

Los Angeles Times

OPINION

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

July 9, 2011

Zero tolerance behind the wheel

Re "Too high for the highway?," July 3

The Times brings much-needed attention to the public health and public safety threat of drugged driving. In the 2010 National Drug Control Strategy, the Obama administration for the first time identified reducing drugged driving as a major national priority.

Zero-tolerance drugged driving laws are the most effective strategy. Under these laws, any detectable amount of an illegal controlled substance constitutes evidence of a violation.

This standard has been used successfully for all commercial drivers since 1988 and is widely used outside the U.S. Seventeen states have drugged driving laws. These laws are needed in all 50 states.

To accurately identify and enforce drugged driving laws, all impaired driving suspects and drivers in injury or fatal crashes must be drug tested.

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The writer, president of the Institute for Behavior and Health, was the White House drug czar from 1973-78.

<http://www.latimes.com/news/opinion/letters/la-le-0709-saturday-20110709,0,5284348.full.story>