



October 1, 2019

Honorable Steve Cohen
U.S. House of Representatives
2104 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Honorable Ed Markey
U.S. Senate
255 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Markey and Representative Cohen:

We join together as 72 Safe Kids coalitions in support of the Complete Streets Act of 2019. As traffic becomes more intense, our roads are becoming less safe and usable, especially for vulnerable road users such as children on foot and on bikes, senior citizens and disabled. This legislation cannot come at a more opportune time. Between 2008 and 2017 pedestrian fatalities across all ages increased by 35.4 percent.¹ The on-foot fatality rate is the highest since 1990 and pedestrian- and cyclist-related fatalities are now 18.2 percent of all traffic deaths, compared to 12.9 percent in 2007.^{1,2}

A Complete Street is one in which motor vehicles and freight vehicles mutually share the roads with people on foot, on bicycles and those using public transportation, rather than one which has historically favored cars and drivers. A Complete Street would make vulnerable road users safer, including people with disabilities, senior citizens and especially our children. There are many ways in which children would be safer and healthier on a Complete Street.

- Today, parents are anxious about sending their kids off to school on foot or on bikes. Complete streets can reduce that anxiety so that kids can return to walking and bike riding. It would advance child health by promoting exercise and a cleaner environment.
- Today, too many drivers speed through school zones, where speed limits are too high or where violating reasonable speed limits is all too commonplace. Further, areas frequented by kids—near schools, parks and libraries—often lack adequate signage and other means to “calm” traffic.
- Today, many children in rural areas walk or bike to school along fast-moving roads without sidewalks. They wait for school buses on the sides of roads, uncovered and unprotected. These rural roads can be perilous and need improvements.

Safe Kids Worldwide is a grassroots nonprofit dedicated to protecting kids from preventable injuries, the number one cause of death to children in the United States. We work with a network of over 400 coalitions in the United States as a go-to resource to help parents keep kids safe from car crashes, fires, falls, poisoning, pedestrian and bike fatalities, and more.

We applaud your leadership on the Complete Streets Act and look forward to working with you for its passage.

Sincerely,

Safe Kids Alaska
Safe Kids Pima County, Arizona
Safe Kids California

Safe Kids Central California
Safe Kids Greater Sacramento, California
Safe Kids Los Angeles West, California

Safe Kids Orange County, California
Safe Kids San Benito County, California
Safe Kids San Diego, California
Safe Kids Santa Clara/San Mateo, California
Safe Kids Stanislaus County, California
Safe Kids Colorado
Safe Kids Colorado Springs, Colorado
Safe Kids Denver Metro, Colorado
Safe Kids Larimer County, Colorado
Safe Kids District of Columbia
Safe Kids Palm Beach County, Florida
Safe Kids Greater Tampa, Florida
Safe Kids NE Florida
Safe Kids Orlando County, Florida
Safe Kids Southwest Florida
Safe Kids Augusta, Georgia
Safe Kids Clayton County, Georgia
Safe Kids Fulton County, Georgia
Safe Kids Spalding County, Georgia
Safe Kids Hawaii
Safe Kids Kansas
Safe Kids Republic County, Kansas
Safe Kids Fayette County, Kentucky
Safe Kids Massachusetts
Safe Kids Baltimore, Maryland
Safe Kids Prince George’s County, Maryland
Safe Kids Oakland County, Michigan
Safe Kids Springfield, Missouri
Safe Kids Wayne County, North Carolina
Safe Kids Pitt County, North Carolina
Safe Kids Guilford County, North Carolina
Safe Kids Charlotte-Mecklenburg, North Carolina
Safe Kids Chatham, North Carolina

Safe Kids Halifax County, North Carolina
Safe Kids Jackson County, North Carolina
Safe Kids Orange County, North Carolina
Safe Kids Surry County, North Carolina
Safe Kids Bismarck/Mandan, North Dakota
Safe Kids Minot, North Dakota
Safe Kids Fargo/Moorhead, North Dakota
Safe Kids Middlesex County, New Jersey
Safe Kids New Mexico
Safe Kids Nevada
Safe Kids Washoe County
Safe Kids Southern Tier, New York
Safe Kids Carroll County, Ohio
Safe Kids Cleveland County, Ohio
Safe Kids Columbus, Ohio
Safe Kids Greater Dayton, Ohio
Safe Kids Greater Toledo, Ohio
Safe Kids Ohio
Safe Kids Summit County, Ohio
Safe Kids Greater Cincinnati, Ohio
Safe Kids Na-I-Sha, Oklahoma
Safe Kids Oklahoma
Safe Kids Oklahoma City Metro, Oklahoma
Safe Kids Allegheny County, Pennsylvania
Safe Kids Anderson County, South Carolina
Safe Kids Tennessee
Safe Kids Greater Dallas, Texas
Safe Kids Greater Houston, Texas
Safe Kids San Antonio, Texas
Safe Kids Thurston County, Washington
Safe Kids Wisconsin
Safe Kids Greater Green Bay, Wisconsin
Safe Kids Worldwide

¹ “Dangerous by Design 2019,” Smart Growth America, January 2019, Accessed 07.24.2019. Available at <https://smartgrowthamerica.org/resources/dangerous-by-design-2019/>.

² Retting, R, “Pedestrian Traffic Fatalities by State,” Governor’s Highway Safety Association, February 2019. Accessed 07.24.2019. Available at https://www.ghsa.org/sites/default/files/2019-02/FINAL_Pedestrians19.pdf.