

# THE TRUCK SAFETY BULLETIN

December 2019

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*Left: Volunteers listen to Melissa Sellevaag, Director of Training at the Wendt Center for Loss and Healing discuss different forms of grief.*

*Right: Volunteers gather in front of the U.S. Capitol with Representatives Garcia, Cartwright, and Hank Johnson for the introduction of two pro-truck safety bills.*



## *Sorrow to Strength 2019*

The Truck Safety Coalition hosted our 2019 Sorrow to Strength Conference from July 13-17, in Washington, D.C. It was a major success!

This empowering event, which occurs every two years, brought together truck crash survivors and the friends and family of truck crash victims in a supportive environment to learn about truck safety issues and advocate for truck safety improvements.

The first part of the conference consisted of educational sessions on truck safety issues, what becoming an advocate and going to Capitol Hill means, and information and support to help families coping with grief. During the second half of the conference, attendees traveled with TSC staff and experienced volunteers to Capitol Hill to meet with Members of Congress and their staffs as well as to the Department of Transportation to meet with safety regulators.

We also hosted a press conference on the steps of Congress as three Members of Congress stood with us to introduce two pieces of legislation that would greatly improve truck safety, H.R. 3773 (the Safe Roads Act) and H.R. 3781 (the INSURANCE Act). Please see the next page to learn more about these bills and how to contact your lawmakers.

# Update on Truck Safety Legislation in the 116th Congress

We want to thank all of you who have reached out this past year, whether by phone, email, or in person, to your representatives and Senators. By sharing your stories with them and educating them about data-driven solutions, there are currently four pro-truck safety bills being considered in the 116th Congress. While this is an important first step, it is critical for our lawmakers to continue to hear from us about the safety benefits of these four bills in order for yj go "vq'i ctpgt'o qtg'uwr r qt v'cpf "wmo cvgn{ 'r cuuORngcug'ugg'dgrqy " hqt'dt kgh'f guetr vkpu'qh'vj gug'dkmu'vj cv' {qw'ecp'uj ctg'y kj "{qwt'rcy o cngtu"

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**Senate Sponsors:** PC

Call Your Representative and Senators Today!  
202-224-3121 or contact them [here](#).

## Contribute to TSC

Please consider making a contribution, large or small, to help sustain our important efforts. As you see with the Sorrow to Strength conference, we are able to affect positive change and provide much needed support, but it can only happen with your assistance.

To make a donation please go to <http://trucksafety.org/get-involved/donate/>.

## Planned Giving

Planned Giving is easy and affordable. Your planned giving gift will allow you to:

- Leave a legacy without sacrificing your assets
- Make a larger charitable gift than you thought possible
- Look out for your family's financial well-being
- Reduce your income tax
- Avoid capital gains tax
- Diversify your investment portfolio

## *Congressional Staff Briefings on Truck Safety Technologies*

The Truck Safety Coalition hosted two congressional staff briefings focused on automatic emergency braking (AEB) and heavy vehicle speed limiters. These were a collaboration between the Truck Safety Coalition, the Truckload Carriers Association (TCA), Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety, the Trucking Alliance, and Road Safe America. To learn more, click [here](#).

*Right: Harry Adler, Executive Director of Truck Safety Coalition, introduces speakers from safety advocacy groups and the trucking industry to discuss the safety benefits of requiring large trucks to be equipped with AEB and speed limiters.*



Please remember to reach out to your Representative and Senators to support efforts in Congress to require large trucks to be equipped with these life-saving technologies.

## *Analysis of 2018 Federal Fatal Crash Data*

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) release of the 2018 Fatality Analysis Reporting System data shows that crashes involving at least one large truck claimed 4,951 lives in 2018.

Unfortunately, this increase in truck crash fatalities continues one of many terrible truck safety trends that have persisted from **2009 to 2018**:

- Truck crash deaths have increased 46.5%**
- Pedestrian deaths in truck crashes have increased 71%**
- Bicyclist deaths in truck crashes have increased 36%**
- Motorcyclist deaths in truck crashes have increased 66%**
- Truck occupant deaths have increased 76%**
- Truck crash injuries have increased 196%**
- Truck crashes have increased 74%**

*\*Data Sources: Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS) and Crash Reporting Sampling System (CRSS).*

Remember to share these facts with your friends, family, and the public. You can tweet these facts or share them as part of a Facebook post that also highlights why you are involved in trying to make trucking safer.

## *Contact Us*

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***We are Here to Help!***

## *Honor Your Loved One*

*We invite you to make a memorial for your lost loved one(s) that can be hosted on our website.*

*If interested, please send a photo and bio.*

*If you need assistance, please contact Harry Adler ([hadler@trucksafety.org](mailto:hadler@trucksafety.org)).*

*Link: <http://trucksafety.org/memorials/>*

## ***Coming Soon... TSC Facebook Group***

In early 2020, the Truck Safety Coalition will be introducing a Facebook group for our volunteers to be able to keep in touch with others, learn about grief and trauma, and, most importantly, remember their loved ones in a private, protected forum.

We will keep you updated on this exciting development!

## ***Year-End Fundraiser: Help Us Start 2020 Strong!***

We want to thank you for the ways in which you have supported the Truck Safety Coalition this year. Your contributions and engagement have meant we were able to:

**Reach hundreds of families and survivors through our First Response program,**

**Educate lawmakers about four bills that would greatly improve truck safety in the United States, and**

**Host an incredibly successful Sorrow to Strength conference in Washington, D.C.**

But we're not done yet. As part of our year end push, we're asking you to help us meet our \$25,000 goal to help us start 2020 strong. Would you consider donating today?

**DONATE**



## ***What is the Truck Safety Coalition?***

The Truck Safety Coalition (TSC) is a partnership between The Citizens for Reliable and Safe Highways (CRASH) Foundation, and Parents Against Tired Truckers (PATT).

The Truck Safety Coalition is 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, policy-makers and media about truck safety issues.

## ***Join us on Social Media***

*If you have not already joined us online, please like our Facebook page and follow us on Twitter. Social media is a huge part of our outreach strategy and we need all of you to help us.*

*If you would like to learn more about social media or need assistance signing up, please contact Harry Adler (hadler@trucksafety.org).*