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## **Statement of Support for H.R. 6884, the “Fair Compensation for Truck Crash Victims Act”**

The Fair Compensation for Truck Crash Victims Act, H.R. 6884, seeks to systemically improve truck safety and bring truck crash victim equity into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The minimum liability insurance required for motor carriers has never been increased since it was initially required by Congress at \$750,000 in 1980. This figure is woefully inadequate in 2024. If adjusted for medical-cost inflation, that figure would be over \$5M in today’s dollars.

H.R. 6884 simply requires the Department of Transportation to increase the minimum insurance required for property-carrying motor carriers to match today’s cost of living. Failure to do so knowingly and deliberately allows motor carriers to operate underinsured and foist the cost of crashes onto those who least deserve to bear it, truck crash victims and survivors.

Citizens for Reliable and Safe Highways (CRASH) Board Member, Anna Guardipee, who became wheelchair-bound and lost her best friend, Jenny Burton in a preventable crash with a minimally insured carrier applauded the bill, saying, “Thank goodness there are those in Congress who care about truck crash victims. I am exceedingly grateful for Congressman Garcia (D-IL-4) and Congressman Johnson’s (D-GA-4) leadership on this issue. **Congress never intended for crash victims to subsidize unsafe truck companies and their drivers.** It’s long past time for Congress to fix it.”

In addition to addressing fundamental equity issues for crash victims, H.R. 6884 also systemically improves safety for all roadway users. By requiring all carriers to carry insurance that more closely matches the risk they pose to other roadway users, insurance providers will engage in more rigorous underwriting

and vetting practices to reduce the likelihood unsafe carriers receive coverage in the first place.

The Fair Compensation for Truck Crash Victims Act is additionally co-sponsored by Congressman Jared Huffman (D-CA-2), Congressman John Garamendi (D-CA-8), Congressman Adriano Espaillat (D-NY-13), and Congressman Steve Cohen (D-TN-09).

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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>*

