



REPRESENTATIVE THOMAS NELSON
ASSEMBLY MAJORITY LEADER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 11, 2010

CONTACT: REPRESENTATIVE THOMAS NELSON
608-266-2401

MAJORITY LEADER NELSON, REPRESENTATIVE BERNARD SCHABER PUSH
LEGISLATION TO BAN TEXTING WHILE DRIVING

APPLETON – Assembly Majority Leader Thomas Nelson (D-Kaukauna) and Representative Penny Bernard Schaber (D-Appleton) voiced their strong support today for Assembly Bill 496, legislation co-authored by Representative Bernard Schaber to ban texting while driving.

“Assembly Democrats are committed to making our roads safer for Wisconsin families,” said Representative Nelson. “As Majority Leader, I plan on scheduling a vote on AB 496 at the beginning of the upcoming legislative session.”

AB 496 would prohibit a person from composing or sending an electronic message, including email and texts, while driving. Drivers who violate the ban would face a fine of \$100 to \$400 for a first offense and \$200 to \$800 for subsequent offenses. GPS systems, two-way radios, and built-in navigations systems would not be covered by the ban.

“Texting while driving is one of the leading causes of inattentive driving. Every year, thousands of Americans are killed by drivers who are not paying attention to the road,” said Representative Bernard Schaber. “My legislation sends a clear signal that texting while driving is unacceptable.”

In 2008, according to the U.S. Department of Transportation, almost 6,000 people were killed and over 500,000 injured in distracted-driving crashes. Texting while driving is a leading cause of distracted-driving.

###