



**STATEMENT OF
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Autonomous Vehicles Tenets Rollout Virtual Press Conference Remarks
November 30, 2020**

I'm Dr. Stephen Hargarten, Professor of Emergency Medicine and the Founding Director of the Comprehensive Injury Center at the Medical College of Wisconsin. I also serve as Consumer Co-Chair on the Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety Board of Directors.

Emergency medicine doctors and nurses are on the front lines of caring for critically injured patients from motor vehicle crashes. These crashes are violent, unforgiving and often tragically fatal. It is this reason that motivates us to actively support proven solutions and countermeasures to curb this solvable public health burden.

Many have touted autonomous vehicles as a potential solution. I share this hope; however, if AVs are left unfettered, unchecked, and unregulated, this so-called "cure" could result in even more preventable crashes, injuries and fatalities. This threat is especially concerning when it comes to vulnerable road users like pedestrians and bicyclists, who lack the protections afforded by a 4,000-pound car.

I think it's worth noting that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has identified motor vehicle injuries as a "Winnable Battle," in part through the use of technology. Requiring crash avoidance technology, also known as Advanced Driver Assistance Systems, in every new vehicle is a step that our Nation's leaders could take right now. The Insurance Institute for Highway Safety has found that vehicles equipped with this technology experience significantly fewer crashes than those without. This includes 56 percent fewer front-to-rear crashes involving injuries in cars equipped with forward collision warning plus autobrake, and nearly 80 percent fewer crashes in vehicles with rear automatic emergency braking when combined with rearview camera and parking sensors. Clearly, lives can be saved, while at the same time, the public is given a chance to see that technology, when used and regulated properly, can improve safety.

In conclusion, I would be remiss not to talk about how this year has presented new and unprecedented challenges to first responders and health care providers. Their selfless dedication to others in the face of a deadly pandemic has been nothing short of remarkable and heroic. As health care workers everywhere continue to provide this critical service, our hard work to control the epidemic of motor vehicle crashes must also continue. Our efforts today and in the coming months to advance these AV tenets is key to that goal. Thank you.