



THE TSC NEWSLETTER

2022 Issue 2

A Note From The Executive Director

There is SO much that has happened this Spring and so much more to come! Please take the time to browse the newsletter, get caught up and take pride in what we're accomplishing together. Don't forget that our community has opportunities to gather together EVERY MONTH. Whether it be for grief counseling support, TSC "happy-hours" like Bring your Pet to Zoom Night, or Lunch N' Learns with transportation experts, it is our hope that you're able to engage with us frequently! Make sure you are following us on Facebook and Twitter, it is the best way to stay informed.

We are unfortunately reminded more often than we like why our work is so necessary. Over a hundred new crash affected families received TSC services this quarter, and we welcomed many into our virtual community of victims and survivors on Facebook. In addition, some of our existing volunteers have tragically lost even more family friends to truck-related crashes. If not for US, there is no one able to raise awareness and action with the conviction and passion that truck safety issues need and deserve. The power of your voice and stories propel our work unapologetically forward. I am reminded of the wisdom oft attributed to Helen Keller, "Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much."

In March, TSC Board Member Jeff Burns visited with the TSC Staff, former Board Member Ed Slattery, and truck crash survivor Matthew Slattery.



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WE ARE PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THAT WE HAVE A NEW INTERN AT THE TRUCK SAFETY COALITION!

Connor, our Spring Intern, has finished his internship at TSC, and we are excited to announce that we have found another AU Eagle to join our team for the summer! Kevin Ehr Gott just graduated from American University. He received his Bachelors in Interdisciplinary Studies - Communications, Legal Institutions, Economics, and Government. As well as interning at TSC this summer, Kevin works at a running store. Please welcome Kevin to our TSC Family!



**SORROW TO STRENGTH
IS SEPTEMBER 17TH -
SEPTEMBER 20TH IN
WASHINGTON, DC.**

REGISTER FOR S2S



"Sorrow to Strength is something of an emergence into grief, but also a place to witness the rebuilding strength that comes from being together with others who have had similar experiences. We spent Saturday getting to know each other, to offer comfort and hugs and empathetic tears. We laughed together too. Sunday we buckled down and learned about the issues, many of which were contributing factors in our own crashes. Then we went to work, walking Capitol Hill and visiting offices of Senators, Representatives & DOT to educate. People who never spoke in public before spoke to strangers in Congressional offices and spoke up at DOT meetings.

And they did it all because of love. Their love carried them through the telling of their stories over and over, reliving it each time, each time adding one more scar on top of the thousands of scars already lacerating their hearts.

And at the end of our time together there were more tears and hugs as we said goodbye to our Truck Safety Family, knowing that we're never truly alone, even on our worst days, because these people have our hearts and our backs. **Join us this September at Sorrow to Strength!"**

--- TSC Board President Dawn King

**UPCOMING ZOOM NIGHT:
SPRING INTO SORROW TO STRENGTH**

Due to Sorrow to Strength being postponed to the Fall of 2022, we have scheduled a special zoom night to prepare our members for our conference.

Join us at **7PM Eastern on May 19th** to review our current truck safety issues (check out our **BRAND NEW** fact sheets), what to expect at Sorrow to Strength, and what you can do to help make it a success!!!

ZOOM REGISTRATION HERE

Public Policy Update

by Zach Cahalan

It has been an eventful start to 2022 and the Truck Safety Coalition has no shortage of news to share with this amazing change-making community.

On April 25th, oral arguments were heard in response to the [petition](#) led by Advocates for Auto and Highway Safety and the International Brotherhood of Teamsters that was joined by CRASH and P.A.T.T. The petition is filed against the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration's (FMCSA) final Hours of Service (HOS) rule requirement changes made in June 2020. TSC is extremely concerned that the changes, specifically allowing "on-duty, not driving" time to count toward a 30-min break for drivers, as well as changes made to broaden the short-haul exemption, will make it more likely for fatigued drivers to be on our roads and unnecessarily put lives at risk. A [recording](#) of the oral arguments has been made available by the DC Court of Appeals. The three-judge panel asked hard questions of both sides of the issue and TSC and its partners hope the Court intervenes to vacate the deeply troubling and unsafe provisions of the rule. I encourage you to review this [editorial](#) from National Transportation Safety Board Vice-Chair, Bruce Landsberg, which succinctly outlines why these changes are dangerously problematic.

On April 6, FMCSA Deputy Administrator Robin Hutcheson was formally nominated by President Biden to be the FMCSA Administrator. She has a strong background in the transportation and safety sector and TSC looks forward to working with Robin to ensure truck safety needs are known and acted upon. TSC volunteers recently met with her this April to highlight the need to initiate congressionally mandated, yet long overdue rulemaking for a knowledge exam for new motor carrier operators as well as the need to increase the Commercial Motor Vehicle (CMV) minimum liability insurance requirement. TSC volunteers additionally met with National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) Acting Administrator Steven Cliff in March, emphasizing the need for action on speed limiters, and strong Automatic Emergency Braking and rear underride guard performance standards for CMVs.

Earlier this February, TSC submitted a [letter](#) to Department of Transportation (DOT) Secretary Pete Buttigieg pointing out the lack of concern for truck safety in the National Roadway Safety Strategy, specifically the complete oversight to require the usage of speed limiters in Commercial Motor Vehicles (CMVs). In response to YOUR advocacy, on April 27 FMCSA [announced](#) a rulemaking effort to require the use of speed limiters in CMVs!

Representative Andy Levin (D-MI-09) recently introduced [H.R. 7517](#), the Guaranteeing Overtime for Truckers Act. This bill would fundamentally alter the trucking landscape by forcing truck drivers' time to be respected and paid for accordingly. Research has long indicated that when drivers are compensated fairly for the difficult work performed, safety outcomes improve accordingly. TSC strongly endorses this bi-partisan bill and is working to ensure a companion bill is also introduced in the Senate.

Lastly, TSC recognizes [PAM BIDDLE](#) for her phenomenal work in opposing exemptions to raise the truck weight in Georgia for the logging industry. Way to go Pam!!! In other state news, bills requiring underride guards have been introduced in Pennsylvania (HB2476) and New Jersey (A3205), both of which have strong TSC support. If you're from NJ or PA and would like to help support these important bills, let us know!

TRUCKS: THIS WEEK TONIGHT W/JOHN OLIVER

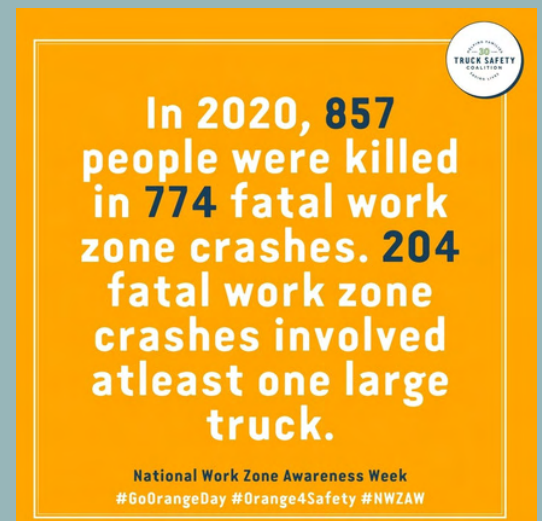


John Oliver recently produced an excellent segment investigating many of the structural problems with the trucking industry. With his trademark dry wit and accompanying explicit language, Oliver raises awareness to the absurd nature of it all and the dangers it poses to truck drivers and all roadway users, something our community knows all too well.

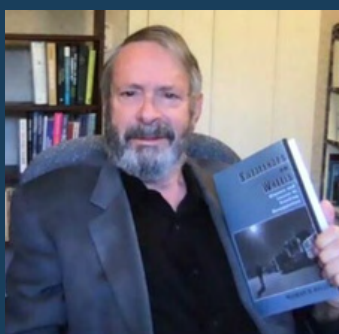
If you are comfortable with strong language and mature humor, we recommend you watch the segment and consider sharing it with your friends. It does a powerful job explaining what can be a complex issue in a digestible and approachable fashion.

WORK ZONE SAFETY WEEK

National Work Zone Awareness Week (NWZAW) was April 11 - 15. In its 22nd year, NWZAW is a nationwide public awareness campaign that spreads the message that everyone shares the responsibility for work zone safety. This year's National Work Zone Awareness Week theme was, "Work zones are a sign to slow down." In 2020, 857 people were killed in 774 fatal work zone crashes. 204 fatal work zone crashes involved at least one large truck. TSC participated in #GoOrangeDay, an opportunity to show support for work zone safety. This NWZAW, our volunteers honored their loved ones who were killed in work zone crashes involving large trucks.



RECENT TSC LUNCH N' LEARN EVENTS



In late March, we hosted a TSC Lunch N' Learn with Dr. Michael Belzer to discuss the myths surrounding the supposed truck driver shortage and its impacts to life safety. Dr. Belzer has 25 years worth of research that shows that there is a direct relationship between driver pay and safety. [You can watch the full discussion here.](#)



In early May, we hosted a TSC Lunch N' Learn with Congressman Andy Levin (D-MI-09) to understand what led him to introduce the most significant trucking sector legislation since deregulation, H.R. 7517, the bipartisan Guaranteeing Overtime for Truckers Act (a.k.a. GOT Truckers Act). [You can watch the full discussion here.](#)

VOLUNTEER PROFILE: MELISSA STACKPOLE



Melissa Stackpole's husband, Jimmie Stackpole, was a truck driver for 15 years. On June 9, 2020, at 12:40am, Jimmie was nearing the end of his route when there was a collision between two semis in front of him. The first semi was fatigued and driving too fast for the rainy conditions when he lost control. The second semi failed to control his truck and hit the first truck. Jimmie was traveling at 45 mph when he attempted to avoid the collision, but debris from the initial crash led him to lose traction, so when he was hit from behind by another semi, he was pushed into the semi in front of him. In total, 6 semis and 2 vehicles were involved in the crash. Jimmie was pinned in the truck for 2 hours. He was pronounced dead in the ambulance on the way to the hospital. Despite Jimmie's commitment to safety for his entire career as a truck driver, he was surrounded by other trucks, owned by companies and driven by drivers that did not carry the same commitment. Since then, Melissa has been an active TSC member and truck safety advocate. Melissa has attended numerous TSC Zoom Nights and created a Facebook Fundraiser for TSC In honor of her husband Jimmie.

Would you like to get more involved in our advocacy or fundraising efforts? Email zcahalan@trucksafety.org

First Response: By The Numbers

FEBRUARY 2022 - APRIL 2022

135

VICTIM & SURVIVOR FAMILIES REACHED

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 the broader community. Please consider a donation to help us continue to be there when someone needs us most. To donate, visit our [website](#).

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!**
- **Engage with our Community**
- **Join our Zoom nights**
- **Sign up for our Action Alerts and Newsletter!**

Questions?

Contact jordan@trucksafety.org

Finding meaningful ways to honor our loved ones lost to preventable truck crashes can be difficult.

The Truck Safety Coalition wants to make it easier.



With a recurring monthly donation of any amount, with your permission TSC will include your name(s) alongside a short statement and photo of your choice on our online Memoriam Wall in honor of your loved one.

If not for the work of TSC and the courageous engagement of our family of victims and survivors, there would be no one to oppose the \$17M trucking lobbyists actively resisting safety reforms. Honoring your lost loved one by making a monthly gift helps us sustain our efforts for the long haul and prevent others from experiencing a similar fate.



MONTHLY GIVING MEMORIAM SPOTLIGHT:

Bill Badger

In memory of our Dad, Bill Badger, who was killed by a tired trucker December 23, 2004.

People say we're strong because we continue to work on truck safety issues so many years after his death. But if it had been one of his four kids killed that early morning, he'd have been full speed ahead talking to anyone and everyone that could make a difference. He would never quit until the problem was fixed. We can't either.

- Dawn King, Beth, Carl, and Paul Badger, Bill's children



Kris, Alan, and Anthony Mercurio and Brandie Rooker

The Truck Safety Coalition has given me an outlet to put my grief and anger, a place where I can make positive change.

I have been fortunate to be a member of the Truck Safety Family for 30 years. I don't know where I would be without them. Crash anniversaries and birthdays are especially tough and I am thankful for my Truck Safety Family for all of their support.



- Tami Friedrich Trakh, Kris' sister

The Truck Safety Coalition offers our most sincere condolences to you and your family. Making a recurring donation and sharing your story on our website is a special way to honor, celebrate and memorialize the life of your loved one, while making a difference in the lives of others.

Head to our website at <https://trucksafety.org/donate/> to sign up as a recurring donor and show your support for TSC.

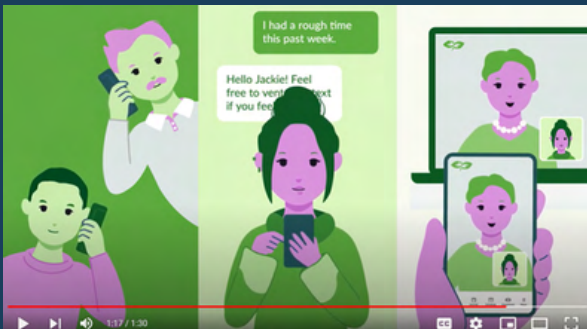
Mental Health Resources



BetterHelp is the largest online therapy platform worldwide. TSC has partnered with BetterHelp to support the health and wellbeing of our members.

As a member of the Truck Safety Coalition, you have access to one free month of online therapy with BetterHelp.

Watch this short video to learn more!



Email us at info@trucksafety.org to start your 1 month of free online therapy!

Professionally Facilitated Grief Support Zoom Nights: Prolonged Grief Disorder



On April 25th, Professional Grief Counselor Rob Zucker helped us better understand an emerging clinical diagnosis, "Prolonged Grief Disorder"

The topic sparked strong engagement, introspection and support from the group. TSC volunteer Cindy Hernandez had this to share:

"I was grateful to be able to attend tonight's Zoom, What is Prolonged Grief Disorder, with grief counselor Rob Zucker. As some know, sharing can be hard but in doing so we're able to support one another in ways we never thought. I am grateful to have my families continued support and the support I have here..."

Stay tuned for our next zoom session topic for June!

Check Out Our Truck Crash Resources

We have an entire section on our website that integrates our valuable truck crash resource book as well as advice and testimonials from some of our volunteers. Let us know what you think and don't hesitate to contact info@trucksafety.org if you have additional resources or tips you would like to see added.

Helpful Resources Included:

[Time Sensitive Information](#)

[Practical Tips](#)

[Coping](#)

[Legal Aspects](#)

FUNDRAISE FOR TSC

The Truck Safety Coalition operates solely on donations received from our generous supporters. We are a small non-profit, and we need your help to continue our important work. Your fundraising 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.

Peer to Peer Fundraising

Facebook's fundraising tools for nonprofits include peer-to-peer capabilities in the form of individual fundraisers. Facebook fundraisers are easy for users to create on their own, and they've become popular across the platform. These fundraisers are common ways for users to celebrate birthdays and holidays, or to honor loved ones. Starting a Fundraising Campaign for TSC has never been easier. It only takes a minute to set up a peer-to-peer campaign through Facebook.

- Decide to make a difference
- Name your fundraiser
- Choose a photo



That's it. You're ready to start raising money to help families affected by truck crashes.

WILL YOU JOIN THE CAUSE?

DONATE YOUR BIRTHDAY

This year, your special day can have double the impact: celebrate friends and family while also supporting truck crash victims.



FUNDRAISE ON YOUR CRASH ANNIVERSARY

You will always remember when your crash anniversary is approaching. Raise funds for TSC to help make it less likely this will happen to anyone else.



FUNDRAISE FOR MOTHER'S DAY

Make your next special occasion extra-meaningful by honoring the day of meaning with your own TSC Fundraiser.

**IN APRIL, TSC
PRESIDENT DAWN
KING RAISED
OVER \$1,000 IN
HONOR OF HER
FATHER ON HER
BIRTHDAY.
THANK YOU,
DAWN!**