# Mandatory seat belt law pushed by McNamee

By Karen Hermes Smith staff writer

Rep. Ruth McNamee, R-Birming-ham, predicted the state House would pass a bill this week requiring all per-sons traveling in the front seat of vehi-cles in Michigan to wear safety belts for a three-year trial period. If approved, the proposed legislation would go to the state seant for its con-sideration. "I believe it should get the vote," said McNamee, Republican co-sponsor of the legislation. It signed into law, Michigan would be the first state to re-quire mandatory safety bett use. A \$10.

Michigan would be the first state to re-quire mandatory safety bett use. A \$10 fine would be charged for violators.

The bill, which was expected to be voted on Tuesday, is supported by more than 40 state representatives and the largest coalition ahe has ever seen, McNamee said.

The coalition includes doctors, edu-

The coalition includes doctors, cou-cators, insurance companies, repre-sentatives of automobile manufactur-ers and safety organizations like the Traffic Improvement Association of Oakland County.

"I THINK we should make this a law," McNamee said. "All the argu-

ments against it just sort of fade away when I look at the statistics about the safety of persons with their harness belt in place."

The legislation would save 300 lives a year in Michigan, Secretary of State Richard Austin has predicted.

In on-the-street interviews in Birmingham, six out of nine persons said they support such a law. Two said she years a said vivian Lieberman of Birmingham, who said she always area her safety belt "except when backing down the driveway."

Angeam, "I think it (saving lives) is written low," "I they will be said to said the low," "I they said they have been said to be said

windshield," said Ruth Callewaert of Troy,
"I have used that law in Canada and I have appreciated it," said Irene Mulhauser of Huntington Woods. "I fa-vor it, but I'm lazy."
But Birmingham's Steven Perkins said the law would take away individuals' rights. "I don't like it," be said, "It's up to everyone to decide what to do."

The legislation was introduced this spring after the current law requiring restraints for children ages 4 and under went into effect.

went into effect.

"PEOPLE HAVE accepted this (legislation for children) and have accepted the fact the government is concerned about this and will act on the safety of people in vehicles," McNames said.
The lawmaker said she is putting aside her usual stand against additional government regulation in sponsoring this legislation.
"I don't want government regulation without a good cause," she said.".. (But) the government is responsible for (the) safety (of citteras).
"It's justifiable for the government to stop in when the safety of just one person is involved."
Incidents where safety belts cause injuries or even death by retaining the victim in the place of impact are "way down in the very minority of accipancy in the safety of safety of the safety of safety." McNames and the avily support the statement we are safet with a belt of the safety on her work of the safety of

on."

Those who have medical reasons for not wearing safety belts — following surgery, for example — could be exempted from the law, McNamee said.

The legislation would require no purchaso — most cars on the road today have safety belts.



### At the inaguration

Olga Dworkin, left, of Farmington Hills was one of the honored guests at the inaguration of Da-vid Adamany as president of Wayne State Uni-

versity. Shown seated with Dr. Jack Ryan of Royal Oak, Dworkin has led beautification ef-forts at the university during the past decade.

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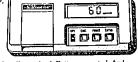
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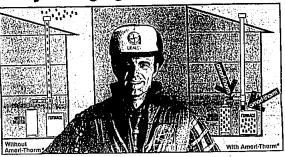
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