



Georgia State Council of the Emergency Nurses Association

NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: Jack Rodgers, RN
706.392.0155

Georgia Ranks Among the Best in Promoting Roadway Safety According to New Emergency Nurses Association National Scorecard

Neighboring States Earn Mixed Reviews in Recently Released Study

Washington, DC – At a time when tens of thousands of Americans are injured or die on our nation’s roadways each year, Georgia is working harder to protect citizens from harm on area highways than most other states. That’s what a new roadway safety scorecard released by the Emergency Nurses Association suggests. The report, *2008 ENA National Scorecard on State Roadway Laws: A Blueprint for Injury Prevention*, examines roadway safety laws in all fifty states and the District of Columbia and scores each based on thirteen criteria.

Georgia ranks 7th overall when it comes to protecting those who travel on state roadways. Six other states - Delaware, Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey and New Mexico - also share that ranking. The *2008 ENA National Scorecard* ranks states based on 13 types of legislation that address seat belt use, child passenger safety, graduated driver’s licenses for teens, universal motorcycle helmet requirements, ignition interlock devices to prevent drunk driving, and giving the proper officials the authority to develop, maintain and evaluate a statewide trauma system. States receive one point for each type of legislation passed. Oregon and Washington are the only states to receive the best possible score of 13. Arkansas scored only 3 points; North Dakota and South Dakota scored only four points each.

“Every year, there are over 40,000 deaths on our nation’s roadways,” says ENA President Denise King, RN, MSN, CEN. “We can reduce those numbers and we know how. When it comes to injury prevention, the public is in the driver’s seat. We must call on our policy makers to pass laws that are proven to reduce injuries and fatalities.”

The ENA released its first *National Scorecard* in 2006. That year, Arizona received the lowest score. In the two years since, Arizona’s Emergency Nurses Association has worked with state lawmakers to enact five new safety laws recommended by ENA. Seven states – Alabama, Arkansas, Montana, North Carolina, North Dakota, Wisconsin and Wyoming – failed to make progress in increasing the number of recommended roadway safety laws.

Georgia's neighbors get mixed reviews in the recently released rankings. Tennessee leads southeastern states with an overall score of 11 – falling short when it comes to recommendations to require seat belt use for all passenger positions and interlock devices for repeat DUI offenders. Adding legislation in those same areas pushes South Carolina to number 19 nationally with an overall score of 8. Alabama and Florida managed only 6 total points.

State legislative information in the *2008 ENA National Scorecard on State Roadway Laws: A Blueprint for Injury Prevention* is current as of October 22, 2008. The full report is available at www.ena.org.

About the Emergency Nurses Association

The Emergency Nurses Association (ENA) is the only professional nursing organization dedicated to defining the future of emergency nursing and emergency care through advocacy, expertise, innovation and leadership. Founded in 1970, ENA serves as the voice of more than 35,000 members and their patients through research, publications, professional development, injury prevention and patient education. Additional information is available at ENA's web site - www.ena.org.

The Georgia ENA Council represents over 800 members all across the Peach State. Local chapters serve the Albany, Atlanta, Columbus, Macon and Savannah areas. For more information on the Georgia State Council, look at our web site at www.gaena.org.

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