



MEDIA ADVISORY

CONTACT: Art Kinsman 617-959-2476

AAA Southern New England hosts a press conference on **Tuesday, March 4 2008 at 11:30 a.m on the Grand Staircase**, with Rep. Michael Costello (D-Newburyport) and Steven Baddour (D-Methuen), Chairmen of the Joint Committee on Transportation to make a case for a bill requiring a booster seat law in the Commonwealth. **During the event, pediatricians will provide a live demonstration of age appropriate child safety seats with children.**

Senate Bill 2018 requires the use of booster seats for children through age seven, or 4'9" in height, whichever comes first.

Here's the issue: current law requires children up to age five and forty pounds to be in a child passenger restraint while a passenger in a motor vehicle. From age five through twelve, the law only requires the child to be fastened in a safety belt. Massachusetts' law suggests to parents that it is safe for their children who are five, six and seven years old to be placed in an adult safety belt. It is not safe.

Studies show that nine-out-of-ten parents believe that if they adhere to their state's current child passenger safety law, they'll be taking the necessary steps to protect their children. Parents are being given a false sense of security by following the letter of the Commonwealth's law and in the process, unknowingly endangering their children. 38 States and Washington, D.C. have passed booster seat laws.

WHEN: TUESDAY, March 4, 2008, 11:30 a.m.

WHERE: Grand Staircase, 2nd Floor, State House

PARTICIPANTS:

- **Mark Shaw, President and CEO of AAA Southern New England**
- **Chris E. Mensing, President and CEO of AAA Pioneer Valley**
- **Earle B. Seeley, President and CEO of AAA Merrimack Valley**
- **Transportation Committee Chairmen Sen. Steven Baddour (D-Methuen) and Rep. Michael Costello (D-Newburyport)**
- **Dr. Brian Gilchrist, M.D., Chief Pediatric Surgery, Tufts NE Medical Center and Dr. Greg Parkinson, M.D., Falmouth Pediatric Associates**
- **Massachusetts State Police**
- **Children demonstrating responsible car seat use.**