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April 20, 2007

The Honorable Hillary Rodham Clinton  
476 Russell Office Building  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Clinton:

On behalf of the 60,000 primary care pediatricians, pediatric medical subspecialists, and pediatric surgical specialists of the American Academy of Pediatrics who are dedicated to the health, safety, and wellbeing of infants, children, adolescents, and young adults, I would like to share our support for S. 694, the Cameron Gulbransen Kids and Cars Safety Act of 2007.

The Academy has a long record of supporting child safety measures in transportation, ranging from car seats to bicycle helmets. As increasing numbers of large passenger vehicles, such as sport utility vehicles, have been added to our nation's roads, the Academy has been alarmed by an apparent increase in the number of incidents involving accidental injury to or death of children due to motor vehicle-related backovers. Unfortunately, because the Department of Transportation (DOT) does not collect data on nontraffic, noncrash incidents, it has been difficult to ascertain the extent of this problem.

Your legislation would fill a critical need by requiring the DOT to collect data on nontraffic, noncrash incidents such as backovers, accidental stranglings in car power windows, and children left unattended in overheated vehicles. In addition, the bill would require that DOT establish regulations and deadlines by which light passenger vehicles would be equipped with a variety of safety measures.

The American Academy of Pediatrics appreciates your sponsorship of this important legislation and your commitment to child safety. We look forward to working with you as this legislation moves through Congress.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jay E. Berkelhamer".

Jay E. Berkelhamer, MD, FAAP  
President

JB:cp