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Statement Applauding Explosive Findings in USPS OIG “Contract Trucking Safety and Compliance”

On February 29, 2024, the United States Postal Service (USPS) Office of Inspector General (OIG) published a [scathing report](#) calling out the Agency for its safety failings in the use of contracted trucking. Among the mind-blowing findings, the USPS had not ever tracked any information concerning fatal truck crashes by its contracted fleet.

Congressman Gerald Connolly (D-VA-11), who demanded the OIG investigative undertaking last year, lamented the findings saying, “The report confirmed several of our worst fears about contract trucking practices at the United States Postal Service. The report calls out for legislative action, and we are going to answer that call with the Mail Traffic Deaths Reporting Act. **We are going to fix this. We are going to make sure that these victims and their families are seen.** (*emphasis added*)”

TSC Victim Volunteer, Abby Godines, who lost her parents, brother, sister, and niece to an unsafe USPS Contracted Carrier in 2022 was grateful for the hard-hitting report. **“My family would still be with me today if the USPS followed through on their empty safety rhetoric sooner** (*emphasis added*). At least this report shines a light for everyone to see just how much they need to improve and not put other innocent families at risk,” said Godines.

The OIG report exposed many preventable and unnecessary safety risks at USPS, including

- The Postal Service did not track contractor crashes and fatalities
- 93% percent of Postal Service contract and administrative officers did not know when prime contractors utilized a subcontractor

- The Postal Service did not screen truck driver's driving history for its carriers
- The Report strongly suggests that the Postal Service had a strong preference for the lowest cost carriers and only recently encouraged safer, more expensive operators, to be selected over the lowest cost and often more unsafe carriers.

No one should die to receive the mail. The USPS has a responsibility to the public to prioritize safety in its screening and selection of motor carriers. TSC unequivocally supports the Mail Traffic Deaths Reporting Act effort spearheaded by Congressman Connolly. This bill will require the USPS to track truck crash deaths and injuries involving its contracted fleet among other commonsense measures to address stunning management failures identified in the OIG Report.

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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>

