



THE TSC NEWSLETTER

Summer 2021 Issue



**SAVE
THE
DATE**

**SORROW
TO
STRENGTH**

3/26/2022
-
3/30/2022

THE TRUCK SAFETY COALITION IS PLEASED TO
ANNOUNCE THAT WE WILL BE HOSTING OUR 2022
SORROW TO STRENGTH CONFERENCE FROM
MARCH 26TH – MARCH 30TH, IN WASHINGTON,
D.C. AT THE YOURS TRULY HOTEL.

Our Sorrow to Strength conference provides an opportunity to come together in a supportive environment, learn about truck safety issues, and advocate for truck safety improvements. We will have an opportunity to see old friends, make new ones, and share our stories. Workshops will be provided to learn more about truck safety issues, equipping you to visit your representatives, opportunities to become a TSC ambassador and more! [Check out our website for more information on Sorrow to Strength](#) as it's available! Registration will be open in the coming weeks.

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LET'S DO LUNCH - SPRING 2021 GATHERING

Some of the Truck Safety Coalition team gathered in-person for the first time in 2021. It was fantastic getting Board members, staff, and TSC volunteers together to connect over lunch. Thank you to all that attended! Ed Slattery, a long time volunteer and truck safety advocate, offered to host us at his beautiful home in Maryland. We embraced longtime volunteers and victims, such as Franklin Wood, Larry Liberatore, Patty Liberatore, Dawn King, Ed Slattery, Matthew Slattery, and Jeff Burns. We also welcomed new friends to the Truck Safety Coalition, including Anna Guardipee, Christina Pettersen, Paul Huffman, and Cat DeSalvo. If you are interested in these kind of social events, let us know. We would love more volunteers to get involved!

Zach, Larry, Patty,
and Kelli
checking out Ed's
green roof!



Anna, Paul, and Christina
touring Ed's wheelchair
accessible home.

Jeff, Paul, and Anna
enjoying BBQ and getting
to know each other on the
back patio!



Public Policy Update

by Jackie Gillan

For the past 4 months, we have been actively involved in efforts to influence and advance several major truck safety reforms in the infrastructure funding bill the U.S. Congress has been drafting, debating, and finally voting to adopt. This multi-year legislation provides federal funding for the construction and maintenance of roads and bridges, public transit systems, rail as well as highway and auto safety programs. Enactment of an infrastructure bill is a top priority of the Biden Administration and has provided us with a unique opportunity to advance important truck safety policies and improvements.

This week, the U.S. Senate passed on a vote of 69 to 30, the Infrastructure Investment Jobs Act. The bill includes some hard-fought victories for truck safety as well as several deficiencies. A major victory for TSC is the mandate for the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) to issue a rule within 2 years requiring Automatic Emergency Braking (AEB) as standard equipment on large new trucks (Class 7-8). AEB is a game-changer and proven to be highly effective in reducing the incidence and severity of front-rear truck collisions.

Additionally, NHTSA is directed to upgrade the rear truck underride guard standard to meet the Insurance Institute for High Safety Crash Protocols. Both of these are SIGNIFICANT truck safety advances that have the potential to save thousands of lives. Despite our efforts, we were not able to extend the AEB requirement to new medium size trucks (primarily delivery and box trucks), but we haven't given up and will continue our efforts to close this loophole as well as push for side and front truck underride guards.

Unfortunately, the Senate bill also includes provisions for an apprenticeship program allowing commercial drivers as young as 18-years-old to operate a big rig across state lines. The apprenticeship program has some requirements and caps the number of participants and was an alternative to simply lowering the federal minimum age for commercial drivers without any training preconditions whatsoever. However, this is still a reckless change in policy. Additionally, the bill allows an hours of service (HOS) exemption for livestock haulers. Combating truck driver fatigue has always been a major priority of TSC and we successfully fought off numerous attempts by industry to include even more and broader HOS exemptions. We are not giving up in our opposition to attacks on truck safety and will continue to oppose implementation of these special interest provisions.

The Senate-passed bill is now pending in the House. Rather than take the two bill versions and negotiate differences, it appears that the House plans to pass the Senate version without any changes and send it to President Biden for his signature. This means that other safety measures in the House-passed version will not be advanced at this time, including a mandate to the U.S. Department of Transportation to increase the current minimum insurance requirement for motor carriers. Regardless, we will continue the fight for the safety of families and truck drivers as well as explore and push adoption of our safety goals through federal rulemaking and other legislation.

Your involvement made a significant contribution to our successful efforts to push enactment of critical truck safety improvements and fight off safety rollbacks. You responded when we sent legislative action alerts, you shared your stories of tragic losses, you joined with other consumer, public health, and safety groups in signing letters to House and Senate leaders urging support for a strong safety agenda, and you held your elected officials accountable for their actions and votes. All of these actions made a difference!

Public Policy Update

(page 03 continued)

Consider the following activities, which represents only a small sample of what we have accomplished together these past few months:

On July 30th, a letter was published to President Biden asking him to make safety a priority in the infrastructure bill. The letter was signed by 150 family members who had lost loved ones in preventable crashes including more than 70 truck crash families.

On July 20th, TSC and Advocates held a press conference with Senate Leadership and other safety organizations to discuss the need to enact safety provisions in the Senate Infrastructure Bill. TSC Volunteers Tammy Huffman and Eileen Kosc and CRASH Board Chair Joan Claybrook provided moving and powerful remarks.

Jennifer Tierney was interviewed on the Ralph Nader Radio Hour regarding legislation she is working on to make us ALL safer on the highway.

TSC volunteers contacted their Senators about safety-related provisions in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act urging them to improve the bill and strip the Teen Trucking provision and require AEB on all trucks.

On June 15th, TSC and Advocates called on the U.S. Senate to include urgently needed safety upgrades in infrastructure legislation. TSC Board Members Jena Frost, Russ Swift, and Joan Claybrook gave powerful statements in support of stronger safety remedies.

Numerous TSC Volunteers and Board Members, including Daphne Izer, Russ Swift, Ed Slattery, and Jennifer Tierney submitted Letters to the Editor that were published in local newspapers opposing the AEB carveout for medium size trucks and the teen trucker apprenticeship program in the Senate Bill.

Many TSC Board Members and volunteers signed a letter with other national consumer and safety leaders to U.S. DOT Secretary Pete Buttigieg urging him to ensure that critical lifesaving provisions are included in the final infrastructure bill sent to President Biden for his signature.

News & Notes from the Staff

Staff: Zach Cahalan, Kelli McClelland, Jordan Burns

A lot has been happening in 2021 for the TSC Team! We hired a new Social Media and Communications Coordinator, Jordan Burns, in May, and a new Executive Director, Zach Cahalan, in June!



Jordan joins TSC with more than 8 years of experience in social media, marketing, event planning, and strategic communications. She obtained her Bachelors Degree from American University in Communications, focusing on Media and Society. Although she is new to the staff, she has been a part of the TSC community for a long time. Here is a photo of her in 2005, attending a Sorrow to Strength with Board Member Jeff Burns! She currently resides in DC and is a serious foodie - she would love to meet for lunch sometime! Feel free to email her.

The Truck Safety Coalition Team also wishes to extend its sincerest gratitude to our Interim Executive Director, Judith Stone, who dedicated months of her time on our mission. We will all miss her dearly at TSC!



Pictured: Judith Stone - Interim Executive Director, Zach Cahalan - Executive Director, Kelli McClelland - First Response Outreach Coordinator, Jordan Burns - Social Media & Communications Coordinator

A Note From The Executive Director

The last month has been a whirlwind! It's fair to say the only thing that made this transition possible is the remarkable family that comprises the Truck Safety Coalition: Board Members, Staff, Volunteers and Partners. Hands-down, the most fulfilling part of leading the Truck Safety Coalition has been hearing your stories, witnessing your strength and courage, and initiating bonds of friendship together. We have much to accomplish together and I look forward to generating new stories and accomplishments along the way!

With gratitude,
Zach Cahalan

Follow us on Social Media!

- **Comment on our Posts!**
- **Share or Retweet our Posts**
- **Offer and Receive Support in the Survivor, Families & Friends Community on FB**
- **Tag us!**



Questions? Contact jordan@trucksafety.org

Visit our [website](#) to learn about more ways to help families and save lives with The Truck Safety Coalition.

VOLUNTEER PROFILE: JENA FROST



On November 18, 2016, Jena Frost's son, Wyatt (5) was killed by a box truck that was not equipped with AEB. Her son and Earl, a retired gentleman who volunteered to drive Wyatt to and from school, were heading to Jena's home, driving northbound behind a semi-truck on Interstate 95 near Wells, Maine, when they had to slow and stop due to heavy traffic. Behind them a truck driver in a Class 6 "medium duty" truck failed to stop and instead slammed into and drove on top of Earl's car. Both Wyatt and Earl were killed. In June of this year, Jena courageously spoke at a press conference about the current proposed infrastructure bill that doesn't require all trucks to have AEB. She did an incredible job telling her story while also urging lawmakers to require better safety provisions in the S.2016 Bill. Everyone at the press conference was fighting back tears after hearing Wyatt's story - but Jena stayed strong. Her courage and strength radiated throughout the press conference. Feel free to read her whole statement [here](#). On July 1st, Jena Frost was elected to and accepted a position on the P.A.T.T. Board.

Would you like to get more involved in our advocacy efforts? Let us know! Feel free to contact us via social media or email jordan@trucksafety.org

First Response: By The Numbers

APRIL - JULY 2021

171

**VICTIM & SURVIVOR
FAMILIES REACHED**



We loved meeting some of
our new community!



The purpose of our First Response Program is to get information and resources to people affected by truck crashes as quickly as possible after their crash, when they need it most. This work is supported through the generous donations of our volunteers and broader community. Please consider a donation to help us continue to do this important work as well as continue our fight to make our roads safer. To learn how to donate, visit our [website](#) or donate directly through [PayPal](#).

SUPPORT THE TSC

The Truck Safety Coalition operates solely on donations received from our generous supporters. Your donation enables us to reach out to families experiencing the worst day of their lives, inform the public and amplifying YOUR voice to better educate policymakers to keep truck safety a top priority. Unable to make a financial contribution at this time? Don't worry, there are MANY ways to support the TSC:

[Make a Direct Donation](#)

**Designate TSC for a
Legacy Gift**

**Participate in Action Alerts to
Educate Policymakers**

**Comment, Repost, & Share
on Social Media**