

October 15, 2019

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
317 Russell Senate Office
Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
1236 Longworth House Office
Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
2468 Rayburn House Office
Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Members of Congress,

The undersigned insurance companies and organizations support the Hot Cars Act of 2019, which requires all new cars to be equipped with a rear detection system to alert that a child has been left unattended inside the vehicle. The bill directs the United States Department of Transportation (U.S. DOT) to issue a final rule within two years after enactment.

Cars already remind us that our headlights have been left on, keys were left in the ignition and doors are ajar. Safety restraints, air bags and back-up cameras have been mandated and are saving lives. Rear occupant detection and alert systems will save the lives of countless children and pets that are accidentally left in back seats.

We are aware of the voluntary agreement announced by the Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers and the Association of Global Automakers, as well as statements from certain manufacturers regarding implementation of this technology dating back as far as 2004. However, there has been little progress made, and broad deployment of rear child detection systems by automakers remains largely unfulfilled. Without a minimum performance standard to verify the systems' effectiveness and an enforceable requirement that it will be installed in all new cars, lives will continue to be lost.

We support both the notification alert and detection of rear occupants. A system that detects the presence of a child will also address the problem of children who climb into unoccupied vehicles, which represent approximately 30 percent of identified hot car fatalities annually.

We urge Congress to pass legislation that directs the U.S. DOT to issue a standard that will detect the presence of a child and alert the driver. We are concerned that doing anything less will continue to jeopardize the lives of children and pets.

Sincerely,

Allstate Insurance Company
American Family Insurance
Amica Mutual Insurance Company
Farmers Insurance
Liberty Mutual Insurance
National Association of Mutual
Insurance Companies
National Association of
Professional Insurance Agents

Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company
New Jersey Manufacturers Insurance
Company
Selective Insurance Company of America
State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance
Company
USAA