

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 19, 2023

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

## **Truck Safety Coalition Applauds NHTSA For Establishing Underride Protection Advisory Committee and Issuing Side Underride Guard ANPRM**

*Washington, DC* – Yesterday, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) [fulfilled obligations](#) required by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) in establishing the Advisory Committee for Underride Protection (ACUP) and issuing an [Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking](#) (ANPRM) for Side Underride Guards.

Truck Safety Coalition (TSC) Board Member Jennifer Tierney, who lost her father in a side underride crash, said, “DOT has known about this lethal liability since the 1970s. I applaud Secretary Buttigieg for finally taking it seriously and issuing the ANPRM. There is no price too high to have a loved one whose life was cut short by a preventable underride crash back by your side where they belong.”

Tierney, along with [TSC volunteers](#) Jane Mathis and Lee Jackson, were named to DOT’s newly formed Advisory Committee on Underride Protection (ACUP). Each volunteer is uniquely suited to offer invaluable insights and contributions to the important work ahead. Said Jackson, “It is an honor I do not take lightly. Lives literally hang in the balance.” The ACUP will provide advice and recommendations to the DOT Secretary on safety regulations to reduce underride crashes and the devastating fatalities and injuries they cause.

Underride crashes involve a passenger vehicle passing under the front, side or rear of a large truck. These crashes are nearly always fatal or result in lifelong, debilitating injuries because standard safety features of a passenger vehicle frequently do not deploy as the vehicle passes underneath the commercial motor vehicle. Despite some passenger vehicles being safer than ever, the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS) estimates that in two-vehicle

crashes involving a passenger vehicle and a large truck, 97% of the fatalities occur to passenger vehicle occupants.

TSC is honored to see its affiliated victim volunteers well represented on NHTSA's Advisory Committee on Underride Protection. Their collective experience, knowledge, and expertise will help advance long overdue underride protection. The organization looks forward to providing robust public comments in support of this lifesaving regulatory reform. Underride fatalities are preventable, not inevitable, and TSC stands ready to help NHTSA make this a reality.

###

*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>*