



**STATEMENT OF
Angela Jones at Press Conference to Ensure Safety is Advanced in
Any Transportation/Infrastructure Package
July 20, 2021**

September 3, 2019 was the day our whole world came crashing down. It was the day our precious little girl went to Heaven. Charly was just a couple months shy of turning 4. She was our little ray of sunshine, who brought so much joy into our lives. She was always smiling and giggling, and she adored her two older sisters. I know she made a huge impact on so many people in her short 3 years and 10 months on this earth. Almost, two years later, it is still so surreal that she is gone.

September 3rd was a day where we were out of our normal routine. We were leaving on vacation the following day and had decided to keep Charly home from preschool. She was going to stay with my husband since he worked from home. That morning after I left for work, my husband dropped our two old girls off at their elementary school and he brought Charly back home. When he pulled into our driveway, he got out of the truck and went inside the house to start his normal work day. In his mind, he thought he dropped them all off at school, like he normally does. He didn't realize she was in the truck until I called on my lunch break to check on how she was doing. I immediately heard the panic in his voice when he realized she was supposed to be home with him. He ran out to the driveway, opened the door to the truck, and found our precious little girl still strapped into her car seat, unresponsive. She had succumbed to the heat.

Those next few hours were the worst moments of our lives. My husband and I had to leave the hospital without our little girl. I cannot put

into words what that felt like. It was indescribable, like I was living in a nightmare. I just kept screaming out, how is this happening? We had to go tell our 9 and 5 year old daughters that their little sister was in an accident and she wasn't coming home. She was now an angel in Heaven. The sounds of their cries were absolutely soul crushing.

I am sharing my story with you today, in hopes that it will make a difference and it will help prevent another family from experiencing this unthinkable heartbreak. I am sure a lot of people here today have heard all of the statistics and the numbers of how many children have died in hot cars over the decades, and you have heard countless stories of devastation. Most people think this could never happen to them. I used to be one of those people.

I have felt so many emotions since we lost Charly. I have felt sad, empty, disbelief, pain, guilt, and anger. I am angry because if GM would have followed through on their promise in 2001 to add detection to vehicles starting in 2004, my little girl would still be alive today. We owned a 2015 GMC Sierra and it had no such technology. A voluntary agreement by the auto industry is not enough. 17 years later it still hasn't happened, now they're installing less effective technology that won't address a major percentage of hot car deaths. It is simply not enough.

It breaks our hearts to know that there is affordable, available technology out there that could have detected our little girl in my husband's vehicle and saved her life by sounding an alarm and sending an alert to his phone. My husband was only 20 feet away from her the entire time she was trapped inside his vehicle. Had he known, he would have done literally anything to protect her. The Hot Cars Act, which is part of the House INVEST in America Act, should be passed immediately so that all vehicles come with this life-saving technology.

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