

Thank you.

I'm glad to be here today with representatives from Ford Motor Company, United Way and Toys "R" Us. The work you are doing to educate Minnesotans on the importance of booster seats is significant and appreciated.

You know, whenever we approach a holiday weekend, especially one where a lot of people travel, you hear lots of reminders about not drinking and driving. What you don't hear as often is the importance of securing your children in the car.

Did you know that nationally, more than 500 children ages 4 to 8 are killed each year, and thousands are injured, from riding unprotected or not being properly fitted into a booster seat?

Here in Minnesota we are above the national average in booster seat use, but it is still only 30 percent. We need to improve upon that.

Today I will give out the first of 6,000 free booster seats to low income Minnesota families. Think of it this way, 6,000 booster seats equals 6,000 lives potentially saved. That's a great start.

Thank you.

(Hold up booster seat for a photo-op)