


NLWJC - Kagan

DPC - Box 008 - Folder 015

Consumer Safety - Seat Belts

cons pro - car seats

 Donald R. Arbuckle
12/23/98 12:35:43 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Elena Kagan/OPD/EOP

cc: Thomas L. Freedman/OPD/EOP, Mary L. Smith/OPD/EOP

Subject: seat belts

We are proceeding with our review and working well with DOT staff. We should be able to tie up the review by mid-January. The rule could be event-ready sometime after that.

Cheers.

Crew safety -
seatbelts



Elizabeth Drye

04/14/97 11:03:07 AM



Record Type: Record

To: Lawrence J. Haas/OMB/EOP, Michael Deich/OMB/EOP, Jamie B. Schwartz/WHO/EOP, McGavock D. Reed/OMB/EOP

cc: T J. Glauthier/OMB/EOP, Dorothy Robyn/OPD/EOP, Elena Kagan/OPD/EOP

Subject: Seatbelt EO

DOT would like to get the seatbelt EO done for an event they are doing tomorrow or Wednesday . DOT is now recommending that the EO require seatbelt use for federal employees and establish a primary seatbelt law in national parks only (not on BLM and Forest Service lands). DOT reports the states are fine with this since they don't enforce in national parks. Does this approach address any remaining concerns? Can we clear this quickly?

car safety -
seatbelts



Elizabeth Drye

04/15/97 02:06:30 PM



Record Type: Record

To: Elena Kagan/OPD/EOP, Christa Robinson/OPD/EOP

cc:

Subject: Status of Seatbelt Event

Event is at 2:30 in 450 OEOP w/
Slater
four former DOT Secretaries
Gov. Glendening
Possibly Senators Chafee and Lautenberg
Auto and insurance industries
air bag coalition
safety and health advocacy groups.

Event will announce national goals and highlight:

- 3 Presidential actions -- NEXTEA grants (previously released); SAFETEA soft sanctions, and EO (still being cleared)
- Broad support for the initiative.

OUTSTANDING ISSUES

DOT's on notice you may want to do prebrief for WH press on two EOs w/ Browner. Slater's out of town until 1:15 pm doing event for Gore in Detroit, however. Elena -- Brad told me you talked to him -- **how should we move forward from here?** Are the communications folks engaged?

Also, we are not doing WH fact sheet for seat belt event -- just DOT press release per WH press. If we do EO briefings, will we need any other paper?

Cong. Safety - seatbelts

DOT is ready to deliver to the White House a report you requested on measures to increase seat belt use. I am seeking your clearance of a key proposal in the report. The report will set an ambitious national goal for belt use (85% by 2000). To reach the goal, DOT is proposing, among other things, that the Administration send legislation to Congress giving states a stonger incentive to pass primary seat belt laws (i.e. laws that allow for ticketing soley for failure to use a seat belt). The NEXTEA bill you announced March 12 includes financial incentives (grants) for states to adopt primary seat belt laws. The new porposal would add a "soft sanction" -- states that do not pass primary laws or achieve 85% belt use by October, 2002, would have 1.5% of their federal highway funds (3% in subsequent years) transferred into their highway safety programs.

The proposal is likely to be effective, since primary belt laws significantly increase belt use and sanctions have effectively moved states to enact safety laws (e.g. zero tolerance laws). Eleven states and DC already have primary seat belt laws, covering a third of all Americans. Belt use in these states is 15% higher than in states with secondary enforcement laws. NHTSA estimates that enactment of a primary law by the remaining 39 states would save 1,800 lives in the first year alone.

The NGA and the governors' safety offices oppose the proposal (Governors Voinovich and Bob Miller sent a letter to Frank Raines) as they have opposed other sanctions. The National Mortorists Association, individual liberties groupus, and conservative and western Members of Congress who allied to repeal sanctions in 1995 are also expected to oppose it. A broad coalition will support the proposal, including auto maufacturers, insurance companies, safety advocates, health groups, law enforcement officials, and the National Urban League. DOT believes the proposal has a very good chance of getting congressional approval, particularly because the air bag issue has focused public attention on the importance of seat belts.

Given your and Secretary Slater's commitment to improving auto safety and the expected benefits of the proposal, I recommend you support it.

Approve Disapprove

customer safety -
seatbelts



Elizabeth Drye

04/02/97 06:28:14 PM



Record Type: Record

To: Elena Kagan/OPD/EOP

cc:

Subject: Scheduling Seat Belt Event

Forgot to cc you on this.

----- Forwarded by Elizabeth Drye/OPD/EOP on 04/02/97 06:32 PM -----



Elizabeth Drye

04/02/97 06:27:33 PM



Record Type: Record

To: Bruce N. Reed/OPD/EOP

cc:

Subject: Scheduling Seat Belt Event

Scheduling put a hold on our seat belt event in part, as I understand from Jennifer Palmieri, because of Ann Lewis's concerns about the EO. I let Jennifer know -- and you should let Ann know -- that the EO is NOT central to the event and can be modified or dropped. The only remaining issue is NGA's expected opposition to our soft sanctions proposal I noted earlier.

We have to do the event next week if we want it to be newsworthy -- since the legislation must go to the Hill before McCain's 4/17 hearing and the legislation is the new policy announcement. Jennifer asked us to send in another scheduling request. Christa and I have drafted it and Christa will discuss with you shortly. Just want to make sure any decision to forgo a presidential event is made based on the right information.

Finally, if we use the weekly report to get a decision from POTUS on soft sanctions will we get an answer back in time for a possible event next week?

Consumer safety -
seatbelts



Elizabeth Drye

04/02/97 11:41:09 AM



Record Type: Record

To: Bruce N. Reed/OPD/EOP, Elena Kagan/OPD/EOP

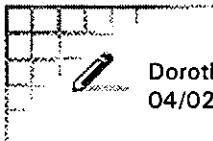
cc:

Subject: Seat Belt Sanctions

see attached. I'm not surprised NGA is opposed -- but I still think we should go ahead. Do you think we need a POTUS memo?

----- Forwarded by Elizabeth Drye/OPD/EOP on 04/02/97 11:44 AM -----

No memo



Dorothy Robyn

04/02/97 10:58:45 AM

Record Type: Record

To: Gene B. Sperling/OPD/EOP

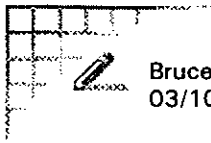
cc: Kathleen M. Wallman/WHO/EOP, Elizabeth Drye/OPD/EOP, Ellen S. Seidman/OPD/EOP

Subject: Seat Belt Sanctions

According to Larry Magid, the Natl. Governors Assn. will be sending a letter over later today asking that we drop the soft sanction provision. NGA routinely opposes sanctions, preferring positive incentives. (NEXTEA already provides for a positive incentive; the soft sanction would be an add-on .) Even though 11 states have primary seat belt laws and some governors have been outspoken in favor of them (Hunt, Glendenning), Larry thinks they won't object to an NGA position opposing sanctions.

In view of this opposition (and we may hear from some other states' rights groups), I assume we may want to send a decision memo to the President. I will draft one based largely on the DOT analysis I circulated earlier.

File -
seat belts



Bruce N. Reed
03/10/97 07:03:31 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Elizabeth Drye/OPD/EOP
cc: Elena Kagan/OPD/EOP
Subject: Seat belts, tobacco

We need to have the seat belt study ready for possible release on Thurs, April 3 when POTUS meets with the Big 3 auto execs. Can it hold till then? Will they support it?

Also, we need some kind of tobacco news for the Kick Butts event in NYC 4/15. Did you get anywhere with the web site?

3/18 Elizabeth Dwyer

Aberkane

1. Seatbelts -

- update EO - Fed EEs's seatbelt use (contractors)
- program-specific recs (to partic agencies)
- additional commitments from gov sector for ed. (?)
- put in NHTSA - soft sanctions for states w/out primary seatbelt laws ~~(#)~~ → direct some of highway funds to safety

data very clear here
no consistency again

(State has ^{basically} made decision on this)

Also debating whether to go to .08 alc. level -
(only 13 have now)

data not as solid.

also taking on consistency.

↳ keep track of.

leg proposal - has to be cleared by OMB.

2. Food safety.