



## Please Support S 1750

### *Requires Ignition Interlocks for All Convicted Drunk Drivers*

- An ignition interlock is a breath test device linked to a vehicle's ignition system. When a convicted drunk driver wishes to start his or her vehicle, he or she must first blow into the device. The vehicle will not start unless the driver's Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) is below a preset level. In New Jersey, these devices are for repeat and first time convicted drunk drivers with a BAC of .15 or greater.
- S 1750, by Sen. Nicholas Scutari, requires ignition interlocks for all convicted drunk drivers:
  - 1<sup>st</sup> offense BAC .08 to .099: six months
  - 1<sup>st</sup> offense BAC greater than .10: one year
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> offense: three to five years
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> offense: lifetime
- According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), interlocks are effective in saving lives and reducing drunk driving recidivism by 67 percent. (CDC)  
[http://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2011/p0222\\_ignitioninterlocks.html](http://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2011/p0222_ignitioninterlocks.html)
- 16 states plus a California pilot program (covering a population of over 13 million) have laws requiring ignition interlocks for all first-time convicted drunk drivers.
- An ignition interlock is more effective compared to license suspension alone as 50 to 75 percent of convicted drunk drivers continue to drive on a suspended license. (Peck, et al, 1995 and Beck et al, 1999)
- **Public Supports Interlocks for First-Time Convicted Drunk Drivers.**
  - **88 percent support** interlocks for all convicted drunk drivers. (Center for Excellence in Rural Safety at the University of Minnesota, May 2010)
  - **84 percent support** ignition interlocks for convicted drunk drivers. (Insurance Institute for Highway Safety 2009 Survey)
  - **Over 3 of 4 persons support** requiring interlocks for first-time convicted drunk drivers. (AAA 2011 Survey: <http://www.aaafoundation.org/pdf/2011TSCIndex.pdf>)
- Ignition interlocks for convicted drunk drivers *save* taxpayers money. The DUI offender pays for the installation and monitoring of the interlock. A study of New Mexico's interlock law found the cost of an interlock was \$2.25 a day for the user, but for every dollar invested in an interlock for a first-time offender the public saves three dollars. (Impact DWI, PIRE study in Traffic Injury Prevention, 2007)
- Conservative estimates show DUI offenders have driven drunk at least 80 times before they are arrested. (CDC "Vital Signs: Alcohol-Impaired Driving Among Adults — United States, 2010."  
<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6039a4.htm>)
- As a result of similar ignition interlock laws in Oregon and Arizona, drunk driving deaths are down by 52 and 51 percent respectively. (NHTSA-FARS Query)
- Government does *not* bear the cost of the interlock device—the devices are paid for by the convicted drunk driver.
- 80 percent of interlock users reported that the device has been successful or very successful in preventing them from drinking and driving. (Impact DWI)
- In 2010 in New Jersey, 153 people were killed in crashes involving a drunk driver representing 27 percent of all traffic fatalities (NHTSA) <http://www-nrd.nhtsa.dot.gov/Pubs/811554.pdf>