



**MEETING OF THE MEMBERSHIP
OF
THE MISSISSIPPI PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION**

The Annual Membership Meeting of the Mississippi Public Health Association was held on September 5, 2014, whereby a resolution was passed authorizing Buddy Daughdrill, Executive Director TO SIGN ON BEHALF OF THE ASSOCIATION the following resolution:

**THE MISSISSIPPI PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION
RESOLUTION SUPPORTING
MISSISSIPPI STATUTE BANNING TEXTING FOR ALL DRIVERS**

WHEREAS motor vehicle crashes are still the number one cause of death for teens and children in our state and **Mississippi has one of the worst traffic death rates in the nation and averages twice the national death rate;**

AND WHEREAS the CDC estimates that more than 9 people are killed and 1,060 more are injured every day in highway crashes involving a distracted driver, or nearly 1 in 5 crashes;

AND WHEREAS the most common and preventable distraction is texting or dialing a cell phone;

AND WHEREAS cell phone use while driving increases the risk of a getting into a crash by 3 times or more for experienced drivers as it distracts the driver both visually and cognitively;

AND WHEREAS the Mississippi Department of Public Safety reported a 975% increase in the fatal crashes related to driving where a distraction was recorded for 2012 compared to the previous two years, which accounted for 1 in 12 crash deaths statewide;

AND WHEREAS states that adopted laws banning texting while driving and used primary enforcement showed significant drops in crash-related injury deaths on an average of 19 lives saved per year;

AND WHEREAS the state of Mississippi currently bans texting while driving for public transportation drivers and learner's permit drivers only.

AND WHEREAS the Mississippi Public Health Association's Executive Board approved banning of texting while driving for all drivers in Mississippi as one of its 2014 legislative initiatives and believes this resolution aligns with the organizational mission of our Association;

THE MISSISSIPPI PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION HEREBY RESOLVES to support the banning of texting while driving for all drivers in Mississippi statute for the upcoming Legislative Session.