

June 30, 2021

The Honorable Frank Pallone, Chair  
The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers, Ranking Member  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jan Schakowsky, Chair  
The Honorable Gus Bilirakis, Ranking Member  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
Consumer Protection and Commerce Subcommittee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Pallone, Ranking Member Rodgers, Chairwoman Schakowsky, and Ranking Member Bilirakis:

The undersigned insurance companies and organizations support the Hot Cars Act of 2021 (H.R. 3164), which requires all new cars to be equipped with a detection system to alert that a child has been left unattended inside the vehicle. The bill directs the United States Department of Transportation (U.S. DOT) to issue a final rule within two years after enactment.

Cars already remind us that our headlights have been left on, keys were left in the ignition and doors are ajar. Safety restraints, air bags and back-up cameras have been mandated and are saving lives. Occupant detection and alert systems will save the lives of countless children and pets that are accidentally left in back seats.

We are aware of the voluntary agreement announced by the Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers and the Association of Global Automakers, as well as statements from certain manufacturers regarding implementation of this technology dating back as far as 2004. However, there has been little progress made, and broad deployment of rear child detection systems by automakers remains largely unfulfilled. Without a minimum performance standard to ensure the systems' effectiveness and an enforceable requirement that it will be installed in all new cars, lives will continue to be lost.

We support both the detection of occupants and the notification alert. A system that detects the presence of a child will also address the problem of children who climb into unoccupied vehicles, which represent approximately 26 percent of identified hot car fatalities annually.

We urge Congress to pass legislation that directs the U.S. DOT to issue a standard that will detect the presence of a child and alert the driver. We are concerned that doing anything less will continue to jeopardize the lives of children and pets.

Sincerely,

Allstate Insurance Company  
American Family Insurance  
American Property Casualty Insurance Association  
Amica Mutual Insurance Company  
Farmers Insurance  
Independent Insurance Agents & Brokers of America  
Liberty Mutual Insurance

National Association of Mutual Insurance Companies  
National Association of Professional Insurance Agents  
Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company  
NJM Insurance Group  
Selective Insurance Company of America  
State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company

cc: Members of the U.S. House of Representatives