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May 17, 2022

Contact: Zach Cahalan  
[zcahalan@trucksafety.org](mailto:zcahalan@trucksafety.org)  
202-921-9526

## **Statement Regarding Record-High 2021 NHTSA Large Truck Projected Fatalities**

*Washington, DC* – Today the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) released its early estimate of [2021 traffic fatalities](#), and truck crash fatalities are projected to increase an astounding 13%. This increase constitutes the HIGHEST number of truck crash fatalities ever with over 5,600 lives lost. Truck Safety Coalition (TSC) Board President Dawn King was exasperated, “What more is needed to take safety seriously? We need to do everything possible to reverse this terrifying trend because lives hang in the balance.”

NHTSA estimates that 5,610 people, including truck drivers, perished in truck crashes last year. This represents an unfathomable 52% increase in truck crash fatalities since 2010. Despite passenger vehicles being safer than ever, 97% of fatalities occur to passenger vehicle occupants in large truck crashes. TSC urges the following steps as a starting point to address this crisis:

- Require Automatic Emergency Braking (AEB) and Advanced Driver Assistance Systems (ADAS) **on all commercial motor vehicles (CMVs)**
- Require side and front underride guards on all CMVs
- Expeditedly complete proposed rulemaking compelling the use of speed limiters in all CMVs
- DOT must raise the commercial motor carrier minimum insurance requirements as outlined in H.R. 2687, the INSURANCE ACT of 2021

- DOT must Terminate the Unsafe Teen Driver Apprenticeship Program and prevent these deaths from escalating even higher yet
- Pass H.R. 7517, the GOT Truckers Act, and Eliminate the Fair Labor Standards Act Motor Carrier Exemption
- FMCSA must complete rulemaking requiring a New Entrant Knowledge Test for new motor carriers to demonstrate they comprehend critical rules and regulations to safely operate CMVs in interstate commerce
- Existing safety measures must be protected, and industry-friendly rollbacks must be resisted, such as unnecessary exemptions to Hours of Service requirements that help combat driver fatigue

NHTSA Deputy Administrator Dr. Steven Cliff points out, "This crisis on our roads is urgent and preventable." The Truck Safety Coalition implores Congress and the Biden Administration to heed Dr. Cliff's call and implement these proven solutions to prevent truck crash deaths and injuries. Parents Against Tired Truckers (P.A.T.T.) Board Co-Chair Russ Swift warns, "The carnage on our roadways is deeply disturbing. Policymakers must act swiftly to protect the public from these unrelenting and horrific truck crashes. They won't go away on their own."

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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>*