

November 13, 2015

Dear Conferee:

As representatives of the nation's leading consumer, public health, and safety organizations, and families who have had loved ones killed in preventable motor vehicle and motor carrier crashes, we are writing to express our continuing concerns and strong objections to the House and Senate highway reauthorization bills' failure to advance needed public safety laws and programs. As you begin conference negotiations to harmonize the language in the two bills, we urge you to remove anti-safety provisions and include commonsense and cost-effective safety improvements. Without your efforts to ensure critical changes to address the rising carnage on our roads and highways, the next surface transportation reauthorization bill could turn out to be the most anti-safety transportation legislation ever enacted into law.

For 25 years, the surface transportation reauthorization bill has been a laudable, bi-partisan effort to advance sound, sensible and cost-saving proposals resulting in safer cars and trucks, safer drivers and safer roads. As a result, laws were enacted that: ensured airbags became standard equipment in the front seat of all passenger vehicles and a freeze on the spread of double and triple-trailer trucks in every state was achieved (1991); created a national zero tolerance blood alcohol content (BAC) law for underage drinking and driving (1995); required advanced airbags and initiated incentive grants for occupant protection and stronger drunk driving laws (1998); developed requirements for vehicle safety standards resulting in electronic stability control technology on every vehicle, improved roof strength, ejection mitigation, and mandatory truck safety improvements (2005); and, advanced motorcoach safety improvements for basic occupant safety protections such as seatbelts, roof crush prevention and occupant ejection protections (2012). In stark contrast, 2015 marks the year that the highway reauthorization bill does little to address the well-known issues and workable solutions to deadly safety problems, and also throws safety in reverse by omitting critically needed safety measures and including repeals of existing safety rules.

We urge you to remedy the following safety issues during Conference:

Commercial Motor Vehicle Safety: Teen Truck and Bus Drivers, Public Safety Scores, and Anti-Safety

Exemptions: Provisions to allow teen drivers to get behind the wheel of an 80,000 pound rig or bus and operate in interstate commerce must be removed. This misguided idea was resoundingly rejected by DOT ten years ago because of overwhelming opposition and compelling research showing the unacceptable high crash risk of young drivers. Previous studies have shown intrastate CMV drivers under the age of 19 are four times more likely to be involved in fatal crashes, and CMV drivers between the ages of 19-20 are six times more likely to be involved in fatal crashes. A sensible outcome would be to strike the pilot program for teen bus and truck drivers and substitute it with a study of the safety of intrastate truck drivers before launching this program.

Additionally, provisions to hide from public view the safety scores of unsafe motor carriers including passenger bus companies benefit only carriers with poor safety scores. Keeping consumers in the dark about the safety of their families as they drive on roadways or as their children are transported on school field trips is unacceptable and must be stricken from the bill.

Moreover, we oppose all of the many exemptions to truck size and weight limits and truck driver hours of service requirements, as well as the burdensome regulatory roadblocks which impede safety advances.

Inadequate Penalties: There have been ten Congressional hearings on vehicle safety defect issues during the 113th and 114th Congresses, yet Congress has not taken any meaningful or corrective actions to stop auto industry cover-up and to hold corporations accountable. Manufacturers who knowingly conceal vehicle safety defects or sell a dangerously defective vehicle should be subject to criminal penalties, as is the case under many

other federal consumer enforcement laws. Higher fines and criminal sanctions are needed to prevent manufacturers from viewing penalties as just another cost of doing business.

Increase National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) Funding Levels: NHTSA is drastically underfunded, receiving only one percent of the overall DOT budget even though 95 percent of transportation-related fatalities and 99 percent of transportation injuries occur on our streets and highways. There are few, if any, products on the U.S. market that have a greater impact on the public health of Americans than the automobile. In addition, their economic impact is extraordinary, with new and used cars representing over \$1 trillion in sales and \$14 billion in advertising. Yet with so many lives, injuries and consumer dollars at stake, Congress is choosing to underfund the one agency that has the potential to reduce the tragic toll vehicles take on America's public health. Pending language slashes authorization levels for carrying out the mission of NHTSA by a total of \$90 million over 6 years. There is an urgent need to correct NHTSA's chronic underfunding, and not to further hobble the agency's safety and oversight mission.

Eliminate Loopholes to Rental Car Recalls and Include Used Cars: It is necessary to fix loopholes in the bill language that limit consumer protection from defective vehicles only to companies that rent cars as their primary business. Customers of car dealerships that provide loaner or rental cars need the same safety recall protection, but dealerships would be exempted under this provision. Likewise, purchasers of used cars should not be imperiled by a safety recall the car dealer knows about but refuses to repair.

Remove Bureaucracy and Roadblocks to Safety Rulemaking: Mandating numerous wasteful studies and industry-stacked Councils, Regulatory Negotiation committees and additional bureaucratic hurdles and procedures impose roadblocks to needed safety rules by NHTSA and the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA). The unnecessary impediments must be eliminated.

Advance Child Safety: The final bill should include provisions requiring NHTSA to issue safety rules to prevent serious injury or death to children and other passengers in rear seats of vehicles. There is an urgent need to improve front seat back strength because seat backs have been shown to fail even in low speed crashes killing and maiming children in the rear seat who are restrained. The current federal vehicle safety standard has not been changed since it was first adopted in 1967. Furthermore, it is time that NHTSA moves forward on a rule requiring a reminder system for children inadvertently left behind in a vehicle. Children are needlessly dying while the adoption of available life-saving technology is delayed.

Considering the record recalls involving over 100 million vehicles over the last two years for vehicle defects which led to at least 200 preventable deaths, corporate cover-ups, and an unacceptable mortality and morbidity toll each year of 33,000 deaths and over 2 million injuries, this bill is a unique opportunity to advance bi-partisan safety solutions. Unless significant changes are made to the bill, it will seriously imperil public safety for the next six years and beyond. We urge you to take action that will save lives and spare families, and not succumb to special interest roll backs that jeopardize safety on our nation's highways.

Sincerely,

Jacqueline Gillan, President
Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety

Georges C. Benjamin, MD
Executive Director
American Public Health Association

Jack Gillis, Director of Public Affairs
Consumer Federation of America

Joan Claybrook, Co-Chair
Citizens for Reliable and Safe Highways and
Former NHTSA Administrator

Janette Fennell, Founder and President
KidsAndCars.org

Andrew McGuire, Executive Director
Trauma Foundation

Rosemary Shahan, President
Consumers for Auto Reliability and Safety

Clarence M. Ditlow, Executive Director
Center for Auto Safety

Sally Greenberg, Executive Director
National Consumers League

Gary Smith, President
Child Injury Prevention Alliance

John Lannen, Executive Director
Truck Safety Coalition
Vice Chair, Motor Carrier Safety Advisory
Committee (MCSAC)

And over 100 family members of car, truck and bus crash victims and survivors and victim advocacy organizations:

Carol (Cally) Houck
Ojai, CA
Mother of Raechel and Jacqueline Houck
Killed in a rental car under recall with
unrepaired safety defect 10/07/04

Laura Christian
Harwood, MD
Volunteer Advocate
Birth mother of Amber Marie Rose
Killed due to the GM ignition switch defect 07/29/05

Russ Swift
Port St. Lucie, FL
Co-chair, PATT
Father of Jasen Swift
Killed in a truck crash 10/14/93

Kate Brown
Gurnee, IL
Volunteer, TSC
Mother of Graham Brown
Injured in a truck crash 5/2/05

Alan Dana
Plattsburgh, NY
Volunteer, TSC
Son of Janet Dana, Uncle of Caitlyn & Lauryn Dana,
Brother-in-law of Laurie Dana
Killed in a truck crash 7/19/12

Kim Telep
Harrisburg, PA
Volunteer, TSC
Wife of Bradley Telep
Killed in a truck crash 8/29/12

Dawn King
Davisburg, MI
President, TSC
Board, Citizens for Reliable and Safe Highways (CRASH)

Linda Wilburn
Weatherford, OK
Board Member, Parents Against Tired Truckers (PATT)
Mother of Orbie Wilburn
Killed in a truck crash 9/2/02

Beth Badger
Columbus, GA
Volunteer, Truck Safety Coalition (TSC)
Daughter of Bill Badger
Killed in a truck crash 12/23/04

Ron Wood
Washington, D.C.
Son of Betsy Wood, Brother of Lisa Wood Martin,
Uncle of Chance, Brock, and Reid Martin
Killed in a truck crash 9/20/04

Amy Fletcher
Perrysburg, OH
Volunteer, TSC
Wife of John Fletcher
Killed in a truck crash 1/24/12

Cindy Southern
Cleveland, TN
Volunteer, TSC
Wife of James Whitaker, sister-in-law Anthony Hixon
and aunt of Amber Hixon
Killed in a truck crash 9/18/09

Lisa Shrum
Fayette, MO
Volunteer, TSC
Daughter of Virginia Baker, Step-daughter Randy Baker
Killed in a truck crash 10/10/06

Jane Mathis
St. Augustine, FL
Vice President, TSC, Board Member, PATT
Member, MCSAC

Daughter of Bill Badger
Killed in truck crash 12/23/04

Jamie Frei
Quakerstown, PA
Injured marine, spent 29 days in a coma
Injured by GM ignition switch defect
December, 2006

Dori Phillips
Houston, TX
Wife of Adam Powledge, mother to Jacob,
Blake and Isaac and sister Rachel
All killed by a GM Malibu defect
Houston, TX

Margie Beskau
Wisconsin
Mother of Amy Rademaker
Killed due to GM ignition switch defect
October, 2006

Doye and David Carroll
Tyler, Texas
Advocates, KidsAndCars.org
Grandparents of Riley Hays, died in a hot car
9-6-2005 (age 2 years, 2 months, 4 days)
Grandparents of Allen Hall, killed on bicycle
4-16-2012 (age 15 years, 2 months, 4 days)
Friends of Mackenzie Leigh Daughtry, backed over
by her mom 11-5-2015 (age 2 years, 7 months, 6 days)

Lili Zhao & Ramesh Mallina
Ashburn, VA
Parents of Jessita, left in a hot car, but survived

Judy Berrocal
Orem, UT
Parent Advocate, Compassionate Friends
Parent of: Ivan "Diego" Quintanilla
died in backed over on 11/20/1977

Michelle Stuyvesant
Garland, TX
Mother of Michael Stuyvesant
injured in hot car accident 06/10/2015

Amy Chatten-Wiley
Marshfield, MO
Sister to Aaron Chatten to whom lost his little girl,
Madison, to a backover, and later died in a car crash.

Mother of David, Mother-in-Law Mary Kathryn Mathis
Killed in a truck crash 3/25/04

Lisa Morgan Goad
Palmyra, WI
Mother of Justin Goad
Killed by defective GM Impala
November, 2007

Daryl Kennedy Chansuthus
Murfreesboro, TN
Mother of Hasaya Seyde Chansuthus
Killed by GM ignition switch defect
December 2009
Murfreesboro, TN

Kimberly Prouty Vance
Marion, OH
Mother of Ashley Vance
Killed due to GM ignition switch defect
January 31, 2012

Jodie Edwards
Liberty Township, OH
Parent Advocate, KidsandCars.org
Parent of Jenna Edwards, died in a hot car 8/20/08

Sue Auriemma
Manhasset, NY
VP, KidsAndCars.org
Daughter survived being backed over 05/27/2005

Lindsey Mack
Independence, MO
Volunteer, KidsAndCars.org

Paul and Judy Neiman
West Richland, WA
Parent Advocate, KidsAndCars.org
Parents of Sydnee Neiman, backed over and killed
by her Mother on 12/08/2011 at the young age of 9

Arden Rosenfeld
Boca Raton, FL
Parent Advocate
Daughter Veronica Rosenfeld, backed over and killed

Kim Coburn
Bossier city, LA
EMT-P, Injury Prevention, Bossier Parish EMS

Ken Rimer
Hammon, WI
Stepfather of Natasha Weigel
Killed due to GM ignition switch defect
October, 2006

Ellen Adams
Jacksonville, FL
Parent Advocate, KidsAndCars.org
Mother of Ashleigh, backed over and killed in 2004
Loss caused Ashleigh's father to take his own life

Richard M. Carver
Greensburg, PA
Injured due to GM ignition switch defect
October, 2011

Tami Friedrich Trakh
Corona, CA
Board Member, CRASH, Member, MCSAC
Sister of Kris Mercurio, Sister-in-Law of Alan Mercurio,
Aunt of Brandie Rooker & Anthony Mercurio
Killed in a truck crash 12/27/89

Larry Liberatore
Severn, MD
Board Member, PATT
Father of Nick Liberatore
Killed in a truck crash 6/9/97

Julie Branon Magnan
South Burlington, VT
Injured in a truck crash 01/31/02
Wife of David Magnan
Killed in a truck crash 01/31/02

Sandra Lance
Chesterfield, VA
Volunteer, TSC
Mother of Kristen Belair
Killed in a truck crash 8/26/09

Steve Izer
Lisbon, ME
Board Member, PATT
Father of Jeff Izer
Killed in a truck crash 10/10/93

Bruce King
Davisburg, MI
Volunteer, TSC

Cherie Sharkey
Queensbury, NY
Mother of Michael Starkey
Killed by GM ignition switch defect
June 21, 2012

Phil & Cheryl Bransom
Portland, OR
Parent Advocate, KidsAndCars.org
Parent of Douglas Bransom, died in a frontover accident.

Mary Lou Powledge
Houston, TX
Mother of Adam Powledge, grandmother to
Jacob, Blake and Isaac and sister Rachel
All killed by a GM Malibu defect

Jennifer Tierney
Kernersville, NC
Board Member, CRASH
Member, MCSAC
Daughter of James Mooney
Killed in a truck crash 9/20/83

Daphne Izer
Lisbon, ME
Founder, PATT
Mother of Jeff Izer
Killed in a truck crash 10/10/93

Jackie Novak
Edneyville, NC
Volunteer, Truck Safety Coalition
Mother of Charles "Chuck" Novak
Killed in a truck crash 10/24/10

Paul Badger
Davidson, NC
Volunteer, TSC
Son of Bill Badger
Killed in truck crash 12/23/04

Tina Silva
Ontario, CA
Sister of Kris Mercurio, Sister-in-Law of Alan Mercurio,
Aunt of Brandie Rooker & Anthony Mercurio
Killed in a truck crash 12/27/89

Laurie Higginbotham
Memphis, TN
Volunteer, TSC

Son-in-law of Bill Badger
Killed in truck crash 12/23/04

Vincent and Kathleen Laubach
Volunteer, TSC
Reno, NV
Volunteer, Truck Safety Coalition
Truck Crash Survivor

Ed Slattery
Lutherville, MD
Board Member, PATT
Husband of Susan Slattery
Killed in a truck crash 8/16/10
Sons Matthew & Peter Slattery critically injured

Nancy Meuleners
Bloomington, MN
Injured in a truck crash **12/19/89**

Marchelle Wood
Falls Church, VA
Volunteer, TSC
Mother of Dana Wood
Killed in a truck crash 10/15/02

Gary Wilburn
Weatherford, OK
Volunteer, TSC
Father of Orbie Wilburn
Killed in a truck crash 9/2/02

Jerry Karth
Rocky Mount, NC
Volunteer, TSC
Founder, AnnaLeah & Mary for Truck Safety
Father of AnnaLeah and Mary Karth
Killed in a truck crash 5/4/13

Vickie Johnson
Hartwell, GA
Volunteer, TSC
Wife of Curt Johnson, Step-mother of Crystal Johnson
Killed in a truck crash 10/1/2009

Gloria Cruz
Plains, PA
Injured to GM ignition switch defect

Jill Kennedy
Seattle, WA
Family/Friend Advocate, KidsAndCars.org

Mother of Michael Higginbotham
Killed in a truck crash, 11/18/14

Marc Johnson
Volunteer, TSC
Hartwell, GA
Brother of Curt Johnson
Killed in truck crash 10/1/2009

Marianne Karth
Rocky Mount, NC
Founder, AnnaLeah & Mary for Truck Safet
Mother of AnnaLeah and Mary Karth
Killed in a truck crash 5/4/13
Injured in a truck crash 5/4/13

Henry Steck
Homer, NY
Volunteer, TSC

Melissa Gouge
Washington, D.C.
Volunteer, TSC
Cousin of Amy Corbin
Killed in a truck crash 8/18/97

Frank Wood
Falls Church, VA
Volunteer, TSC
Father of Dana Wood
Killed in a truck crash 10/15/02

Christina Mahaney
Jackman, ME
Volunteer, TSC
Injured in a truck crash 7/19/2011
Mother of Liam Mahaney
Killed in a truck crash 7/19/2011

Randall Higginbotham
Memphis, TN
Volunteer, TSC
Father of Michael Higginbotham
Killed in a truck crash, 11/18/14

Nanci J Hartland
Savannah, GA
Injured due to GM ignition switch defect

Jack and Melissa Kennedy
Largo, FL
Family/Friend Advocate, KidsAndCars.org

Family/Friend of Gannon Werking
died in a hot car 7/23/2009

James Rose
Indian Head, MD
Father of Amber Marie Rose
Killed by GM ignition switch defect
July 2005

Anna Knapp
Saxonbury, PA
Advocate, KidsAndCars.org
Family/Friend of Gannon Werking
Died in a hot car 7/23/2009

Rebecca Dickerson
Oak Ridge, TN
Mother of Jaanai Dickerson
Killed by Toyota defect
June 2013

Kim Wallin
Tennessee
Injured due to GM ignition switch defect
December, 2013

AnnMarie Bartlett-Pszybylski
St. James, NY
Parent Advocate, KidsAndCars.org
Parent of Robert Earl, son survived run -over
Lost a kidney and other life threatening injuries
April 2006

Cameron Dickerson
Oak Ridge, TN
Brother of Jaanai Dickerson
Killed by Toyota defect
June 2013

Beth Melton
Destin, FL
Parent of Brooke Melton
Killed by GM ignition switch defect
March, 2010

Ronald Proctor
Tampa, FL
Husband of Nephthys Fleming-Griffin Proctor
Suffered permanent brain damage due to a
GM ignition switch defect
June 2012

Family/Friend of Gannon Werking
died in a hot car 7/23/2009

Theresa O'Malley Ruddy
Scranton, PA
Mother of Kelly Ruddy
Killed by GM ignition switch defect
January 2010

Michele Terry
Maypearl, TX
Parent Advocate, Kidsandcars.org
Mika Terry (daughter) died in hot car 2005

Leo Ruddy
Scranton, PA
Father of Kelly Ruddy
Killed by GM ignition switch defect
January 2010

Michelle Bradford
Kansas City, MO
Sister of Tasha Bradford
Killed by GM ignition switch defect
December 21, 2008

Robert Pszybylski
St. James, NY
Parent Advocate, KidsAndCars.org
Parent of Robert Earl, son survived run -over
Lost a kidney and other life threatening injuries
April 2006

Nephthys Fleming-Griffin Proctor
Tampa, FL
Suffers permanent brain damage due to a
GM ignition switch defect
June 2012

Ken Melton
Destin, FL
Parent of Brooke Melton
Killed by GM ignition switch defect
March, 2010

Adriana Saunsoci
Macy, NE
Omaha Tribe of Nebraska, Vice Chairwoman
Parent Advocate, KidsAndCars.org
Parent of Ora RoseMary Springer
Died in a back over on 08/03/2013

Giovona Ralphs
Roy, UT
Sibling Advocate, KidsAndCars.org
Sister of Dylan Bjorkman died in a hot car,
Two days after my 12th birthday on 09/07/1998

Michele Masek & Thomas Miller
Stirling, NJ
Parent Advocate, KidsAndCars.org
Parent of Myles Masek Donnelly
Died in a back over

Please see additional signatures in attached document.