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## United States Senate

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6400

(202) 224-5364

May 2, 2007

The Honorable Mary E. Peters  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
400 7th Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Peters:

This month, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) released a report titled, "*Older Driver Safety: Knowledge Sharing Should Help States Prepare for Increase in Older Driver Population.*" The report contains useful safety information and highlights practices implemented by states to help keep older drivers on the road safely. We hope you will utilize these findings to improve older driver safety.

The report, conducted at our request, examined 1) the steps taken by the federal government to promote practices to make roads safer for older drivers and the degree to which states have implemented those practices; 2) the extent that states assess the fitness of older drivers and the support provided by the federal government; and 3) initiatives implemented by six states to improve older driver safety. For your review, a copy of the full report is enclosed.

According to the report, states have implemented the federal government's recommendations to varying degrees on older driver safety. Most states have implemented some of the guidelines, but more can and should be done in this area to ensure that roads are safe for older drivers. One step toward the improvement of older driver safety is to increase information sharing among states. If states are knowledgeable of the older driver safety practices implemented in other states, they are more likely to see their benefits and adopt them.

We respectfully request that you adopt GAO's recommendation and direct the Federal Highway and National Highway Traffic Safety Administrators to implement a mechanism to allow states to share information on effective older driver safety practices.

Older driver safety is a critical issue for the mobility of elderly citizens and warrants additional attention from the Department, including the adoption of GAO's recommendation. Please do not hesitate to contact Mike Smith with the Aging Committee staff at (202) 224-5414 regarding our request. We appreciate your consideration and look forward to working with you on this important issue.

Sincerely,



Gordon H. Smith  
United States Senate



Herb Kohl  
United States Senate