

**Prepared remarks of Consumer Reports for press teleconference on the
motor vehicle safety title of H.R. 2, the Moving Forward Act**

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Consumer Reports, the independent, non-profit member organization, commends Chairwoman Schakowsky, Chairman Tonko, Chairman Pallone, and their colleagues for their hard work to develop auto safety legislation that truly meets the moment.

It is unacceptable that over 36,000 people die on our roads every year. Policymakers have tools to greatly reduce this toll, but too often, they don't use them. The motor vehicle safety title in H.R. 2 is different. It puts our country on a path to zero road deaths—the only acceptable goal.

The sponsors of this legislation recognize something important. The promise of zero road deaths is closer to our reach than ever. But we as a country absolutely will not get there unless auto safety innovations benefit everyone—not just those who can afford expensive add-ons.

That's why this bill requires automakers to provide new car buyers with life-saving safety systems, like AEB with pedestrian detection and blind spot warning. Safety should never be treated as a luxury, yet automakers do it constantly. A Consumer Reports analysis recently found that buyers often must pay more than \$2,000 extra for these features that should come standard, but instead are bundled with items like heated seats or larger wheels.

The safety title also would greatly strengthen the five-star new car safety ratings program—which is critical but desperately needs an upgrade—and require drunk driving prevention technology. It would address several deadly hazards involving child heatstroke in cars, keyless ignition vehicles, and limousines.

Consumer Reports urges every member of Congress to support this transformative and necessary legislation, because it's time lawmakers stood up for *everyone's* safety. Thank you.