FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 22, 2012

SAFE STATES ALLIANCE SUPPORTS AT&T'S CAMPAIGN AGAINST TEXTING AND DRIVING

Atlanta, GA – The Safe States Alliance strongly supports AT&T's campaign to make texting and driving as unacceptable as drinking and driving. The "It Can Wait" (www.itcanwait.org) campaign provides statistics, stories, and experiences to create a clear picture of the consequences of texting behind the wheel. The campaign also provides useful tools for companies, schools, and wireless users that address the dangers of texting and driving. Ultimately, the "It Can Wait" program reminds drivers – particularly teen drivers – that sending or receiving even one message while driving can create an unintended injury or death that will forever change the lives of those involved.

As a recognized national leader and driving force in understanding and preventing injuries and violence, the Safe States Alliance and its members constantly seek opportunities to educate the public and create environments where all citizens can make safe and healthy choices. Technology based solutions, such as AT&T's Drive Mode app, can help both experienced and teen drivers easily avoid texting behind the wheel.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), at any given moment during daylight hours, over 800,000 vehicles are being driven by someone using a hand-held mobile phone. Programs like "It Can Wait" are crucial to make drivers knowledgeable about the safety concerns involved with using their mobile devices, especially behind the wheel. Furthermore, given that 16% of all distracted driving crashes involve drivers under the age of 20, we applaud AT&T for its efforts to educate young, inexperienced drivers who are most at risk.

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The Safe States Alliance is a national non-profit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to serving as the national voice in support of state and local injury and violence prevention professionals engaged in building a safer, healthier America. Founded in 1993, the Safe States Alliance is the only national non-profit organization comprised of public health injury prevention professionals representing all states and territories in the United States.

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