



May 9, 2018

The Honorable John Thune
Chairman
Committee on Commerce, Science, and
Transportation
512 Dirksen Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Bill Nelson
Ranking Member
Committee on Commerce, Science, and
Transportation
512 Dirksen Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Thune and Ranking Member Nelson:

We write in favor of the nomination of Heidi King to be the next Administrator of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA).

The mission of Safe Kids Worldwide is to prevent unintentional injury involving children 19 and under, the number one cause of death of children in that age group. The largest contributor to that disturbing statistic is child road fatalities. Our work encompasses every facet of keeping a child buckled up in car seats and then safety belts at the right time, and seeking to end the tragedies that occur when a child is left behind in or gets into a hot car. We report out recalled products and have studied ways to improve the recall process. Today, we are studying the implications for kids as autonomous vehicles are tested, regulated and rolled out. Thus, safety awareness for parents and advocacy efforts on road safety have been central priorities.

We have confidence that Ms. King will live up to the ideal expressed by Secretary Chao that safety is the "number one priority" at the Department of Transportation. We believe that the best route to safety is when regulation and innovation are founded on research and evidence. Ms. King's background in research and science is clear from her career experiences. She obtained degrees at California Institute of Technology and University of California, Irvine. Ms. King's knowledge and drive earned her leadership roles at Telcordia Technologies and Pfizer, Inc. However, her devotion to public service is also evident from her experiences with the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and as Chief Economist with the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, when she first became familiar with NHTSA. Her experiences on the front lines of safety include serving as an Emergency Medical Technician and a California State Park Ranger.

Ms. King has demonstrated strong leadership as the Acting Administrator at NHTSA. She reacted quickly to fatal crashes involving automated vehicle technology and has expressed concern about the current state of the recall process under NHTSA's jurisdiction, which includes child restraint systems. A new initiative on our part is rail safety, because children are particularly at risk as both pedestrians and passengers at grade crossings. In that respect, we are supportive of Ms. King's work with the Federal Railroad Administration on a rail crossing awareness campaign, "Stop. Trains Can't."

Based on the foregoing, we urge the Committee to consider and send Acting Administrator King's nomination to the Senate floor for a vote.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Torine Creppy". The signature is written in black ink on a white background.

Torine Creppy
President, Safe Kids Worldwide