



**ADVOCATES  
FOR HIGHWAY  
& AUTO SAFETY**

**STATEMENT OF  
Cathy Chase, President  
Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety  
at Press Conference to Ensure Safety is Advanced in  
Any Transportation/Infrastructure Package  
July 20, 2021**

Good morning. I'm Cathy Chase, president of Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety. Thank you for joining us.

We are holding today's event because the infrastructure legislation that is garnering so much attention in the media and across the country is about much more than fixing damaged roads and bridges. It is also about the fixing the unacceptable death and injury toll on our roads, helping to prevent other families from struggling with the trauma of losing a loved one in a crash or suffering a debilitating injury, and addressing inequities by requiring available and affordable safety technologies on every new vehicle to protect every person traveling in a car or truck, riding a bicycle, and walking or rolling.

If proven safety solutions are not advanced in the bill passed by Congress, over 183,000 people will be killed and nearly 14 million injured in motor vehicle crashes at a comprehensive cost of more than \$5 trillion over the five-year time span of the legislation. Every major surface transportation reauthorization bill in the last few decades has included significant vehicle safety upgrades. Now must not be any different.

We have a terrific lineup of speakers who will address the safety issues in greater detail and underscore the urgency to seize this moment. President Biden, much like the families joining us today, knows firsthand the enormous loss and grief caused by traffic crashes. The bill sent to the President must be worthy of his signature and of the heroic families who advocate for change in memory of their loved ones.

Thank you.