

Proclamation

WHEREAS, law enforcement officers, firefighters, public service utility workers, emergency medical personnel, road crews and tow operators conduct valuable and often life-saving operations at the roadside; and

WHEREAS, these on-scene personnel provide a critical public service; and

WHEREAS, they are called to duty at all hours of the day and night, in adverse weather conditions, and in a dangerous roadside environment; and

WHEREAS, across the country, 34 first responders who were working on the roadway have been struck and killed this year as of August 24, 2022, including 8 firefighters & EMS personnel, 12 law enforcement officers, 9 tow truck operators, 4 road service technicians, and 1 department of transportation personnel; and

WHEREAS, the towing industry is 15 times deadlier than all other private industries combined, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; and

WHEREAS, one death is too many; and

WHEREAS, the State of Colorado has a "Move-Over" law, strengthened from the tragic 2016 death of Colorado State Trooper Cody Donahue at the roadside, requiring drivers to slow down and move over when approaching an emergency vehicle, a tow truck or a highway maintenance vehicle when their emergency lights are activated; and

WHEREAS, while all 50 states have "Slow Down, Move Over" laws, fewer than 30 percent of Americans know these laws, according to the National Highway Traffic Administration; and

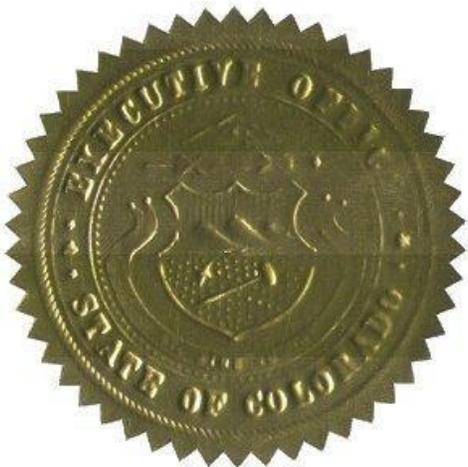
WHEREAS, there is a need for Coloradans to be educated on the dangers of failing to abide by these laws, and practice safe driving behavior, extending the common courtesy of moving over for all disabled vehicles displaying flashing lights to protect all members of the public;

THEREFORE, I Jared Polis, Governor of the State of Colorado, do hereby proclaim October 19, 2022, as

SLOW DOWN, MOVE OVER AWARENESS DAY

in the State of Colorado.

GIVEN under my hand and the Executive Seal of the State of Colorado, this nineteenth day of October, 2022



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jared Polis".

Jared Polis
Governor