



*For Immediate Release:*

## **Saved by the belt - Governor's Chief of Staff shares his life-saving story to kick off annual Click It or Ticket Campaign**

*Utah joins coast-to-coast enforcement held May 23 - June 5*

**WHAT:** Justin Harding, Governor Herbert's Chief of Staff, shares how the decision to wear a seat belt, use booster and car seats, saved his life and the lives of four of his children. Justin was driving kids to a Utah Youth Symphony Orchestra rehearsal at the David P. Gardner Hall, like he had done many times before, when they were hit, head on, in January of 2016.

Last week there were 10 fatal crashes on Utah roads, seven of those were unbuckled or improperly restrained. While 87 percent of Utahns buckle up, nearly 50 percent of fatal crashes are unbuckled. Wearing a seat belt doubles the chance of surviving a crash.

May 23 begins the two week increased enforcement period. Utah's Department of Public Safety (DPS) and National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) are joining forces with state troopers, police officers and sheriffs' deputies as part of the first ever coast-to-coast national effort to increase seat belt use and save lives on our roads. Officers will be working more than 1,000 overtime shifts from Monday, May 23 - June 5 to stop and educate motorists who aren't wearing a seat belt. The enforcement period is strategically planned to begin right before the Memorial Day holiday, one of the busiest, and often deadliest, travel weekends of the year.

**WHEN:** Monday, May 23, 10 a.m. (detailed agenda below)

10:00 a.m. - Justin Harding and family remarks

10:08 a.m. - Colonel Daniel Fuhr remarks

10:15 a.m. - Media access for one-on-one interviews and b-roll

**WHERE:** Outside David P. Gardner Hall, 1375 Presidents Circle (University of Utah), Salt Lake City 84112

**WHO:**

- Justin Harding, Governor Herbert's Chief of Staff, and family members
- Colonel Daniel Fuhr, Superintendent of the Utah Highway Patrol
- Representatives from state and local enforcement agencies

**VISUALS & INTERVIEW OPPORTUNITIES:**

- The Harding family, sharing their story of how seat belts saved their lives
- The Harding family's new vehicle with booster seats and car seat
- Enforcement representatives and vehicles
- Violin performance from Harding family members
- Crashed car photos

**Media Contact:**

Marissa Villasenor

801-793-8025    [mvillasenor@utah.gov](mailto:mvillasenor@utah.gov)