



ADVOCATES
FOR HIGHWAY
& AUTO SAFETY

**Statement of Jackie Gillan, President,
Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety
Media Call-in on Introduction of HOT CARS Act of 2016
September 15, 2016**

Good Morning. My name is Jackie Gillan and I am the President of Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety (Advocates). Advocates is a coalition of consumer, health and safety groups and property and casualty insurance companies working together to advance laws that improve highway and auto safety.

This morning we are pleased to announce the introduction of legislation, the HOT CARS Act of 2016, whose acronym stands for Helping Overcome Trauma for Children Alone in Rear Seats Act. This legislation will address the needless deaths of children from heatstroke when unintentionally left in vehicles. I am joined this morning by the bill sponsors Representatives Tim Ryan (D-13th OH) and Jan Schakowsky (D-9th IL), KidsAndCars.org Founder & President Janette Fennell, Dr. David Diamond, and several families who have been impacted by this deadly problem. Representative Peter King (R-2nd NY) is also a sponsor but due to a committee meeting conflict he cannot join us.

This year 29 children have already been killed in hot cars. And, I just want to be clear that this not just a “seasonal” problem and when summer ends it will be safe again. These deaths are happening year round. Even in mild temperatures, children unknowingly left in cars can quickly be in danger of death or serious injury.

This legislation takes the same approach as the law enacted by Congress in 2008 that requires rear view cameras as standard equipment in all cars by 2018. The HOT CARS Act gives the U.S. Department of Transportation a reasonable deadline of two years to finish a rulemaking that requires all new passenger motor vehicles to be equipped with technology to provide an alert system warning that a child remains in the rear seat after the motor is turned off.

We have the technology at hand to save the life of a child and spare a family from unimaginable grief and loss. It's now time for action.

The legislation has already garnered strong and broad support. In addition to Advocates and KidsAndCars, the bill is supported by AAA, the National Safety Council, nearly every major consumer group including the Center for Auto Safety, Consumer Federation of America, Consumers for Auto Reliability and Safety, Consumers Union, National Consumers League, as well as public health organizations like the Society for the Advancement of Violence and Injury Research and the Trauma Foundation.

I encourage you to visit our website www.saferoads.org for the full list of supporters and additional information about the bill and why it is needed.