

State of New Hampshire
By Her Excellency
Margaret Wood Hassan, Governor

A Proclamation

**NEW HAMPSHIRE DRUNK AND DRUGGED DRIVING
AWARENESS MONTH
DECEMBER 2013**

WHEREAS, Drivers and pedestrians impaired by alcohol and other drugs accounted for 9,878 highway deaths nationally in 2011; and

WHEREAS, Injury and property damage resulting from impaired driving cause physical, emotional, and economic hardship for hundreds of thousands of adults and young people, lost job productivity, and overall costs estimated at more than \$50 billion annually; and

WHEREAS, Highway crashes cause more violent deaths and serious injuries in New Hampshire than any other cause; and

WHEREAS, In New Hampshire in 2012, there were 108 highway fatalities with 26, or 24.1 percent, of those deaths being alcohol related; and

WHEREAS, These enormous human costs can be decreased by greater public attention to highway safety measures, including proper use of seat belts, prudent and responsible and courteous driving, being responsible party hosts, abstinence from illegal drugs, not driving while impaired, and careful observance of all rules of the road; and

WHEREAS, New Hampshire's legislative body, recognizing the need for strict laws to prevent people from driving while impaired, has lowered the state's per se law to .08, passed an Administrative License Suspension and open container law, lowered the per se law to .02 for those under the age of 21, lowered the BAC for aggravated driving while intoxicated to .16, strengthened the law to allow preliminary breath test results to be used as evidence in court, passed a law requiring the identification of kegs of malt beverages sold directly to consumers, established an alcohol ignition interlock program, and adopted the "party host" law penalizing those who host underage drinking parties; and

WHEREAS, New Hampshire remains committed to further reducing deaths and injuries on our highways caused by alcohol or drug impaired drivers;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARGARET WOOD HASSAN, GOVERNOR of the State of New Hampshire, do hereby proclaim **DECEMBER 2013** as **DRUNK AND DRUGGED DRIVING AWARENESS MONTH** in the State of New Hampshire, and encourage all residents to observe this month in a way that will project renewed efforts through the holiday season and into the new year to reduce highway deaths caused by impaired driving.

Given this 19th day of November, in the year of Our Lord two thousand and thirteen, and the independence of the United States of America, two hundred and thirty-eight.

Margaret Wood Hassan
Governor