



November 12, 2019

Honorable Rick Scott  
United States Senate  
716 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Honorable Tom Udall  
United States Senate  
531 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Scott and Udall:

We write to express our support for S 2604, the Reduce Impaired Driving for Everyone (RIDE) Act of 2019, and to thank you for your leadership on this important legislation. Safe Kids Worldwide is a grass roots network of more than 420 coalitions across the nation with the mission of preventing unintentional injury among kids 19 and under. It is the number one killer of children in that age group. Child fatalities caused by drunk drivers are an example of just such a preventable tragedy.

Technology has been one of the tools to enhance motor vehicle safety in addition to aggressive public education and strong laws governing the rules of the road that are vigorously enforced. A child passenger restraint system is a classic example of a carefully engineered intervention to keep kids safe in a car. We believe advanced alcohol detection technology should be a basic part of a motor vehicle's safety system. The federal government has partnered with the auto industry to develop a system that can passively test the level of a driver's intoxication, and when a driver alcohol level exceeds the legal limit, the motor vehicle is disabled. This or similar technology would have a profound impact on reducing traffic deaths.

There are several implications of drunk driving that uniquely place a child at risk in a car. First, an impaired driver is less likely to place a child in an occupant protection system and more likely to install it incorrectly. Second, an impaired driver is more likely to cause a fatal crash, killing a child, whether it's the driver of the car in which a child is a passenger or a drunk driver who hits a car with a child passenger.

We understand that it was the second scenario which inspired legislation to advance the development of this technology. In January 2019, the Abbas family of Dearborn, Michigan was traveling to Florida for the Christmas holiday. In Georgetown, Kentucky, a driver with a reported BAC level of .306, four times the legal limit, crossed into the opposite lane and collided head-on with the Abbas's car. Five members of the family died, including three children: Ali (13), Isabelle (12) and Giselle (7). If the .306 blood content level was detected and technology caused the vehicle to be inoperable, the driver would not have been on the road that night.

Each year, more than 10,000 deaths occur because of drunk drivers—roughly 30 percent of all fatal crashes—and we believe advanced alcohol detection technology should be required in every new vehicle. We stand ready to help you in your effort to pass the RIDE Act.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Anthony Green". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "A" and "G".

Anthony Green  
Chief Officer for Advocacy and Network  
Safe Kids Worldwide