

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Updated Statement Regarding Tragic Fatal Truck Crash in Oklahoma*

**Early crash reports indicated the truck involved in the crash was a Class 3-6 commercial motor vehicle. As additional facts emerged and were confirmed, it became clear the truck involved was a Class 8 (33,001 lbs. and above) commercial motor vehicle. The Truck Safety Coalition takes seriously the responsibility to be accurate, credible, and trustworthy in educating the public and policymakers on truck safety-related matters. It is not uncommon for initial media reporting of large truck crashes to be incorrect as occurred in this case and the Truck Safety Coalition issues this revised statement to correct the public record.*

Washington, DC – This week, six high school students tragically lost their lives in a truck crash that occurred in Tishomingo, OK. The crash was horrific and devastating in its totality. Truck Safety Coalition (TSC) Board Member Jennifer Tierney, who lost her father in a preventable truck crash had this to say, “First and foremost, my deepest and most heartfelt condolences extend to the parents who lost their daughters, students who lost their friends, and brothers and sisters who lost their siblings. The pain and anguish they feel are beyond the ability of words to describe. Sadly, this tragedy could have been less severe. **All commercial motor vehicles need to be equipped with proven, life-saving Automatic Emergency Braking technology.**”

Automatic Emergency Braking (AEB) is a highly effective system.¹ The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) concurs and included the need to have this technology equipped on all motor vehicles in its 2021-2022 “Most Wanted List of Transportation Safety Improvements.” The [Insurance Institute for Highway Safety](#) has found that in fatal two-vehicle crashes involving a passenger vehicle and a large truck, 97 percent of the deaths were occupants of the passenger

¹ Teoh, E, Effectiveness of front crash prevention systems in reducing large truck crash rates, IIHS (Sep. 2020).

vehicles. Nearly 5,000 people lose their lives in truck crashes every year with roughly another 147,000 injured. This does not need to be the case.

TSC calls on Congress and the United States Department of Transportation (DOT) to immediately take action to address this crisis. A new AEB performance standard needs to be issued by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) that prescribes specifications that apply to all classes of commercial motor vehicles. The sobering reality of this tragedy forces policymakers and officials to acknowledge that lives hang in the balance and much more needs to be done to protect our loved ones from preventable truck crashes.

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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>