



Mothers Against Drunk Driving  
National Office  
madd.org

1200 18<sup>th</sup> Street, NW  
Suite 700  
Washington, DC 20036

877.ASK.MADD  
877.MADD.HELP victim support

October 6, 2017

The Honorable John Thune  
Chairman, Senate Commerce, Science & Transportation Committee  
512 Dirksen Senate Building;  
Washington DC, 20510

The Honorable Bill Nelson  
Ranking Member, Senate Commerce, Science & Transportation Committee  
512 Dirksen Senate Building;  
Washington DC, 20510

Dear Chairman Thune and Ranking Member Nelson,

Today the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration released traffic fatality data for 2016 as part of the Fatal Accident Reporting System. MADD is troubled that 37,461 people were killed in 2016, marking the second year in a row that fatal crashes involving motor vehicles increased.

The new data shows a 5.6 percent increase in overall traffic fatalities — up from 35,485 traffic fatalities in 2015. The overall traffic fatality increase of 8.4 percent in 2015 was the largest increase since 1963 to 1964. Alcohol-related fatalities increased in 2015 by 3.2 percent. While vehicle safety is improving, 94 percent of all traffic deaths are caused by human error. Most of the deaths are 100 percent preventable. MADD is concerned that the trending increase in highway deaths points to a public health crisis that has largely gone unnoticed.

There has been much speculation on the causes of increasing traffic deaths, but strong leadership is needed to pinpoint effective solutions. Mothers Against Drunk Driving requests that the committee hold a hearing to examine the causes of increasing highway deaths and what countermeasures, both short-term and long-term, should be used in order to reverse this trend.

MADD looks forward to working with you and your committee this most important issue.

Thank you and best wishes.

Sincerely,

Colleen Sheehey-Church  
National President, MADD