



Parents Against Tired Truckers and Citizens for Reliable and Safe Highways

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**MOTHER HONORS DAUGHTERS WITH PETITION
URGES U.S. DOT TO ISSUE LIFESAVING TRUCK SAFETY RULES**
Sign petition and help save lives

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Wednesday, April 2, 2014) – The Karth Family of Rocky Mount, North Carolina has launched a petition directed to United States Secretary of Transportation, Anthony Foxx, formerly the Mayor of Charlotte, North Carolina. The “AnnaLeah and Mary Stand Up For Truck Safety” Petition honors the Karth daughters, killed in May 2013 in a truck crash, by seeking rules for truck safety improvements to help protect motorists.

Last May, while driving from North Carolina to Texas to celebrate four graduations of family members and the wedding of her older daughter, Marianne slowed for traffic on Interstate 20 in Georgia. A tractor trailer behind Marianne failed to slow for traffic and hit the Karth family’s car. The car spun around, the truck hit it again and launched the car backward, pushing it underneath another truck.

AnnaLeah 17, and Mary 13, who were seated in the backseat of the car which did go under the truck’s trailer, died as a result of catastrophic injuries. Marianne and her son Caleb were seriously injured.

Marianne remembers, “It was not long after losing AnnaLeah and Mary when we learned about the truck safety issues which might have been factors in our crash, including fatigue and inattention, inadequate underride guards and insufficient minimum insurance. We were shocked to learn that the rules and improvements for these safety issues are long overdue for implementation.”

In September 2013, Marianne joined fellow North Carolina Truck Safety advocates Jennifer Tierney and Jackie Novak, along with other members of the Truck Safety Coalition for a meeting with Secretary Foxx at the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) in Washington, DC. Marianne states, “At the meeting, Secretary Foxx promised us that DOT would make tangible progress on these truck safety issues in a short period of time. Six months have passed, and we still do not have a final rule for electronic logging devices (ELDs), or a rule for improved underride guards, and minimum insurance has not been raised nor has the study on minimum insurance been released. We will never know how many lives could have been saved if the rules for these safety improvements had progressed expeditiously.”

Frustrated by the DOT’s process, the Karth family decided to take action to help ensure that these and other truck safety improvements would be put in place, as soon as possible, to help protect other families. To read more about the Karth family’s advocacy and to sign the petition, please go to: <http://trucksafety.org/annaleah-mary-karth-petition/>.

The Truck Safety Coalition is a partnership between Citizens for Reliable and Safe Highways (CRASH) and Parents Against Tired Truckers (PATT) dedicated to reducing the number of deaths and injuries caused by truck-related crashes, providing compassionate support to truck crash survivors and families of truck crash victims, and educating the public, policymakers and media about truck safety issues. More information is available at www.trucksafety.org.

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