



ADVOCATES
FOR HIGHWAY
& AUTO SAFETY



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CHILD SAFETY ALERT:

NEWS CONFERENCE & LIVE WEBCAST

Announcing Bipartisan Legislation to Require Lifesaving Technology in Cars to Prevent Child Heatstroke in Hot Cars

**Many children needlessly die in hot cars each year –
Summer brings extreme risk for these tragedies**

*Cars have reminder systems for headlights left on, keys left in ignitions,
low tire pressure, and to buckle your seatbelt, among others.*

Bill would add reminder system as standard equipment in cars to save children's lives.

WHAT: NEWS CONFERENCE AND WEBCAST

Parents and families who unknowingly left children in hot cars will join Members of Congress and safety advocates to announce introduction of the **Helping Overcome Trauma for Children Alone in Rear Seats (HOT CARS) Act of 2017** – a bipartisan bill to require cars to be equipped with existing technology to alert drivers that a passenger remains in the back seat when a car is turned off.

More than 800 children have died from heatstroke in hot cars since 1990, including 9 children so far this year. With temperatures rising as summer quickly approaches, the risk is even greater. Many factors can contribute to loving and responsible parents unknowingly leaving a child behind in a car, including change in routine, simple distractions, stress or fatigue. Representatives Tim Ryan (D-OH-13th), Peter King (R-NY-2nd) and Jan Schakowsky (D-IL-9th) are introducing the **HOT CARS Act** to ensure that an alert system is standard equipment in cars to prevent these tragedies.

WHEN: WEDNESDAY, JUNE 7, 2017 at 1:00pm ET

Vehicle Heatstroke Prevention Campaign Kicked Off June 5, 2017

WHERE: RAYBURN FOYER, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC

(Located on 1st Floor of Rayburn HOB, along Independence Ave, between South Capitol and First Streets, SW)

WHO: **U.S. Representative Tim Ryan (D-Ohio-13th)**
U.S. Representative Peter King (R-New York-2nd)
U.S. Representative Jan Schakowsky (D-Illinois-9th)
Deona Ryan Bien (Charleston, SC), mother of Aslyn, who died February 7, 2004 at age 1 after being unknowingly left in a hot car
Norman Collins (Raleigh, NC), grandfather of Norman Lee Van Collins III, who died May 29, 2011 at age 3 months after being unknowingly left in a hot car in Mississippi
Miles and Carol Harrison (Purcellville, VA), parents of Chase, who died July 8, 2008 at age 21 months after being unknowingly left in a hot car
Janette Fennell, President and Founder, KidsAndCars.org
Jackie Gillan, President, Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety
David Diamond, Ph.D., Professor of Psychology, Molecular Pharmacology and Physiology; Director, Neuroscience Collaborative Program and Center for Preclinical and Clinical Research on PTSD, University of South Florida

LIVE WEBCAST of the news conference will be available at www.saferoads.org. News media will be welcome to submit questions during the webcast.

LOCAL NEWS INTERVIEWS: Parents and families who unknowingly left children in hot cars may be available in some states for local news interviews. Please inquire about availability by contacting Bill Bronrott at 202-270-4415 or bronrott@gmail.com or Amber Andreasen at 913-732-2792 or Amber@KidsAndCars.org.

VISUALS: **A MEMORIAL PHOTO WALL** of children who died in hot cars during the high-risk summer season from 1990 to 2016 will be on display.

LATEST STATE-BY-STATE STATISTICS on U.S. child vehicular heatstroke fatalities will be released.

ELECTRONIC MEDIA KIT will be available June 7, 2017 at 12:01 a.m. ET at www.saferoads.org

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