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Truck Safety Coalition Volunteer Daniel Langenkamp, Organizes RIDE FOR YOUR LIFE, a Bicycle Ride Urging Congress to Fight for Bicycle Safety Reforms

Washington, DC – On Saturday, November 19th, Dan Langenkamp, Trek Bicycle, PeopleForBikes, the Washington Area Bicyclist Association (WABA), Families for Safe Streets, the League of American Bicyclists, Transportation Alternatives, the Truck Safety Coalition (TSC) and other cycling and truck safety organizations in the Washington, D.C. area will participate in the <u>Ride for Your Life</u>. TSC encourages all area riders to register for the ride today.

The 10-mile bike ride to Congress is in memory of Sarah Langenkamp who was killed by a flatbed truck while riding home in Bethesda, Maryland in August. Propelled by her spirit, the bike ride is asking Congress for funding to support enhanced biking infrastructure and commercial truck regulations that will prevent other cyclist injuries and fatalities. Beginning at 10:00 a.m. EST on Saturday, November 19th, riders will travel ten miles starting at Wood Acres Elementary School, past Sarah's crash site at 5244 River Road in Bethesda and onto Capitol Hill. There is no cost to participate in the ride

Sarah Langenkamp, a wife, mother of two boys, and Foreign Service Officer with the U.S. State Department for 17 years, died when she was hit by a flatbed truck while riding home on her bicycle from her sons' elementary school in Bethesda, Maryland on August, 25, 2022. The crash occurred while she was riding in a clearly marked- yet unprotected- bike lane where commercial traffic competes with cyclists for space.

Sarah and Dan are both lifelong cyclists, commuting to work all over the world wherever their assignments took them. The Langenkamp family had just returned to the Washington, D.C. area after being evacuated from Ukraine, where Sarah and Dan had served the United States helping Ukraine's fight again Russia's full-scale invasion.

"I just can't let Sarah's death take place in vain," said Dan Langenkamp. "There is no reason that a person in America should be risking their life to bike to school or work. There are easy solutions here:

- Fund the 2021 Active Infrastructure Investment Act: Passed to help local governments improve safe cycling routes, the act was never provided an appropriation by Congress. The act aims to fill gaps in safe biking infrastructure to promote active lifestyles. Investments would include bike lane infrastructure with features such as separated bike lanes with barriers.
- **Implement Truck Safety Reforms**: Practical changes to improve trucking safety, such as mandating better training, use of automated driver assistance systems (including automatic emergency braking systems and blind-spot monitors), and front and side underride guards for trucks which will protect both cars and cyclists/pedestrians from the danger of being caught under truck carriages.

"No one should feel unsafe when riding on a bike, especially when there are simple infrastructure safety solutions. Bikes are vehicles for change, whether it's for the environment, one's mental or physical health, or for empowerment, and we're using our bikes to act and ride to Congress," said John Burke, President of Trek Bicycle.

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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 <u>https://trucksafety.org</u>