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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
October 4, 2019

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Special car seat clinic to be held in southeast New Mexico

Artesia, NM – The New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT), Safer New Mexico Now (Safer), and the Frank W. Yates Jr. Family Foundation will host a car seat clinic from 10 a.m. to noon on Saturday, October 12, at Bulldog Stadium, 1600 W. Grand Avenue, in Artesia, NM. This inaugural car seat clinic will be held as a celebration of life and remembrance of Cy Palmer, a 7-year-old who tragically lost his life as the result of a motor vehicle crash on November 15, 2017. Although Palmer was wearing his seat belt, he was not using a booster seat, which ensures the seat belt fits correctly and the passenger is properly restrained in the event of a crash.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration reports using car seats decreases the risk of death by an estimated 71% for infants and 54% for older children. When a car, truck, or van suddenly stops in a crash, everyone and everything inside keeps moving. Car seats, booster seats, and seat belts help manage that energy so our bodies don't need to. According to New Mexico state law all occupants *must* be properly restrained in all seating positions. For each child riding in your vehicle, be sure you are using the correct child safety seat. Any restraint device must meet federal standards and must be appropriate for the age and size of the child.

During the event, parents and caregivers will receive personalized hands-on instruction from nationally-certified child passenger safety technicians. Technicians will educate parents on the proper selection, installation, and use of car seats and booster seats. Technicians can also determine if a seat is recalled, expired, or otherwise unsafe.

Donations in memory of Cy Palmer will be accepted during this event, or to donate online, visit <http://shop.safernm.org/donation-form>. All funds will be utilized to support child passenger safety and car seat awareness.

Car seat clinics are a public service funded by the NMDOT and are available to everyone. Each seat check takes approximately 30 minutes per seat. Parents will need to bring their child safety seat, and if possible, the child. There is no charge for the inspection service; however, a seat replacement fee of \$25 may apply. For more information or to make an appointment, please call (800) 231-6145.

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