



DATE: September 18, 2007

Action Needed

Urge the Governor to sign AB 321 (Nava) to protect children in school zones

AB 321 (Nava) would allow local authorities, if they so choose, to designate a school zone speed limit of 15 mph within 500 feet of a school in a residential district where the current speed limit is 30 mph or less. This lower limit would apply only when children are going to or leaving school during school hours or at the noon recess period.

A January 2007 report by the California Department of Transportation highlights that between January 1998 and December 2005, 11 children were killed and 1,449 were injured in the vicinity of 350 schools in the study. Of these, 44% involved bicyclists and 56% involved pedestrians. Approximately 52% of those injured or killed were 12 or younger. Pedestrian fatalities are the third leading cause of injury death for children under 15. In order to reduce the high rate of pedestrian injuries and deaths among children, it is critical that we improve safe routes to and from schools by reducing hazards and increasing student, community and motorist awareness. There is a definite link between vehicle speed and pedestrian crash severity. At 15 mph, most pedestrians will survive a crash, at 25 mph, almost all crashes result in severe injuries and roughly half are fatal, while at 40 mph, almost 90% of crashes are fatal.

This bill has received the support of the Assembly and Senate and is now on the Governor's desk. Call, fax or email the Governor today to ask him to Sign AB 321 (Nava) to save the lives of children traveling to and from school.

Sample telephone script:

My name is _____. I am a PTA member from (name of City). I am calling to urge the Governor to sign AB 321 to protect the lives of children traveling to and from school. Thank you.

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814
Phone: 916-445-2841
Fax: 916-445-4633

Email:

To send an Email please visit:

<http://www.govmail.ca.gov>

They do not accept e-mail attachments.

Be sure to include your name and address when you communicate with the Governor's Office.

If you would like to be added to our "Legislation email alert list," please send your name and email address to leginfo@capta.org.