

May 20, 2024

The Honorable Gary Peters, Chair
The Honorable Todd Young, Ranking Member
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Subcommittee on Surface Transportation, Maritime, Freight, and Ports
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chair Peters and Ranking Member Young:

Our families have endured the loss of a loved one or sustained serious, lifelong injuries as a result of preventable motor traffic crashes and incidents. And, we are far from alone. More than 42,000 people were killed, and nearly 2.4 million people were injured in traffic crashes in 2022, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). While people are killed and families' lives are forever changed by the simple act of traveling on public roadways, solutions to stop this pain and suffering are known and available, yet remain under-used, delayed and sidelined. We must prioritize their implementation with urgency.

A comprehensive approach is needed to protect all road users and prevent or mitigate the deadly outcomes due to crashes. The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) adopted a Safe System Approach (SSA) in 2022 to address the roadway crisis. By focusing on advancing policies that will engender safer people, safer roads, safer vehicles, safer speeds and post-crash care, meaningful improvements can be realized. The SSA has been implemented in other similar countries for decades, and significant reductions in traffic fatalities have been attained.

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Pub. L. 117-58) directed robust funding for roadway safety infrastructure improvements consistent with the SSA and timely vehicle safety rulemakings and upgrades. Less than one month ago, the DOT released the final rule for automatic emergency braking (AEB) with pedestrian detection and response for passenger motor vehicles. This vital technology will prevent or mitigate crashes due to distraction, impairment, drowsy driving and speeding, and it is conservatively estimated to save at least 360 lives and prevent 24,000 injuries annually. Yet, improvements should be made to expand the utility of AEB systems including to detect and respond to bicyclists, motorcyclists and other vulnerable road users.

This advancement must be followed by rulemakings to require AEB for heavy vehicles, advanced impaired driving technology, systems to detect and alert to unattended children in vehicles, technology to curb driver distraction and automation complacency, lane departure warning and lane keeping assist systems, adaptive driving beam headlamps, upgrade hoods and bumpers to better protect vulnerable road user safety, updates to the New Car Assessment Program (NCAP) seat belts for limousine passengers, strengthen seatback safety standards and automatic shutoff and keyless ignition systems as also directed in the IJIA. The technology to solve these issues is available.

Conversely, we are deeply concerned about the safety of automated driving system (ADS) technology operating on our roads. According to the NHTSA Standing General Order (SGO, 2021-01) data on crashes involving vehicles equipped with ADS which includes autonomous vehicles (AV), and Level 2 advanced driver assistance systems (L2 ADAS, partially automated driving systems), nearly 600 crashes involving ADS driven vehicles and more than 1,400 crashes involving L2 ADAS driven vehicles have been reported between July 2021 and April of this year. Absent comprehensive federal safety regulations, everyone in or sharing the roads with vehicles equipped with ADS is at risk.

We urge the Subcommittee to again prioritize roadway safety in the next transportation reauthorization, ensure robust funding for roadway safety upgrades, and direct new rulemakings for vehicle safety technologies. Whether you are a driver, a passenger, or outside a vehicle standing, walking, biking or rolling, everyone deserves safe travel on U.S. roadways.

Sincerely,

Cheryle Adams (Washington, DC), I was injured in a near-fatal crash in 1993 when a car crashed into me while I was a pedestrian standing at a crosswalk in Washington, D.C. I continue to live with permanent scarring to my right leg as a reminder of this kind of traffic violence as well as daily chronic pain. DC Pedestrian Advisory Council

Dillon Angulo (Miami, FL), Dillon and his girlfriend, Naibel Benavides, were standing beside his parked vehicle off a Florida roadside with when a Tesla Model S operating on Autopilot sped past a stop sign, through additional warning signs and eventually struck the vehicle. Naibel was killed and Dillon suffered a traumatic brain injury as a result of the collision.

Sherri Arrington (Palmer, AK), my husband and I were traveling on I95 north of Boston when a concrete screed came out of a commercial landscape truck. It pierced our windshield severing Tom's spinal cord, 3 vertebrae and his mandible killing his instantly. Family Advocate Families for Safe Streets and Truck Safety Coalition

Patty Avery (Evansville, IN), In January 2019, my daughter Bethany Schklar's car was hit as she turned left onto a busy road in Chattanooga, Tennessee, by a speeding driver who ran a red light. Bethany died four days later from her injuries. Families for Safe Streets, Executive Committee

Patty Banks (Bay Village, OH), severely injured in a hit-and-run crash on May 15, 2019, in Avon Lake, Ohio. My carotid artery was severed, my pelvis fractured in two places, I had a brain hemorrhage, a clavicle fracture and a broken patella. The hit-and-run driver lied to the police when they found her and only received one year probation at sentencing. Advocate for Bike Cleveland and Families for Safe Streets

Laura Beck (Midlothian, VA), mother of Anderson who died in a hot car and wife of Aaron, who took his own life after discovering he had inadvertently left their son in the car and went to work. Kids and Car Safety Family Advocate

Lisa Berry (Huntsville, AL), mother and father of Lexi Berry who died at 2 years old in a hot car. Kids and Car Safety Family Advocate

Pam Biddle (Waverly Hall, GA), Pam's son, Aaron Lee, was in their car with his father, Brian, and Brian's partner, Stephanie Swaim, stopped in slowed traffic when a speeding semi failed to stop and rear-ended their vehicle pushing it under the semi in front of them. The vehicles burst into flames, killing Aaron, Brian and Stephanie. Board Member, Citizens for Reliable and Safe Highways (CRASH)

Deona Bien (Tucson, AZ), mother of Aslyn Ryan who died in a hot car while running errands with sitter. Kids and Car Safety Family Advocate

Stephen Bingham (San Rafael, CA), My daughter Sylvia Bingham was killed biking to work in Cleveland by a box truck's right hook into her path September 15, 2009. Had the truck had side guards, she would have been injured but not killed when the 25,000 lb. truck's wheels crushed her. Ride of Silence, Families for Safe Streets, Marin County Bicycle Coalition

Sue Boe (Odessa, FL), grandmother of Kate who died in a hot car at 5-months-old. Kids and Car Safety Family Advocate

Clay Blackburn (Shreveport, LA), parents of Addyson who died in a hot car at 6 months old, dad forgot her in the backseat while he was at work. Kids and Car Safety Family Advocate

Delyla Blackburn (Shreveport, LA), parents of Addyson who died in a hot car at 6 months old, dad forgot her in the backseat while he was at work. Kids and Car Safety Family Advocate

Brittany Borgess (Duboisstown, PA), step-mother of Samaria who died in a hot car at 4-years-old. Kids and Car Safety Family Advocate

Demetrius Branca (Tallahassee, FL), Demetrius's son Anthony, 19, was riding his motorcycle from community college classes to work on a Friday afternoon. He was using all the correct gear and driving safely. He slowed down to make a left turn and the driver of a large commercial van behind him did not see him because he was distracted. He did not slow down, swerve or hit the brakes; the van filled with thousands of pounds of equipment crushed Anthony. It took about half an hour for Anthony to succumb to his wounds. Founder of the Anthony Phoenix Branca Foundation

Beth Brown (Chandler, AZ), mother of Amberlee who died in a hot car. Kids and Car Safety Family Advocate

Kyle Brown (Chandler, AZ), father of Amberlee who died in a hot car. Kids and Car Safety Family Advocate

Kelli Brown (Chandler, AZ), sister of Amberlee who died in a hot car. Kids and Car Safety Family Advocate

Emma Brown (Chandler, AZ), sister of Amberlee who died in a hot car. Kids and Car Safety Family Advocate

Lindee Brown (Chandler, AZ), sister of Amberlee who died in a hot car. Kids and Car Safety Family Advocate

Camille Brown (Chandler, AZ), sister of Amberlee who died in a hot car. Kids and Car Safety Family Advocate

Latanya Byrd (Philadelphia, PA), my niece, Samara Banks, and my three nephews were killed on Roosevelt Boulevard on July 16, 2013, by speeding drivers. Families for Safe Streets Greater Philadelphia, Co-Chair

Tyler Cestia (New Iberia, LA), father of Thomas who died at 2-years-old in his father's GM truck that had a simple rear-seat reminder alert, not occupant detection. Kids and Car Safety Family Advocate

Pamela Cestia (New Iberia, LA), mother of Thomas who died at 2-years-old in his father's GM truck that had a simple rear-seat reminder alert, not occupant detection. Kids and Car Safety Family Advocate

Amy Cohen (Brooklyn, NY), my 12-year-old son was struck and killed in front of our home by a driver going too fast operating a commercial van. Families for Safe Streets, Co-Founder

Dr. Norman Collins, Sr. (Raleigh, NC), grandfather of Norman Collins II ("Bishop") who died at 3 months-12 days old after being accidentally left in a hot car in a church parking lot. Kids and Car Safety Family Advocate

Melody Costello (Medina, OH), mother of 9 month old who died in a hot car on July 29, 2002. Kids and Car Safety Family Advocate

Todd Costello (Medina, OH), father of 9 month old who died in a hot car on July 29, 2002. Kids and Car Safety Family Advocate

Emily Costello (Medina, OH), sister of 9 month old who died in a hot car on July 29, 2002. Kids and Car Safety Family Advocate

Kacey Costello (Medina, OH), sister of 9 month old who died in a hot car on July 29, 2002. Kids and Car Safety Family Advocate

Chanda Crutcher (Decatur, AL), mother of Kingston who survived in a hot car. Kids and Car Safety Family Advocate

Joan Dean (New York, NY), my Grandson, Sammy Cohen Eckstein, was killed by a reckless driver. Founding Member, Families for Safe Streets

Amish Desai (Chicago, IL) and Karishma Desai (Philadelphia, PA), our beloved Mom, Renuka "Renu" Desai, was struck and killed by a negligent driver on January 5, 2023. She was taking her daily walk, her respite while caring for our dying Father, on a clearly designated pedestrian crosswalk that was supposed to protect her. She was taken from us by an act of traffic violence.

Dr. Andrew Dill (Evansville, IN), father of Oliver Dill who died at 3 years old in a hot car. Kids and Car Safety Family Advocate

Jamie Dill (Evansville, IN), mother of Oliver Dill who died at 3 years old in a hot car. Kids and Car Safety Family Advocate

Michael Doyle (Alexandria, VA), a driver of an SUV turned left without looking into the turn and crashed into me as I was more than halfway through the crosswalk. The crash fractured my forehead, broke other bones and damaged nerves in my leg, but the most serious consequence of the crash was the subdermal hematomas in my brain. If AEB technology had been installed on the SUV that crashed into me, my injuries could have been avoided or at least minimized. Founded the Northern Virginia Families for Safe Streets with its three chapters in Alexandria (AFSS), Arlington (Arl FSS) and Fairfax (Ffx FSS)

Amie Duemer (Lubbock, TX), mother of Josef who died in a hot car at 12 months old in 2005. Kids and Car Safety Family Advocate

Jodie Edwards (Liberty Township, OH), mother of Jenna who died in a hot car at 11-months-old. Kids and Car Safety Family Advocate

Cindi Enamorado (Los Angeles, CA), brother Raymond Stephen Olivares was killed and his girlfriend Maria Rivas Cruz injured while walking by a fleeing driver. SoCal Families for Safe Streets - Co Chair

Nicole Engler (Oregon), daughter Remi lost due to hot car tragedy at 21 months. Kids and Car Safety Family Advocate

Peter Engler (Oregon), daughter Remi lost due to hot car tragedy at 21 months. Kids and Car Safety Family Advocate

Lindsay Caron Epstein (West Palm Beach, FL though I was hit while cycling in San Diego, CA), I was cycling in a suburban neighborhood, a few blocks from the ocean. This street had two lanes in each direction, with parking along the curb, speed limit was 45 mph, and no bike lane. A driver hit me from behind and took off. It was a hit-and-run. My skull split open I was in the hospital for 5 months and acquired permanent disabilities. [Adapt2Play](#), founder

Meagan Everett (Shreveport, LA), mother of Josiah Gene Everett who died in a hot car at 1 year old. Kids and Car Safety Family Advocate

Laura Fredricks (Becket, MA), Our daughter, Emily Claire Fredricks, was 24 years old when she was killed by the driver of a private sanitation truck while cycling to her job as a french pastry chef in Philadelphia on November 28, 2017. The driver did not use his turn signal, did not yield to Emily as indicated by signage, was fumbling with paperwork and had ear buds in. There was dash cam video and street video. He was not held accountable for killing Emily. Families for Safe Streets Greater Philadelphia, Co-Chair

Jena Frost (Lyman, ME), Jena's son, Wyatt, was 5 years old when he was killed by a box truck unequipped with automatic emergency braking (AEB). Board Member, Parents Against Tired Truckers (P.A.T.T.)

James Gersing (Miami, FL), grandfather of Sammy Joseph Schnall, 1, who died in a hot car. Kids and Car Safety Family Advocate

Vanessa Goolsby (Miami, FL), mother of Micayla who died in a hot car in 2016. Kids and Car Safety Family Advocate

Michael Goolsby (Miami, FL), father of Micayla who died in a hot car in 2016. Kids and Car Safety Family Advocate

Richie Gray (Hartsville, SC), parent of Sophia Jane Goyeneche-Gray who died in a hot car at 13 months old in 2014. Kids and Car Safety Family Advocate

Seth Grimes (Washington, DC), Hit while in a bike lane by the driver of a large pickup truck who said he didn't see me. He was cited for failure to yield. Washington Area Bicyclist Association

Doug Grote (Moore, SC), father of Kristen who died in a hot car at 3 years old. Kids and Car Safety Family Advocate

Diana Grote (Moore, SC), mother of Kristen who died in a hot car at 3 years old. Kids and Car Safety Family Advocate

Anna Guardipee (Salem, VA), Anna and her best friend Jenny were returning to Virginia from North Carolina for Anna's granddaughter's baptism. They were stopped in traffic on I-77 when a distracted semi-driver failed to notice the stopped traffic and slammed into the back of their car, pushing them into the semi they were stopped behind. Jenny and Anna were airlifted to the hospital. Jenny fought hard but never regained consciousness. Anna survived and is paralyzed from the waist down. Board Member, Citizens for Reliable and Safe Highways (CRASH)

Steven Hardy-Braz (Farmville, NC), While cycling, I was struck from behind by a driver operating a car travelling at an estimated 60 - 65 mph. This driver was operating her car with a revoked drivers license, no insurance, expired license tags, and more.

Carol Harrison (Purcellville, VA), mother of Chase who died in a hot car at 21-months-old. Kids and Car Safety Family Advocate

Miles Harrison (Purcellville, VA), father of Chase who died in a hot car at 21-months-old. Kids and Car Safety Family Advocate

Jessica Hart (Washington, DC), my 5-year-old daughter Allison (Allie) Hart was killed on September 13, 2021, when she was struck and killed while riding her bike in a crosswalk. The crosswalk was at a four-way stop and in a school zone. The driver did not make a complete stop and failed to look for anyone on the sidewalk. Advocate for Families for Safe Streets

Jay Hightman (Charlottesville, VA), It will be five years, on June 24th, 2024, that my 20-year-old daughter Robyn Avril Hightman lost their life doing bicycle messenger work in New York City, when a for-hire driver blocked the bicycle lane and the speeding distracted driver of a box truck knocked them to the ground and then crushed them into the road. Measures such as automatic emergency braking and side underride guards on combination truck trailers as well as single-unit trucks, such as the one responsible for my daughter's death, should be required on these types vehicles. In addition to this, infrastructure design changes need to be made which prioritizes the safety for all road users, but especially the most vulnerable such as bicyclist, pedestrians and the disabled. The Robyn Hightman Foundation, President, Families for Safe Streets

Erin Holley (Charleston SC), mother of Finn who survived being left in a hot car at five weeks old in 2017. Kids and Car Safety Family Advocate

Jane Horal (Brighton, MI), my husband Daniel Horal was bicycling in Island Lake Recreational Park and was hit by a distracted driver on his phone April 24, 2019. Dan died two days later from his severe injuries. Chief Officer, GoLivCo-Horal Family Foundation

Latanya Hull (Los Angeles, CA), my son was killed by hit and run driver. Advocate for SoCal Families for Safe Streets

Daphne & Steve Izer (Lisbon, ME), Daphne and Steve's son, Jeff, and three of his friends were killed in 1993 when a semi-truck driver fell asleep at the wheel and ran over their parked car. Founders, Parents Against Tired Truckers

Lee Jackson (Arlington, TX), Lee survived a crash with a commercial motor vehicle (CMV). Board Member, Citizens for Reliable and Safe Highways (CRASH)

Amanda Jaczkowski (Detroit, MI), Essentially, I was riding in a bike lane through an intersection and was right hooked by a large gravel hauler (under the wheels). Even after 7 years and about 30 surgeries, I'm permanently disabled. It has made the career trajectory I was on impossible, not to mention the rest of the opportunities an active, high achieving individual who was disabled at 25 miss out on for the rest of my life.

Erin Johnson (Rockwall, NC), mother of Bridget Leigh who died in a hot car. Kids and Car Safety Family Advocate

Scott Jones (Gilbert, AZ), father of Charlotte who died at 3 years old in a hot car. Kids and Car Safety Family Advocate

Angela Jones (Gilbert, AZ), mother of Charlotte who died at 3 years old in a hot car. Kids and Car Safety Family Advocate

Steve Kiefer (Naples, FL), lost his son Mitchel Kiefer in a distracted driving crash in Michigan. Chairman of the Kiefer Foundation

Christy King (Williamsburg, VA), lost her son Christopher King due to a crash caused by a reckless, impaired and distracted driver. Founder, Christopher King Foundation

Dawn King (Davisburg, MI), Dawn's father, Bill Badger, was killed in 2004 while slowed in traffic when he was hit from behind by a truck driver who had fallen asleep at the wheel. Board Member and Vice President, Citizens for Reliable and Safe Highways & Truck Safety Coalition

Judith Kottick (Jersey City, NJ), my 23 year old daughter, Ella Bandes, was tragically killed by a reckless MTA bus driver in 2013 at the Myrtle Wyckoff intersection on the border of Brooklyn and Queens. Families for Safe Streets NY, Founding Member

Gina LaBlanc (San Jose, CA), my son Kyle was a pedestrian hit and killed by a tow truck driver. Kyle stepped into the bike lane to avoid a puddle and was hit by the tow truck driver driving 45 mph in the bike lane to get onto the freeway. Advocate for San Francisco Bay Area Families for Safe Streets

Matilde Larson (Stamford, CT), my 24-year-old daughter Nina Larson was struck and killed by a driver in a crosswalk, in broad daylight in Washington, DC on November 13, 2021. The driver who

killed her remained on the scene but has never been charged. Families for Safe Streets - DC Chapter/Steering Committee Member

Todd and Rosa Linder (Garden City, KS), lost their 16-year-old daughter, Cassandra Kay Linder, on March 13 2023, due to a distracted/fatigued commercial motor vehicle (CMV) driver. We believe had the truck been equipped with a driver facing camera, the driver would have been more alert and cautious about how he drove the vehicle.

Nora Lopez (San Leandro, CA), lost her son Dominic Lopez-Toney, a medical student, when he was hit by a semi-truck that attempted an illegal U-turn and struck him. The crash occurred in broad daylight. Truck Safety Coalition Victim Volunteer

John Alexander Lowell (San Francisco, CA), In San Francisco on March 23, 2001, a speeding north bound van on Mission Street hit me as was jogging within the crosswalk to cross Mission Street. The driver had run through the red light. I sustained many injuries, including TBI. Advocate for San Francisco Bay Area Chapter of Families for Safe Streets

Jeri Lynch (Sherman Oaks, CA), son Conor was killed by distracted hit and run driver speeding on October 19, 2010, in Sherman Oaks, while crossing the street for cross-country training with Notre Dame high school. He was 16 years old. Founder, The Conor Lynch Foundation

Alan Lyon (Dolgeville, NY), father of Sophia Lea Marie who died in a hot car at 15 months old. Kids and Car Safety Family Advocate

Carla Lyon (Dolgeville, NY), mother of Sophia Lea Marie who died in a hot car at 15 months old. Kids and Car Safety Family Advocate

Carol MacDonald (Staunton VA), grandmother of Robbie MacDonald who died at 3 years old in a hot car. Kids and Car Safety Family Advocate

Marta Magellan (Miami, FL), grandmother of Sammy Joseph Schnall, 1, who died in a hot car. Kids and Car Safety Family Advocate

Vibha Marks (Dallas, Texas), mother of Victoria Marks who died at 1 year old in a hot car. Kids and Car Safety Family Advocate

Joe Martinez (Fresno, CA), in 2013, Paul Martinez, age 21; my only son was struck and killed by a speeding driver in Fresno. Advocate for Families for Safe Streets

Ken Mercurio (Middletown, OH), Car passing me did not provide sufficient clearance, and hit my left handlebar. It sent me into the pavement, breaking my pelvis and hip socket, requiring two surgeries. Ohio Bicycle Federation

Stephanie Mitchell (St. Louis, MO), mother of Tate Mitchell who died 3 days after his first birthday when left unknowingly by his mother in a hot car. Kids and Car Safety Family Advocate

Rachel Morris (Locust Grove, GA), mother of Savannah Morris who had a near miss in 2018 after being forgotten in a vehicle at a park. Kids and Car Safety Family Advocate

Janice Mott (Ocean City, NJ), my only daughter was killed when riding a bike to work on the upper East side in NYC. There are no crosstown bike paths to allow cyclists to get to the west side to get to the n/s bike lanes into mid Manhattan. Advocate for Families for Safe Streets

Jessie Muckley (Medina, OH), loved one of 9 month old who died in a hot car on July 29, 2002. Kids and Car Safety Family Advocate

Trisha Nicolas (Bellwood, NE), mother of Weston Nicolas who died at 23 months old in a hot car. Kids and Car Safety Family Advocate

Chris Nicolas (Bellwood, NE), father of Weston Nicolas who died at 23 months old in a hot car. Kids and Car Safety Family Advocate

Julie Nicholson (Walnut Creek, CA), I was hit by a speeding driver who also ran a red light in San Francisco in 2020. Advocate for San Francisco Bay Area Families for Safe Streets

Louise Olin (Woodland Hills, CA), My husband, Milt Olin, was riding his bike safely and legally in a bike lane on Mulholland Hwy when he was stuck from behind and killed by LA County Sheriff. The evidence showed that the sheriff had received or sent over 100 text messages from the time he began work until the time of the crash. Milt Olin Foundation/President & CEO

Gabriela O'Shea (New Paltz, NY), I am the lucky survivor of a hit and run car crash on a route called a bicycle route even though it has a crumbling non-existent shoulder. But my great aunt, Maria Jesus, did not survive the crash that took her life as she was on a walk with her daughter. 1 person killed is too many. The infrastructure and information already exists for safe streets. Do it, you must do it in the best possible way. Advocate Families for Safe Streets

Nick Parent (Salt Lake City, UT), younger brother injured by a motorist failing to yield, and cutting him off. Families for Safe Streets, Regional Liaison

Dawn and Wes Peabody (Phoenix, AZ), parents of Maya Moo who died in a hot car. Kids and Car Safety Family Advocate

Stephanie Pinon (Albuquerque, NM), mother of Jahzel Pinon, 2, who died in a hot car. Kids and Car Safety Family Advocate

Israel Pinon (Albuquerque, NM), father of Jahzel Pinon, 2, who died in a hot car. Kids and Car Safety Family Advocate

Judith Proctor (Southport, CT), our beloved son Charle was killed by a driver while riding his bike to get Thai takeout during covid, May 5, 2020. Advocate for Families for Safe Streets & Watch for Me CT

Raymond Pryer Sr. (Houston, TX), Proud father of Raymond Darnell Pryer Jr. whom was left in a daycare bus on July 19, 2018, for 4 hours the temperature reached a 118 degrees he died of a Heatstroke which is preventable. Kids and Car Safety Family Advocate

Nereda Jones Pugh (Philadelphia, PA), my son, Nyier, was 28 when he was killed in a hit and run in Philadelphia, while riding his bike. He was struck by a tow truck driver on July 22, 2022, 2 blocks from our home. Advocate for Families for Safe Streets Greater Philadelphia

Dikeisha Whitlock-Pryer (Houston, TX), Proud mother of Raymond Darnell Pryer Jr. whom was left in a daycare bus on July 19, 2018, for 4 hours the temperature reached a 118 degrees he died of a Heatstroke which is preventable. Kids and Car Safety Family Advocate

Rosemary Quinn (Kingston, NY), lost partner John Host Lynch who was struck by a car while riding his bicycle in Kingston. Safe Pass Ulster Founder - Families For Safe Streets

John Ramsey (Medina, OH), grandfather of 9 month who died in a hot car on July 29, 2002. Kids and Car Safety Family Advocate

Carol Ramsey (Medina, OH), grandmother of 9 month who died in a hot car on July 29, 2002. Kids and Car Safety Family Advocate

JoAnne Ramsey (Medina, OH), loved one of 9 month old who died in a hot car on July 29, 2002. Kids and Car Safety Family Advocate

Sarah Risser (Portland, OR), I was driving with my son Henry Zietlow in rural WI when a negligent driver who was towing illegally crossed the center line and hit our car head on. Henry was behind the wheel, suffered severe head trauma, and died at the scene. I survived with injuries. Families for Safe Streets, BikeLoudPDX

Marissa Rodriguez (New City, NY), mother of Luna and Phoenix, 1 year old twins who passed due to being left in a hot car. Kids and Car Safety Family Advocate

Juan Rodriguez (New City, NY), father of Luna and Phoenix, 1 year old twins who passed due to being left in a hot car. Kids and Car Safety Family Advocate

Amber Rollins (Olathe, KS), mother who had a near miss with her 3-month-old. Director and Family Advocate Kids and Car Safety

Stephanie Salvilla, (Orlando, FL), Mother of Gannon Werking who died July 23, 2009 at 5 months old in a hot car. Kids and Car Safety Family Advocate

Lindsey Rogers-Seitz (Morrisville, NC), mother of Benjamin who died in a hot car. Kids and Car Safety Family Advocate

Fletcher Ross (Hickory, NC), father of Andrew who survived being left in a hot car. Kids and Car Safety Family Advocate

Paul Selden (Portage, MI), I was side-swiped by a drunk driver who veered into the striped/marked shoulder of the road I was bicycling within. My bike was damaged but fortunately I was not injured. If the driver had been one more inch to the right I would have been hit more seriously, thrown over a guard rail, pitched into a heavily wooded ravine and seriously injured. I believe improved driver assistance technology could have avoided the crash entirely. Bike Friendly Kalamazoo

Michel Shane (Malibu, CA), my life was forever altered on April 3, 2010, when my youngest daughter, Emily Rose Shane, was tragically killed by an enraged driver on Pacific Coast Highway in Malibu. This senseless act of violence stole her life and changed our family's trajectory. Advocate with Families for Safe Streets

David Shephard (Linden, NJ), my finance was killed by a hit and run driver in the Bronx NYC. Advocate for Transportation Alternatives\Families for Safe Streets

Leanna Simmons (Florence, AL), mother of Cooper Harris who died at 22 months old in a hot car. Kids and Car Safety Family Advocate

Loren Sidnt (Mexico Beach, FL), mother of Joziah who died in a hot car. Kids and Car Safety Family Advocate

Patricia Small (Fischer, TX), on November 25, 2007, my daughter Megan Small (21) was killed by a distracted driver (texting) while returning to Baylor University from Houston, Texas.

Jacob Smith (Denver, CO), involved a head-on collision in 2014 due to an impaired driver; suffered from TBI, facial reconstruction and a life-long disability. Executive Director, National Organizations for Youth Safety (NOYS)

Jennifer Smith (Woodbridge, IL), I lost my mother in a distracted driving crash in Oklahoma. CEO/President of Stopdistractions.org

Latasha (Tasha) Hairston Springs (Winston Salem, NC), I was texting and driving in NC and collided with the overpass and a separate vehicle carrying two passengers inside. I was seriously injured and the other victims were treated and released with minor injuries. Mindfully Aware Driving Solutions MAD Solutions CEO/Founder & African American Women Trucking Association AAWTA Outreach and Advocacy Director

Marietta Squire (Upper Marlboro, MD), My daughter Kayla Williams-Rawlinson was killed in a car crash by a driver driving 80 mph in a 30 mph school zone. The driver has history of DUIs, driving recklessly, and driving on a suspended license. At the time of the crash his license had been revoked since 2020! Advocate for Families for Safe Streets

Mike Stanley (currently Alpharetta GA. death occurred in Evans, GA), father of Sydney Stanley who died at 6 years of age in a hot car. Kids and Car Safety Family Advocate

Jenny Stanley (currently Alpharetta GA. death occurred in Evans, GA), mother of Sydney Stanley who died at 6 years of age in a hot car. Kids and Car Safety Family Advocate

Emily Stein (Medford, MA), my father, Howard Stein, was killed in Acton, MA in 2011 because of a distracted driver who was programming her GPS while driving. My dad was 61 and about to become a grandfather. Safe Roads Alliance, Executive Director

Russell Swift (Port St. Lucie, FL), Russ' son, Jasen, was killed instantly, as was a fellow Marine, while they drove in the dark to work in 1993, by a seventeen-year-old truck driver on an invalid learner's permit whose truck was stuck across two lanes after trying a U-turn, causing the car to drive into and under the side of the trailer, causing a fatal underride crash. Vice President, Truck Safety Coalition and Chair, Parents Against Tired Truckers

Michele Terry (Grandview, TX), mother of Mika who died in a hot car at only 6-months-old. Kids and Car Safety Family Advocate

Jennifer M. Tierney (Kernersville, NC), Jennifer's father, James Mooney, was killed on a dark, rural road in 1983 when he crashed into a truck with no visible lights blocking the roadway. Chair, Citizens for Reliable and Safe Highways (CRASH) and Truck Safety Coalition Board Member

Barbara Toth (Las Cruces, NM), Her husband was hit as a cyclist in New Mexico.

Tami Friedrich Trakh (Corona, CA), Tami's sister, Kris, brother-in-law, Alan, and two of their children, Brandie and Anthony, were killed in 1989 when a tanker truck overturned in front of them and exploded. President, Truck Safety Coalition

Samantha Trumbull (Washington, DC), permanently disabled by a crash in 2012. Advocate for DC Families for Safe Streets

Beatriz Viera (Somerset, NJ), mother of Adriana who died in a hot car. Kids and Car Safety Family Advocate

Tim Vogel (Downingtown, PA), His father was hit in 2007 by an impaired and distracted driver.

Melissa Wandall (Bradenton, Florida), Husband Mark was killed and brother Phil suffered permanent, debilitating injuries when a speeding driver ran a red light and crashed into their car. Melissa was nine months pregnant at the time. President, National Coalition Safer Roads

Roger Weimer (Medina, OH), relative of 9 month who died in a hot car on July 29, 2002. Kids and Car Safety Family Advocate

Haley & Rich Wesley (Angwin, CA), parents of Maddison who died in a hot car. Kids and Car Safety Family Advocate

Kristin Whitaker (Tampa, FL), mother of Lawson Whitaker who died at 2 years after he was undetected in the family vehicle during routine drop off at daycare. Kids and Car Safety Family Advocate

Kristina Wilcoxson (Midwest City, OK), mother of James Swindle who had a "near miss" in 2008

Nancy Cavanaugh-Wilson (LaMesa, CA), My husband, Kevin Wilson, was killed by a hit and run drunk driver on January 20, 2020. A protected bike lane may have saved his life. There's a forever hole in my heart. Advocate for Families for Safe Streets

Connie and Keith Worl (Anaconda, MT), our daughter Chloe Worl, age 25, was killed instantly in 2021 in Dillon, Montana when a lady crossed the center line and hit Chloe's truck head on. The lady was on Snap Chat and was texting. She was so distracted that she ignored the rumble strips in the road and drove in Chloe's lane for the length of a football field. She never hit the brakes.

Ken Yamamoto (Santa Barbara, CA), a van broadsided me while biking through a T-intersection, threw me off my bike, I rolled a couple of times, sustained knees and shoulders tendon and ligament damage. Santa Barbara Move (formerly bicycle coalition)

cc: The Honorable Maria Cantwell, Chair
The Honorable Roger Wicker, Ranking Member
Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation