blazer	459-1318	As a citizen	SB 43		✓

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STATE OF MONTANA

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NAME	PHONE	REPRESENTING	BILL #	SUPPORT	OPPOSE
Pat Melly	442-7450	Mont. Med Assn	SB 43, 104	✓	
Jim Lynch	444-6201	MDT	SB 43 SB 104	✓	
Paul Grimstad	444-4695	MHP	SB 104	✓	
DAVID DILL	896-4356	MHP	SB 43	✓	
Jerry Kibler	360-970 69-25	PCT	SB 43 SB 104	✓	
Arnee Gomez	443-6020	AMHP	SB 43 SB 104	✓ ✓	
Kathy Brainer	444-3161	OPI	SB 43 SB 104	✓ ✓	
DAVID HUFF	444-4396	OP	SB 43 SB 104	✓	
Brenda Nordlund	444-2713	DOJ	SB 104	✓	
Anita Oppedahl	444-1778	DOJ	SB 104	✓	
ELAINE TAYLOR	459-7658	MILLER BREWING	SB 104	✓	
ROGER McGLACHLIN	442-9555	JJAM	SB 43 SB 104		
MARK TAYLOR	443-6820	ANHEUSER-BUSCH Co's	SB 104	✓	

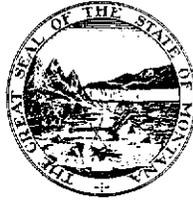
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STATE OF MONTANA

**ATTORNEY GENERAL  
STATE OF MONTANA**

**Mike McGrath  
Attorney General**



**Department of Justice  
215 North Sanders  
PO Box 201401  
Helena, MT 59620-1401**

January 19, 2005

Dear Senator Mangan:

Thank you for the excellent hearing this morning on SB 43, which makes seatbelt violations a primary offense. We truly appreciate your level of engagement in the hearing and your sincere interest in this important public safety issue. We would like to take this opportunity to address some of the questions raised in the hearing.

Specifically, we want to address the very valid concerns raised by Senator McGee and others about the enforcement of the seatbelt law as a primary offense. If the bill passes, we will adopt a written department policy that directs officers to stop a vehicle for seat belt violation only if the officer is 100 percent sure of a violation.

Furthermore, it will be the Department of Justice's policy to issue only warnings for primary offense seatbelt violations for the first year after enactment of the legislation. Not only does this policy allow Montana drivers an adjustment period to bring their practices in line with the new law, it also highlights the fact that the larger purpose for this bill is not to increase stops or raise revenue. The purpose of this legislation is to send a clear and unambiguous message to Montanans that they need to wear their seatbelts. It is our firm belief, backed up by evidence from other states, that more Montanans will wear their seatbelts simply because it is the law.

The overwhelming majority of Montanans obey the traffic laws, not because they fear being cited, but because they respect the notion that those laws are put in place to promote public safety. We need to send the message to Montana that wearing seatbelts is a matter of public safety. It is that message that will save lives.

Thank you again for your attention to this important issue. We look forward to working with you in any way we can on this or any other legislation that comes before your committee.

Very truly yours,

Handwritten signature of Mike McGrath in black ink.

**MIKE McGRATH  
Attorney General**

Handwritten signature of Paul Grimstad in black ink.

**COLONEL PAUL GRIMSTAD  
Montana Highway Patrol**