



THE TSC NEWSLETTER

Fall 2021 Issue

#GIVINGTUESDAY

NOVEMBER 30TH, 2021



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#GivingTuesday is this month! #GivingTuesday is among the few days of the year where people are actively seeking causes to support, rather than the other way around. On **November 30, 2021**, the entire world will be talking about, thinking about, and discussing ways each of us can contribute to a better society.

TSC is excited to be participating in GivingTuesday again this year! In 2020, we raised \$15,000 on #GivingTuesday with Facebook Fundraisers. This year, **TSC's overall Goal is to DOUBLE our peer-to-peer campaign efforts from last year** and collectively raise \$30,000. To reach this goal we need **your** help. Will you join us?

GETTING READY FOR #GIVINGTUESDAY



If you plan on joining TSC for #GivingTuesday, the TSC Team has created a #GivingTuesday Toolkit, which is a step-by-step guide to building a successful campaign to raise funds for TSC. The Toolkit has our campaign goals and key messages, branded social media assets you can use on and before #GivingTuesday, sample texts to craft your own peer-to-peer campaign narrative, and an outline which shows you exactly how to set up a Fundraiser on Facebook. Please contact us to confirm your participation in GivingTuesday.

[DOWNLOAD THE TOOLKIT HERE](#)

**GIVING
TUESDAY**

This past week, we had a Lunch & Learn Webinar to discuss how our community can help us fund our mission and participate in the #GivingTuesday movement. If you didn't make the webinar, but would like to watch it, [you can view it on YouTube.](#)

WE ARE HOSTING OUR 2022
SORROW TO STRENGTH
CONFERENCE FROM MARCH
26TH – MARCH 29TH, IN
WASHINGTON, D.C. AT THE
YOURS TRULY HOTEL.
DON'T FORGET TO REGISTER!

[REGISTER HERE](#)



Have you registered yet? We have been getting ready for our wonderful event, and we hope to see you there! 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! You can check out our website for the [conference schedule](#) and [reserve your room](#) with our special room block rate before they are gone!

A Note From The Executive Director

Fall is already upon us! It's been so much fun getting to know so many of you at Trivia Nights, over the phone and engaging with you on our private Facebook Group for Victims, Survivors & Family. As you can see browsing through this issue of the Fall Newsletter, the team has been hard at work doing all we can to best support you! Be sure to check out our updated victim-volunteer designed resources on the website as well as the great new videos highlighting the wisdom and experience our volunteers have to offer. Also, keep your eyes peeled over the course of the next month as we roll out an exciting new member benefit to better support the mental health needs of our network! Lastly, you will NOT want to miss Sorrow to Strength this March!!! Registration closes at the end of December so get on over there and register today! It promises to be an invaluable, life-giving, and powerful time together. This Thanksgiving, I am grateful beyond measure for this generous community and the privilege of walking alongside you all and amplifying your voices to advance truck safety needs.

With Gratitude,
Zach Cahalan

Public Policy Update

by Jackie Gillan

Status of the Infrastructure Bill, H.R. 3684:

Final passage of the multi-year, multi-billion-dollar infrastructure bill, H.R. 3684, the Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act, continues to be stalled over congressional negotiations on the Budget Reconciliation bill. The House leadership plans to take up both bills together for debate and final passage and that is the reason final adoption of H.R. 3684 has been delayed. Although current highway and transit programs expired on September 30, Congress passed a temporary extension until December 3, allowing more time to reach a compromise on the Budget Reconciliation bill. The situation is fluid and changing by the minute. Be sure to keep reading your TSC email updates to stay informed.

There are several important truck safety improvements in H.R. 3684 that TSC has been working to advance for many years. These federal regulatory requirements, when implemented, have the potential to significantly reduce truck crashes, save lives and prevent injuries.

- Requires the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) to issue a regulation within two years mandating that automatic emergency braking (AEB) be required as standard equipment on all large new trucks.
- Requires the DOT to issue a regulation within one year to upgrade the existing weak rear underride guard standard to meet the stronger crash protocols recommended by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS).
- Establishes an advisory committee on underride protection.

TSC also was successful in stopping numerous special interest provisions to increase truck size and weights and rollback other federal truck safety rules from being inserted in the Senate bill, thanks to the work of our volunteers. Throughout the lengthy legislative process, volunteers contacted Members of Congress to oppose these anti-truck safety measures. However, the Senate bill does include provisions for DOT to establish a teen trucker pilot apprenticeship program as well as an Hours of Service (HOS) exemption for livestock haulers. TSC will continue to oppose these safety attacks.

Additionally, TSC will continue to push the Administration to implement other critical truck safety improvements such as mandating AEB on all new trucks, including delivery and box trucks, which were excluded from the infrastructure bill. TSC is also working to increase the current minimum insurance requirement for motor carriers, to mandate trucks be equipped with side and front underride guards and to strengthen federal driver training requirements to obtain a Commercial Driver's License (CDL).

On October 4, the New Jersey Star-Ledger published a story mentioning our strategy to promote adoption of additional standards requiring lifesaving technologies on trucks. The article includes quotes from Joan Claybrook, Board Chair of CRASH. [Read the full article here.](#)

Public Policy Update

by Jackie Gillan

Fiscal Year 2022 DOT Spending Bill

The Senate Appropriations Committee recently released several spending bills to fund government agencies, including the U.S. DOT in Fiscal Year 2022. The House-passed DOT spending bill does meet the Administration's request for an increase in funding for NHTSA but unfortunately, the Senate bill does not. TSC will be working to support additional funding for NHTSA since this agency is responsible for issuing safety standards for AEB in large trucks as well as a stronger rear underride requirement. Having adequate staff and financial resources will ensure that the rules are not delayed.

Relatedly, Rep. David Price (D-NC), Chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee with jurisdiction over DOT funding recently announced his plans to retire from Congress. TSC, particularly CRASH board member Jennifer Tierney, has worked closely with Chairman Price and his staff throughout his tenure to ensure adequate DOT funding for safety programs, advance truck safety measures and fight against anti-safety policy riders. We tweeted our appreciation for his longstanding safety leadership following his announcement.

Nominations of New Leaders for the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) Move Forward

Meera Joshi, nominated to lead FMCSA, was approved by the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation on October 20, 2021, by a vote of 22-6. The timing for her consideration by the full Senate has not been announced.

The nomination of Dr. Stephen Cliff, to lead NHTSA has been officially transmitted by the White House to the Senate. At this time, his nomination hearing before the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation has not yet been scheduled.

Upcoming Meeting of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Advisory Committee (MCSAC)

On December 6 and 7, the MCSAC will hold a meeting. We are honored to have three volunteers serving as members. They are Dawn King, president of TSC, Jane Mathis, board member of P.A.T.T. and Tami Friedrich Trakh, board member of CRASH.

New Crash Fatality Data

On October 28, NHTSA released new estimates for the first six months of 2021 showing a nearly 20 percent increase in crash fatalities over the same period in 2020. This represents the largest six-month increase recorded in the history of NHTSA's Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS). We do not yet have any estimates for truck crash fatalities but expect, based on this preliminary data, that there will be an increase adding more urgency to pushing our safety agenda during the Sorrow to Strength conference when meeting with Members of Congress.



TSC has been hosting Zoom Trivia Nights!

It has been a blast connecting with our community - even during a pandemic. Thanks for everyone who has joined in, and we can't wait to see even more of you on the next one!

* ~ ZOOM ~ TRIVIA NIGHT

With The Truck Safety Coalition!



Congrats to our Zoom Trivia Winners!

Kimberly Telep and Fred Ryerse won our first trivia night, and Jena Frost and her family won our Halloween-themed trivia night!

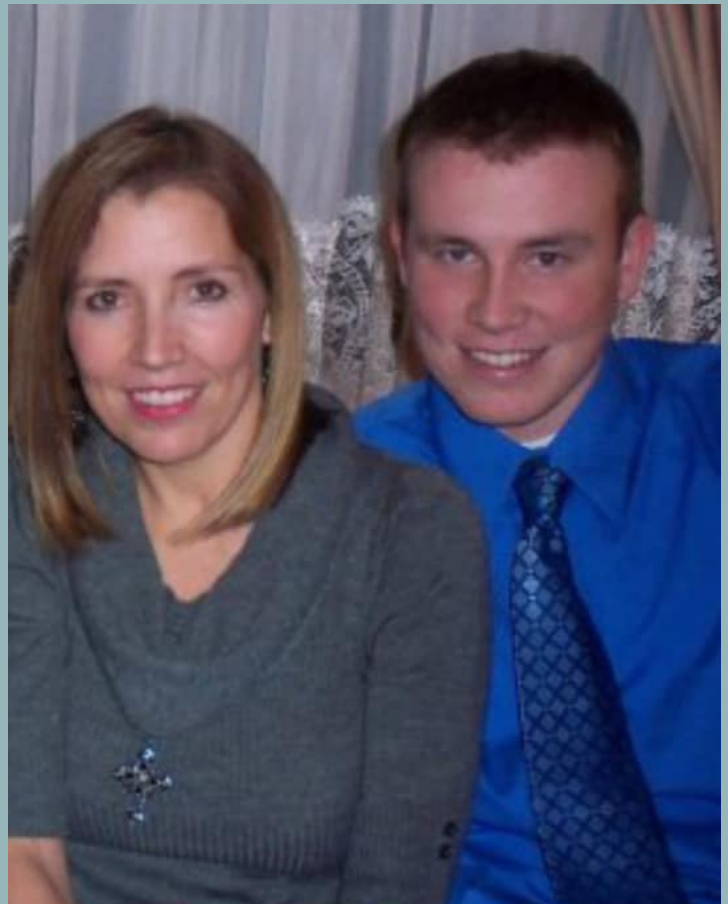
SAVE THE DATE!

Next Zoom: Preparing for the Holidays

The Holidays are upon us. This can be a very hard time for many folks in our community. The next Zoom night will be held on November 16th at 7pm Eastern. It will be facilitated by a professional counselor to help us learn from each other, share how we're holding up and identify some strategies to help us cope and manage this holiday season. We are excited to gather virtually as the TSC family in this critical time. All are welcome and encouraged to join.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

VOLUNTEER PROFILE: EILEEN WOELKERS MILLER



Eileen Wolkers Miller lost her son, Paul, to a truck crash on July 5th, 2010. Paul was driving home on Rte. 33 in Hamilton, Township, PA when a southbound tractor-trailer crossed the center grass divider and traveled head-on into Paul's car and a northbound van. Paul died from injuries suffered in the truck crash. The truck driver was distracted at the time of the crash. Paul was 21 years old. Since then, Eileen has fought for justice in honor of her son Paul. Eileen has become an outspoken truck safety advocate at the local and state level. Her family has established The Paul J. Miller, Jr. Memorial Scholarship for a deserving sophomore at Lackawanna College. Eileen has been working at the Pennsylvania capital to push for her son's bill, HB37, which will be Paul Miller's Law, also known as the Driver Enhanced Responsibility Legislation, which prohibits drivers from touching or supporting their phone with their body while they are driving.

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

JUNE - OCTOBER 2021

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**VICTIM & SURVIVOR
FAMILIES REACHED**

Check Out Our New Truck Crash Resources!

We have created a whole new section on our website that integrates our valuable truck crash resource book as well as advice and testimonials from some of our volunteers.

Helpful Resources Included:

Time Sensitive Information

Practical Tips

Coping

Legal Aspects

Let us know what you think and don't hesitate to contact info@trucksafety.org if you have additional resources or tips you think need to be added.

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 be there when someone needs us most. To donate, visit our [website](#).

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 amplify 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**

**Sponsor our Sorrow to
Strength Conference**

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 Facebook**
- **Tag us!**

Questions?

Contact jordan@trucksafety.org

