

Seatbelt Press Conference
Tuesday, January 16, 2001
11:30 a.m.
Department of Public Safety Headquarters
1st Floor

Talking Points
(get serious before you start)

- I am alive today because I was wearing a seat belt the night of February 26, 1996.
- The video you will now see is footage of the car I was traveling in on the night of February 26, 1996.
- (Show video of Governor's wrecked car.)
- Members of my family, and countless numbers of highway patrol officers who saw our car after we wrecked that night comment that they don't know how we survived.
- I am living proof that seatbelts save lives.
- Traffic crashes are the third leading cause of death for all Americans; only cancer and heart attacks claim more American lives.
- Every 14 seconds someone in America is injured in a traffic accident and every 12 minutes someone is killed.
- Wrecks affect all of us. The cost of personal pain and suffering, the loss of a loved one and serious injury to a family member cannot be measured.
- Seat belts work.
- They are the best means of lowering the number of fatalities and serious injuries when traffic accidents occur.
- I don't believe most people question the effectiveness of seat belts, but still, many people don't take three seconds to click their seat belts into place when they get in their cars.
- Melanie and I always tell our children to put their seat belts on, but we have to be good examples too by wearing our seat belts every time we get in the car.
- My son Jordan has his learning permit (story about Jordan driving)
- My children's lives are precious to me, and I can't tell them enough to be careful.

- If clicking their seat belts into place is the first thing they do when they get in the car then it becomes almost second nature - a habit – a lifesaving habit.
- Making the use of seatbelts a law, and punishable as a primary offense will improve the safety of our people on Mississippi highways and reduce the number of people killed on our roads.
- There is legislation, which makes the use of a seat belt, law, in the state of Mississippi.
- I would like to thank Representative Barnett, Representative Compretta, Senator Martinson, Senator Dearing and Senator Turner for their support of this legislation.
- Making the use of seatbelts a law, and punishable as a primary offense will improve the safety of our people on Mississippi highways and reduce the number of people killed on our roads.
- If the passage of this legislation causes even one person to fasten their seat belt, when they otherwise might not have, then it has done its job.
- I urge the members of the Mississippi Legislature to pass the seat belt legislation so that the people of Mississippi, and those traveling our streets and highways are safer, and have a greater chance of reaching their destinations unharmed.