

Public to U.S. Senate: Pump the Brakes on Driverless Car Bill

ORC International CARAVAN Public Opinion Poll

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ADVOCATES
FOR HIGHWAY
& AUTO SAFETY

Commissioned by Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety

Founded in 1989, Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety (Advocates) is an alliance of public health, safety, and consumer organizations, insurers and insurance agents that promotes highway and auto safety through the adoption of safety laws, policies and regulations. Advocates is a unique coalition dedicated to advancing safer vehicles, safer drivers, and safer roads.

Introduction

According to the federal government, each year motor vehicle crashes kill tens of thousands of people and injure millions more at a cost to society of over \$800 billion. According to the latest statistics from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), 37,461 people were killed on our nation's roads in 2016. This is an increase of over six percent from 2015.

Advocates has always enthusiastically championed vehicle safety technology and for good reason -- it is one of the most effective strategies for preventing deaths and injuries. NHTSA has estimated that since 1960, over 600,000 lives have been saved by motor vehicle safety technologies. So too are we encouraged that autonomous vehicle (AV) technologies hold tremendous promise to achieve additional safety advances and to decrease the number of motor vehicle crashes, fatalities and injuries. However, selling AVs to the public before they can be safely operated on public roads and without commonsense government oversight and industry accountability is not only reckless and ill-advised, but it will also substantially reduce public confidence in this new technology.

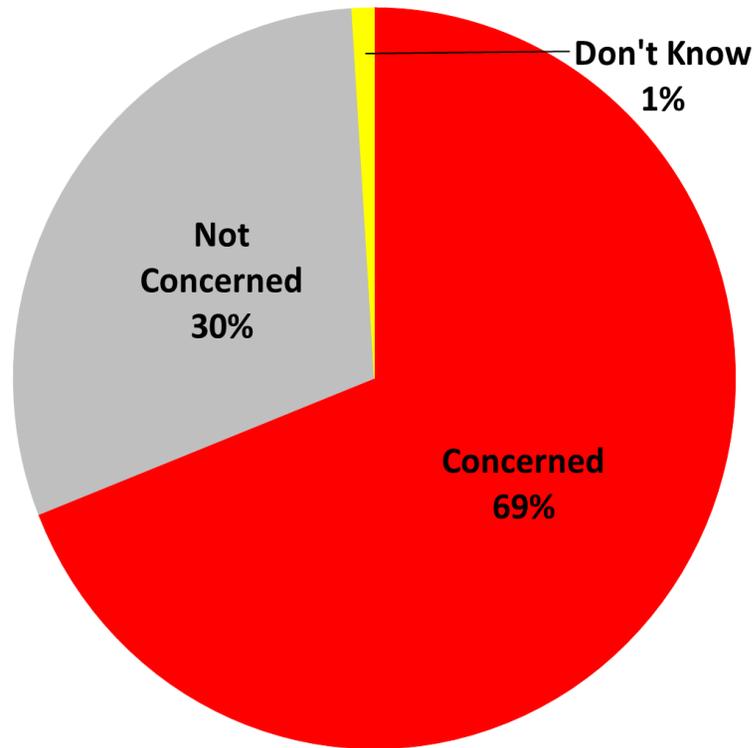
Moreover, there have been a number of crashes involving vehicles equipped with automated driving technology. Those being investigated by the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) have file numbers included.

- May 29, 2018, Laguna Beach, CA, Tesla Model S: A Tesla reportedly in "Autopilot" crashed into a parked Laguna Beach Police Department Vehicle. The Tesla driver suffered minor injuries.
- May 8, 2018, Fort Lauderdale, FL, Tesla Model S: The vehicle reportedly was traveling at a high rate of speed when it crashed into a wall. The resulting post-crash fire killed two teenagers and injured another. The NTSB is examining the electric vehicle battery fire and emergency response. (NTSB Investigation HWY18FH013)
- March 23, 2018, Mountain View, CA, Tesla Model X: While on "Autopilot", the vehicle struck a safety barrier, causing the death of the driver. (NTSB Investigation HWY18FH011)
- March 18, 2018, Tempe, AZ, Uber Self-Driving Test Vehicle: The Uber vehicle, which was operating on "self-driving mode," struck and killed a pedestrian walking a bicycle. (NTSB Investigation HWY18MH010)
- January 22, 2018, Culver City, CA, Tesla Model S: The Tesla, reportedly on "Autopilot," was traveling at 65 mph when it crashed into the back of a parked fire truck that was responding to the scene of a separate crash. Remarkably, neither the driver nor the first responders were injured. (NTSB Investigation HWY18FH004)
- November 8, 2017, Las Vegas, NV, Driverless Shuttle Bus: A driverless shuttle was involved in a crash during its first day of service. Fortunately, there were no deaths or injuries. (NTSB Investigation HWY18FH001)
- May 7, 2016, Williston, FL, Tesla Model S: Driver killed when his vehicle, operating on "Autopilot," crashed into the side of a truck tractor combination, traveling underneath the trailer. (NTSB Investigation HWY16FH018)

The U.S. Senate is considering a bill, the American Vision for Safer Transportation through Revolutionary Technologies (AV START) Act, S. 1885, which will set policy on AVs for decades to come. The bill is awaiting action and could come up at any time. The U.S. House of Representatives passed the Safely Ensuring Lives Future Deployment and Research In Vehicle Evolution (SELF DRIVE) Act, H.R. 3388, on September 6, 2017.

This poll was commissioned to take the pulse of the public regarding if they are concerned about AVs and if they think the findings of the NTSB are relevant to the policy discourse.

The public is overwhelmingly concerned about sharing the road with driverless vehicles as motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians.



The public has said loud and clear – they are concerned about sharing the road with driverless cars. This apprehension is widespread across demographics including gender, generations, region, education and political affiliation.

Not only will driverless car safety affect those who ride in them, but they will also pose serious risks to other road users including bicyclists and pedestrians.

In order to allay this public skepticism, the U.S. Senate must put in place proper protections to ensure the safe development and deployment of driverless cars.

Give the Nation's preeminent transportation investigatory board time to do its job.

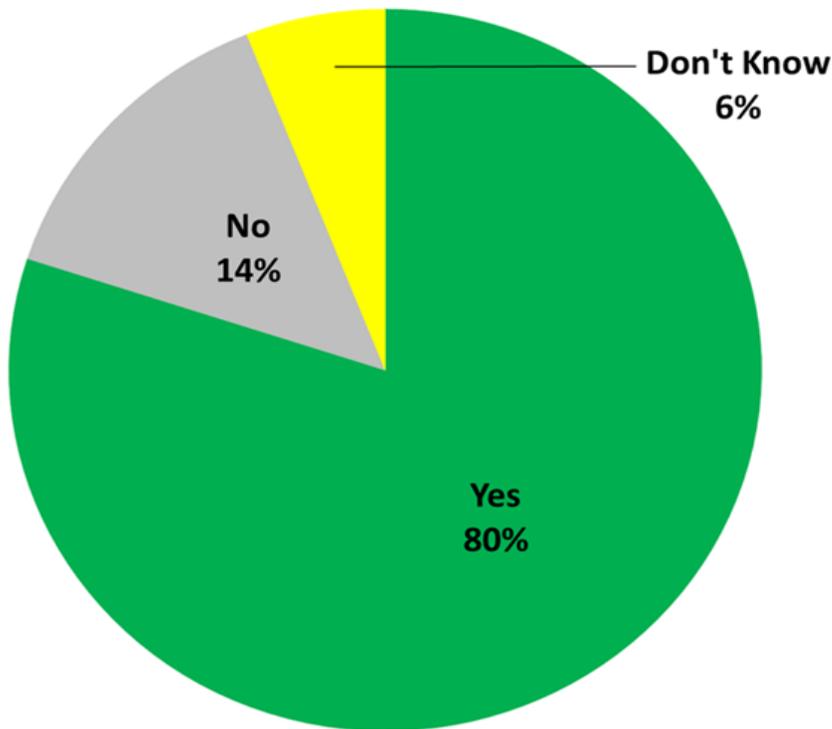
The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) is currently investigating several crashes involving cars equipped with self-driving technology. As these investigations are taking place, Congress is considering legislation that would allow the widespread sale of experimental driverless cars. The NTSB is undertaking these investigations to determine how self-driving vehicles interact with the driving environment, other vehicles and vulnerable road users such as pedestrians and bicyclists.



Furthermore, a thorough and independent analysis of these crashes is needed to identify safety deficiencies, determine any contributing causes, and recommend government and industry actions to prevent future deadly incidents. For more than 50 years, NTSB investigations, findings and recommendations have been essential to ensuring the highest safety standards in all modes of transportation in this country.

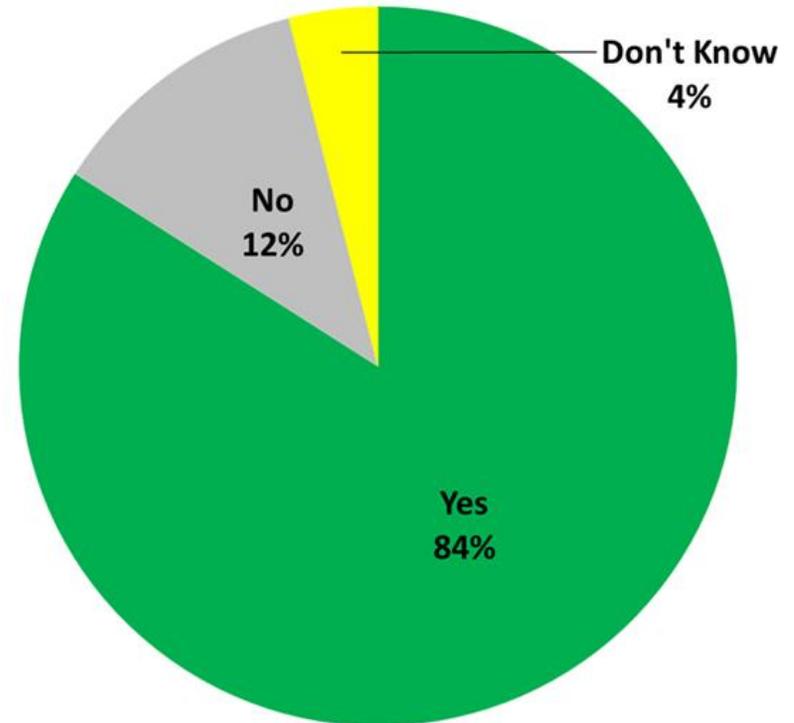
Do you believe the NTSB investigations will be helpful in identifying problems and recommending improvements?

80% say YES



Do you believe the NTSB should complete their current investigations of crashes involving driverless cars before Congress acts on legislation?

84% say YES



There should be no legislative action on driverless car legislation until the NTSB finishes its ongoing investigations into AV crashes and failures.