

Why do the Republicans keep bringing up seatbelt laws?

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By Mike Sylvester

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We have a new Republican Governor; we now have a Republican majority in both the Indiana House and Senate. The Republicans keep talking about a "mandate." There are many very important issues that need to be addressed in Indiana: Property taxes are out of control (Mine have increased over 60% in the last year here in Allen County), we spend OVER \$11,000 per student per year on a public school system that produces students who on average score 24 points BELOW the national average on the SAT test, Indiana has a structural deficit of over 800 million dollars, and Indiana has lost countless high paying manufacturing jobs in the last few years. There are too many other looming issues that Indiana must deal with to list here!

Why do the Republicans keep bringing up seat belt laws? It just shows how out of touch our politicians are with the people who live in Indiana. I know very few people who think forcing competent adults to wear a seat belt is a legislative priority; but, our politicians are at it again!

I wear a seat belt when I drive. To me, it is common sense. Why does our government think they need to force adults to wear seatbelts? I do not need the government telling me what to do! I have served my country in time of war, I am a law abiding citizen, treat me like one!

The Indiana government has made seat belt law enforcement a priority for the various law enforcement organizations in the state as well. We pay tens of thousands of tax payer dollars and instruct our police officers to go and write tickets to make law abiding citizens pay silly fines over not wearing seat belts. What a complete waste of my tax dollars! Let law enforcement spend their time chasing criminals, not trying to force law abiding citizens to comply with more silly government regulations!

If you do not believe in expanding the seat belt laws, please join us at the Organizing Convention of The Libertarian Party of Allen County. We are meeting at the Catablu restaurant on 2441 Broadway. The meeting is on Dec 13, 2004. The actual meeting will start at 7 PM, if you are interested in having dinner come early! The public is welcome! Please contact us if you are interested in attending! You can reach me at Mike.Sylvester@Verizon.net or at 260-338-0833!

Mike Sylvester, Fort Wayne

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I am a happily married native of Fort Wayne, Indiana. I have two wonderful children and a great wife. I am The Chairman of The Libertarian Party of Allen County.

Seatbelts: a Life Saver or a Taker?

By Paul Hood

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Seatbelts definitely save lives. Some of them have a locking feature which is truly amazing because you can pull it out all the way and let it pull back. You can also lock it and it'll not slide out until it's been pulled back all the way again. When you're on a spirited drive, it's good to have something to hold you into your seat as you take a tight turn at speed. Also, if you spend time cruising down the middle of the road, it's better to have at least one seatbelt to comfort you.

When seatbelts were made mandatory, some people complained that its use increased the chances that you'd get hurt. As they said, when there would be a fire, you won't get out in time. Others claimed that wearing seatbelts increased pedestrian fatalities because it made overconfident drivers to go faster. They really hated to wear them and only did it when the fines were large and frequent enough. Aside from being fined, drivers and passengers caught without seatbelts could also lose out in court in accident scenarios.

Take into account the result of every investigation after an accident, especially the severe ones - we can see that the wearing of the seatbelt is always an issue. In fact, the accident investigators could tell whether a certain individual was wearing a seatbelt or not based from the blood scatters and impact marks inside the vehicle. At any reasonable speed, it's simply not possible to hold on and resist the force of the impact. It's expected that the head makes a very distinctive pattern when it strikes the windshield.

After all, to wear seatbelts or not is still left for you to decide on. But, you must remember that there are consequences to those people who don't want to wear them. Always keep in mind that a driver who wears a seat belt is held in place and can continue to control their vehicle after the initial impact. A belted passenger, on the other hand, will not be thrown into the path of otherwise uninvolved cars. With this, the chances of injury are relatively small when you're using a seatbelt. That, combined with the privilege to operate a motor vehicle on a public road, makes it understandable for the government to require the use of safe and legally sound seatbelts.

Indeed, a seatbelt is such a small thing. And, it's quite overwhelming because of the fact that it can definitely save your life in an accident. However, almost everyone agrees that seatbelts can save lives but still many people don't bother to use them, especially those in the back seat.

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