

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

## **TSC Applauds Guaranteeing Overtime for Truckers Act**

Washington, DC – The Truck Safety Coalition enthusiastically supports the [Guaranteeing Overtime for Truckers Act \(GOT Truckers Act\)](#) introduced by Senator Padilla (D-CA) and Senator Markey (D-MA) in the Senate. “This is not just a matter of fairness; it’s a matter of public safety. Experienced truckers are safer truckers, and better compensation will help more of them stay in the profession. It’s time we guarantee overtime for truckers,” **said Senator Padilla.**

The bill is additionally introduced by Representative Van Drew (R-NJ-02) and Representative Takano (D-CA-39) in the House of Representatives. This bipartisan bill would eliminate the unfair and anti-safe Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) Motor Carrier Overtime Exemption that prohibits truck drivers from qualifying for overtime pay.

**Tami Friedrich, Truck Safety Coalition President**, applauds the bill saying, “The FLSA Motor Carrier Exemption needlessly puts the lives of truck drivers and all roadway users at grave risk. The notion that it is acceptable for innocent people to die to avoid paying truck drivers for all their time is un-American. I am grateful to my home state Senator, Senator Padilla, as well as Senator Markey for taking action to eliminate this lethal loophole. The GOT Truckers Act will undoubtedly save lives and improve roadway safety for all.”

The GOT Truckers Act is additionally supported by the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, the Owner-Operator Independent Drivers Association (OOIDA), and the Institute for Safer Trucking. “Unbelievably, trucking is one of the only professions in America that is denied guaranteed overtime pay. **said OOIDA President Todd Spencer.** “Truck drivers have been denied overtime protections for nearly 100 years,” added **Teamsters General President Sean M. O’Brien.**

In addition to Senators Padilla and Markey, the legislation is cosponsored by Senator and Chairman of the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.), as well as Senators Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn.), Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.), and Ron Wyden (D-Ore.).

Over 5,700 people, including over 1,000 truck drivers, lost their lives in truck crashes in the last year on record. These figures are unacceptable and demand action. TSC urges all Senators to co-sponsor this life-saving legislation. Research indicates that when truck labor rates are fair, there is less incidence of driver fatigue, fewer regulatory violations, and a reduction in crash rates.<sup>1</sup> The GOT Trucker's Act is a rare piece of legislation that addresses a systemic issue that will make our roads safer for everyone, including our truck drivers.

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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>*

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<sup>1</sup> Ju, Shengyang and Belzer, Michael H., Pay Incentives, Working Time, and Safety: Evidence from U.S. Intrastate Trucking Companies. Available at <http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.4046436>