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MEDIA ADVISORY

2012 Roadmap on State Highway Safety Laws Shows Legislative Action On Lifesaving Bills Is Dangerously Past Due *Families Pay With Their Lives And Their Wallets When Elected Officials Fail To Act*

WHAT: **NEWS CONFERENCE** – Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety will release the ninth annual report card grading all 50 states and the District of Columbia on their performance in adopting 15 basic highway safety laws on occupant protection, impaired and distracted driving, and teen driving. This year's report focuses on the urgent need for states to pass common sense and cost effective laws that will save both lives and taxpayer monies.

The 2012 Report will feature the best and worst performing states, states making the most and least progress over the past year, dangerous loopholes in each state that contribute to preventable death and injury, and state-specific data on traffic deaths, injuries and related economic losses.

WHEN: **Wednesday, January 11, 2012 at 10 a.m. EST**

WHERE: National Press Club, Zenger Room, 529 14th Street, NW, Washington, DC

WHO: **Jacqueline S. Gillan**, President, Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety

Ileana Arias, PhD, Principal Deputy Director, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

Nancy and Joe Polakiewicz, (Greenback, TN) Joe was a 16-year-old driver when he was critically injured in a crash on October 16, 2010. After two months in the hospital and the loss of one kidney and his spleen, Joe speaks out on the dangers of distracted driving. His mother, Nancy shares the story of Joe's crash in the hopes that other parents and teens will be spared her family's experience.

Mark R. Rosekind, PhD, Member, National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB)

Jan Withers, President, Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD)

LIVE WEBCAST: of the news conference at <http://www.visualwebcaster.com/highwaysafetylaws>.

ELECTRONIC PRESS KIT including the complete 2012 Roadmap to State Highway Safety Laws will be available on January 11, 2012, 9 a.m. EST at www.saferoads.org.

BACKGROUND: Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety is a coalition of insurance, consumer, health, safety and law enforcement organizations that work together to advance state and federal highway and vehicle safety laws, programs and policies.

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