

November 3, 2023

Speaker of the House Mike Johnson
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries
2433 Rayburn House Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Johnson and Leader Jeffries:

As a coalition of public safety organizations and industries dedicated to eliminating drunk driving on our nation's roads, we write in strong opposition to offered amendment #60/rule #20 – introduced by Representative Thomas Massie (R-KY) – for inclusion in the FY2024 House Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies (THUD) Appropriations bill, which would misguidedly prohibit funding for Section 24220 of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Public Law 117-58; IIJA). This section, targeted by the amendment, codifies the bipartisan Honoring Abbas Family Legacy to Terminate (HALT) Drunk Driving Act, and requires all new motor vehicles to be equipped with advanced technology that prevents impaired driving on our roadways. Amendment #60/rule #20 seeks to reverse this bipartisan law by not allowing funds to be spent on implementation of “Advanced Impaired Driving Technology.”

The negative consequences of amendment #60/rule #20 cannot be overstated. In 2021, 42,939 lives were lost on our nation's roadways – an increase of more than 10,000 deaths from the previous decade – and alcohol-impaired driving was responsible for over 13,000 of those fatalities. Double-digit increases in drunk driving fatalities in recent years highlight the need for the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) to promulgate safety standards that would require lifesaving “Advanced Impaired Driving Technology” in all new motor vehicles. The Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS) estimates that *10,158 lives will be saved every year when the law is in full effect.*

Mr. Massie's amendment mischaracterizes the intent of the HALT Act under the IIJA, which would prevent impaired drivers from *illegally* operating vehicles and causing fatalities and injuries on our nation's roads. Our organizations support privacy protections that would address concerns about the collection, storage and use of consumer information. We are willing to address Mr. Massie's concerns as part of the rulemaking process.

Given the current crisis and the outsized human impact drunk driving has on families and communities across the nation, it is essential that NHTSA dedicate the necessary resources and attention to confronting this crisis immediately. Our organizations strongly urge you to vote NO on Representative Massie's amendment #60/rule #20 to the THUD Appropriations bill. **In the event this amendment is made in order; we request it not be offered with additional amendments en bloc so that all House members have the opportunity to singularly register their opposition to this misguided proposal.**

Sincerely,

AAA
Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety

America Walks
Bacardi USA, Inc.
Beam Suntory
Beer Institute
Brown-Forman
Consumer Federation of America
Consumer Reports
Distilled Spirits Council of the United States (DISCUS)
Families for Safe Streets
Foundation for Advancing Alcohol Responsibility (Responsibility.org)
Governors Highway Safety Association (GHSA)
The League of American Bicyclists
Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD)
National Organization for Youth Safety (NOYS)
National Safety Council (NSC)
National Sleep Foundation
Ole Smoky
Pernod Ricard USA
Safe Kids Worldwide
Safe States Alliance
Society of Advancement of Violence and Injury Research
Stopdistractions.org
Truck Safety Coalition
Vision Zero Network

cc: Members of the House of Representatives