



ADVOCATES
FOR HIGHWAY
& AUTO SAFETY

**STATEMENT OF CATHY CHASE,
President, Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety
June 23, 2020**

Press Teleconference on Motor Vehicle Safety Title of the Moving Forward Act (H.R. 2)

Good Morning. Thank you all for joining us today on this call. I am Cathy Chase, President of Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety, a unique coalition of insurers, consumers, public health, law enforcement and safety groups dedicated to preventing motor vehicle crashes.

Yesterday, the U.S. House of Representatives released the Moving Forward Act – a legislative package that contains commonsense policy improvements to address the persistently high death and injury toll. Last year, 36,120 people were killed in crashes, and millions more are injured on our roadways every year, at a comprehensive annual cost to society of over \$800 billion dollars.

The Moving Forward Act advances collision avoidance technology and improved design for crashworthiness, which will result in safer vehicles to protect families.

For example, automatic emergency braking, commonly known as “AEB,” can reduce front-to-rear crashes with injuries in passenger vehicles by 56 percent, according to the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety. The Moving Forward Act would require this lifesaving technology to meet a minimum federal standard and be installed as standard equipment in all new passenger cars, commercial motor vehicles over 10,000 pounds, and school buses. This requirement would prevent or mitigate a range of crashes caused by some of the leading killers -- speed, impairment, distraction and fatigue.

Additionally, to address the scourge of drunk driving which kills more than 10,000 people every year, the bill requires auto makers to put technology, such as driver monitoring or advanced sensors that can detect alcohol, into new cars.

An issue sometimes related to drunk driving is limousine safety. When people choose to hire a limo for special celebrations, they think they are making a responsible, safe choice. However, limos are lacking in some basic safety features like seat belts for all passengers. The bill’s improvements to limo safety will help assure someone’s happiest day is not turned into their worst nightmare.

Also in terms of being a responsible motorist, it is a sad fact that even the most conscientious, loving parents and caregivers can get distracted, or suffer from fatigue – especially new parents, and unknowingly leave their child in a vehicle. This bill will rectify the “hot cars” syndrome by requiring proven and affordable technology.

Unintended consequences of the newer keyless ignition systems, also known as push-button starts, are carbon monoxide poisoning and rollaways. Both these issues would be resolved with this bill.

Lastly, the U.S. New Car Assessment Program, commonly known as “Stars on Cars,” which has been instrumental in helping car buyers make informed decisions, will be updated.

Advocates commends Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Frank Pallone, Jr. and, and of course Subcommittee Chair Jan Schakowsky who is joining us today, as well as the sponsors of the standalone bills that contributed to this comprehensive package. We also applaud Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman Peter DeFazio for advancing a number of pro-safety measures in the INVEST in America Act, which also was included in the Moving Forward Act.

We have an outstanding lineup of speakers. After they have given their remarks, we will take questions from the press. [This event is being recorded and the audio will be available on our website shortly after it concludes, SafeRoads.org.]