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Statement Regarding Staggering 2020 NHTSA Large Truck Fatality Figures

Washington, DC – Today, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) released its [2020 annual traffic crash data](#), and truck crash fatalities remained unacceptably high. Truck Safety Coalition (TSC) President Dawn King, who lost her father in a preventable truck crash, hopes this sobering assessment can serve as a much-needed wake-up call to policymakers. “Behind each one of those lives lost is a family whose lives are irreparably disrupted. No one should accept the loss of nearly 5,000 lives every year as the cost of doing business to ship goods in America. This has to stop.”

In 2020, 4,965 people, including truck drivers, were killed in truck crashes and an additional 146,930 were injured. Relative to 2019, fatalities fell roughly 1%, but this is no cause for celebration. NHTSA has previously [reported](#) that trip-taking was significantly lower in 2020 with 6% more people staying home on any given day compared to 2019. Concerningly, despite having fewer people on the roads, truck crash fatalities still reached 2019 levels.

It is time for action. TSC calls on Congress and the Biden Administration to take comprehensive steps to address this crisis:

- Require Automatic Emergency Braking (AEB) on all commercial motor vehicles (CMVs)
- Require side and front underride guards on all CMVs
- Require the use of speed limiters in all CMVs
- Raise the commercial motor carrier minimum insurance requirements

- Terminate the Unsafe Teen Driver Apprenticeship Program
- Eliminate the Fair Labor Standards Act Motor Carrier Exemption
- Improve Entry-Level Driver Training requirements and require CDL applicants to practice driving behind the wheel of a big rig *before* receiving a license to drive 80,000 trucks alongside passenger vehicles.

As Secretary Buttigieg said, “People should leave the house and know they’re going to get to their destination safely.” This is categorically not happening, and DOT’s National Roadway Strategy is insufficient in scope to address the longstanding unacceptable rise in truck crash fatalities. The Truck Safety Coalition implores Congress and the Biden Administration to implement the aforementioned proven solutions to drive down truck crash deaths and injuries.

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The Truck Safety Coalition (TSC) is a partnership between Citizens for Reliable and Safe Highways (CRASH), also known as The CRASH Foundation, and Parents Against Tired Truckers (P.A.T.T.). 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, policymakers, and the media about truck safety issues. Visit our website at <https://trucksafety.org>