



REPRESENTATIVE THOMAS NELSON
ASSEMBLY MAJORITY LEADER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 19, 2010

CONTACT: REPRESENTATIVE THOMAS NELSON
608-266-2401

MAJORITY LEADER NELSON: ASSEMBLY VOTING TODAY ON LEGISLATION TO BAN
TEXTING WHILE DRIVING

MADISON – Assembly Majority Leader Thomas Nelson (D-Kaukauna) has scheduled a vote for today on Assembly Bill 496, legislation that would ban texting while driving.

“Assembly Democrats are committed to making our roads safer for Wisconsin families,” said Representative Nelson. “By banning texting while driving, today’s Assembly vote is an important step in accomplishing that goal.”

Assembly Bill 496 would prohibit a person from composing or sending an electronic message, including emails 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 navigation systems would not be covered by the ban.

“Passing this legislation will go a long way in reducing the number of traffic crashes and fatalities and will help make our roads safer,” said Representative Nelson. “We know that distracted driving is the third-leading cause of fatal crashes in Wisconsin after alcohol and speeding.”

Nationally, almost 6,000 people were killed and more than 500,000 injured in distracted-driving crashes. Texting while driving is a leading cause of distracted-driving. Currently, 19 states ban text messaging for all drivers. Nine other states ban texting while driving for novice drivers.

###