



June 27, 2017

Honorable Andrew Cuomo  
Governor  
State of New York  
Albany, NY 12247

Dear Governor Cuomo:

We urge you to sign into law S 6523 which would require children under age two to be secured in a rear-facing child restraint system or until they reach the height or weight limit of their car seats.

The legislation is supported by the American Academy of Pediatrics and is based on a foundation of research and medical evidence. According to a 2011 study, children under age 2 are 75 percent less likely to die or to be severely injured in a crash if they are rear-facing. Dennis Durbin, MD, a primary author of the study, concluded that "A rear-facing child safety seat does a better job of supporting the head, neck and spine of infants and toddlers in a crash, because it distributes the force of the collision over the entire body."

Scientific evidence is critical and it is also important to see the face of smart child safety policy. Daniee Weaver of Utica, was in a severe car accident when her daughter was one month old. Miraculously, the child was not injured and Weaver attributes the "save" to the fact that her daughter was safely restrained in her rear-facing car seat. "I know this happy outcome is not the case for all accidents, which is why it's so important that we do everything we can to keep our kids safe in the car." In addition, the law will help our law enforcement community conduct its work on enforcing child passenger safety laws; in 2016, about 9,000 people were ticketed for CPS violations.

Safe Kids Worldwide is a grassroots organization with over 400 coalitions in the U.S., including Safe Kids New York State, and its 11 coalitions. Our mission is to protect kids from preventable injury, the number one cause of death to children in the United States. We seek to be a parent's partner in preventing injuries in the home, at play and on the road.

We congratulate Assemblyman Joseph Robach and Senator Sandy Galef for their leadership in championing this bill. New York is a national leader in its efforts to make our most vulnerable citizens safer, and S 6523 would continue this leadership role. Governor, we ask that you sign the bill into law.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rosemarie Ennis".

Rosemarie Ennis  
Coordinator  
Safe Kids New York