

October 17, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

cc: Ann Carlson, Acting Administrator, NHTSA
cc: Shalanda Young, Director, OMB

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

As national public health and traffic safety organizations and industries alarmed by the number of fatalities and serious injuries on our nation's roadways, we write to implore you to ensure the successful and timely completion of Section 24220 of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Public Law 117-58), the bipartisan "Advanced Impaired Driving Technology" rulemaking codified as the Honoring Abbas Family Legacy to Terminate (HALT) Drunk Driving Act.

Next month marks the two-year anniversary of President Biden signing the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act into law. In Spring 2022 and again this year, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) published now-unmet deadlines for the Advanced Impaired Driving Technology rulemaking as part of its Agency Rule List. We urge you to expeditiously begin the rulemaking process for this historic law, pressing for the issuance of a Final Rule not later than November 2024.

Our nation is in the midst of a roadway safety crisis, with 10,000 more people killed on our roads in 2021 than a decade earlier – 42,939 lives lost in 2021 versus 32,479 lives lost in 2011. In 2021 our nation experienced more than 40,000 deaths annually for the first time since 2007. Alcohol-related traffic fatalities increased by 14 percent in 2020 and by double digits again in 2021, rising to more than 13,000 fatalities for the first time since 2007. Each day on average, 37 people die in alcohol-impaired driving crashes resulting in a fatality occurring every 39 minutes. These deaths are entirely preventable.

Given the current crisis and the outsized human impact drunk and impaired driving has on families and communities across the nation, it is essential that the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) dedicate the necessary resources and attention to directly confront this crisis immediately.

HALT Act implementation represents one of the most important actions DOT can take today to save thousands of lives and prevent hundreds of thousands of serious injuries each year. An updated analysis from the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS) finds that 10,158 lives would be saved each year when all vehicles are equipped with impaired driving prevention technology. This is 749 more lives saved each year than IIHS estimated in 2020. We look

forward to working with you to find solutions to implement this historic law. Thank you for your attention to this matter and for your commitment to end preventable roadway death and injury.

AAA

Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety

Allstate Insurance Company

America Walks

American Family Insurance

Amica Mutual Insurance Company

Center for Auto Safety

Citizens for Reliable and Safe Highways (CRASH)

Consumer Federation of America

Consumer Reports

Distilled Spirits Council of the United States (DISCUS)

Emergency Nurses Association

Families for Safe Streets

Farmers Insurance

Foundation for Advancing Alcohol Responsibility (Responsibility.org)

Governors Highway Safety Association (GHSA)

Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS)

Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE)

Kids and Car Safety

League of American Bicyclists

Liberty Mutual Insurance

Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD)

National Association of Mutual Insurance Companies

National Association of State Emergency Medical Services Officials

National Organizations for Youth Safety (NOYS)

National Safety Council (NSC)

National Sleep Foundation

Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company

NJM Insurance Group

Parents Against Tired Truckers (P.A.T.T.)

Safe Kids Worldwide

Safe States Alliance

Selective Insurance Company of America

Society for the Advancement of Violence and Injury Research

State Farm Insurance Companies

Stopdistractions.org

Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD)

The Kiefer Foundation

The Trucking Alliance

Trauma Foundation

Truck Safety Coalition

Vision Zero Network

WineAmerica