## NEWS ADVISORY Luther Strange Alabama Attorney General



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For More Information, contact:
Joy Patterson (334) 242-7491
Claire Haynes (334) 242-7351
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## AG STRANGE ANNOUNCES ACTIVITIES TO PROMOTE NATIONAL TEEN DRIVER SAFETY WEEK OCT. 19-25

(MONTGOMERY) – Attorney General Luther Strange is partnering with community groups, law enforcement, and safety organizations to promote October 19-25 as National Teen Driver Safety Week.

The Foundation for Advancing Alcohol Responsibility (Responsibility.org), along with Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA), Governors Highway Safety Association (GHSA), International Association of Chiefs of Police Foundation, National Organizations for Youth Safety (NOYS), and the National Sheriffs' Association (NSA), are sharing a dynamic teen driver safety program called IKnowEverything for National Teen Driver Safety Week, with information available at <a href="http://iknoweverything.com">http://iknoweverything.com</a>.

Developed to prepare teens to be safe when they get behind the wheel, **IKnowEverything** is an integrated effort that highlights the issues of drunk driving and distracted driving, and it reiterates to parents that they have the most influence on their teen's driving behaviors. This spring, the IKnowEverything Challenge events tested teen driving safety knowledge among more than 2,000 high school students in urban, suburban, and rural communities across the nation. **Less than half of teens received a passing grade**.

"It is important that we call attention to the dangerous and tragic results that careless and unsafe driving can have for teenagers," said Attorney General Strange. "They need to be aware of the real and terrible risk of death or serious injury to themselves, their loved ones, or innocent bystanders. Working together, we can raise awareness and educate teenagers about safer driving practices."

Attorney General Strange urges parents and communities to help spread important safety messages during National Teen Driver Safety Week. Suggested activities include:

- Encourage parents to watch our <u>video</u> with their teen, available at <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LS5lUZR6iKs">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LS5lUZR6iKs</a>.
- Join a **Twitter Party** on **Tuesday, October 21**st at **9:00PM EST** with Mom It Forward, found at <a href="http://momitforward.com">http://momitforward.com</a>.



- Encourage your teens to use our <u>Teen Driver Safety Action Toolkit</u>, developed with FCCLA, to advocate for teen driver safety in your community. The toolkit is available at <a href="http://iknoweverything.com/sites/default/files/files/IKE\_Toolkit%20FINAL.p">http://iknoweverything.com/sites/default/files/files/IKE\_Toolkit%20FINAL.p</a> df.
- Use new <u>research</u> on distracted driving and teens in the supplement released in the May 2014 issue of the Journal of Adolescent Health. This is available at <a href="http://www.jahonline.org/issue/S1054-139X(14)X0002-9">http://www.jahonline.org/issue/S1054-139X(14)X0002-9</a>
- Follow the Foundation for Advancing Alcohol Responsibility on Twitter and Facebook to promote teen driver safety. Its website is <a href="http://www.responsibility.org">http://www.responsibility.org</a>.

Attorney General Strange has been a strong advocate of teen driver safety. He received the Century Council's 2012 Leadership Award for efforts to reduce underage drinking and drunk driving. At the LessThanUThink student-led campaign against binge drinking held at the University of Alabama, the Attorney General partnered with the Century Council, along with basketball player Shaquille O'Neal, to promote this initiative. Attorney General Strange also was active in a national campaign to discourage texting while driving and to educate young adult drivers about its dangers.