

**STATEMENT OF
Andy Warner (Littleton, CO)
at Press Conference on the Surface Transportation Investment Act of 2021
June 15, 2021**

Hi, I am Andy Warner, and I am here today to talk about my daughter, Taylor Grace, who was killed in 2010, at almost 17 months old, when our car was hit from behind. Taylor was killed when the seat in front of her collapsed in a totally predictable way. She was killed by a seat that met the federal standard. Our little girl did not live to see her second birthday, but this failing standard is now almost 54 years old.

We chose the vehicle we were in because we thought it was safe. Yet, because the government has failed to modernize the seatback standard, parents just like us are putting their own children at risk every day when they are doing exactly as the government recommends – putting their babies in the back seat.

Recently we learned that the Department of Transportation has studied this issue. In 2019 career experts in the federal government said a fix would cost less than \$5 per seat – less than it costs to wash your car.

Senators Markey and Blumenthal have a bill that will finally modernize the standard and we were excited to hear it was part of the Highway bill. When we learned the Senate Highway bill fails to require a fix we were shocked. It is not a complicated idea to use existing government research to try and fix a problem everyone knows exists.

Anything less than requiring a modernized seatback standard is saying to all those families who have suffered as we have that our suffering was for nothing. It says to the families who will experience preventable injuries and deaths your future suffering also does not matter.

The Senate can Modernize the Seatback Standard to spare other families the tragedy we had to suffer. They should do it quickly.

Thank you for your time.