

May 22, 2007

The Honorable Janice D. Schakowsky
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Schakowsky:

The Emergency Nurses Association (ENA) would like to express its strong support for H.R. 1216, the **Cameron Gulbransen Kids and Cars Act of 2007**. The prevention of childhood injuries, in particular those related to motor vehicles, has long been a priority for ENA's Injury Prevention Institute. Since 2001, more than 1,000 children have died in nontraffic incidents, often in their own driveways. Unfortunately, these statistics are believed to be only the tip of the iceberg. A 2002 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention study reported that over 9,160 children were treated in hospital emergency rooms due to nontraffic incidents. Emergency nurses believe these injuries and deaths are completely preventable and find this needless loss of young lives unacceptable.

Since the Department of Transportation (DOT) does not collect data on nontraffic, noncrash incidents, the current available data provide an incomplete picture of the magnitude of the problem. Your introduction of the **Cameron Gulbransen Kids and Cars Act** will help remedy this data gap 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.

Moreover, ENA heartily supports the measures that you have incorporated in the bill to prevent the injuries and deaths from occurring. Specifically, the bill directs the Secretary of Transportation to issue safety standards to require:

- Power windows and panels to automatically reverse direction when they detect an obstruction to prevent children from being trapped, injured or killed.
- Rearward visibility performance standard that will provide drivers with a means of detecting the presence of a person behind the vehicle in order to prevent backing incidents involving death and injury.
- Vehicle service brake to be depressed whenever the vehicle is taken out of park in order to prevent incidents resulting from children disengaging the gear shift and causing vehicles to roll away.

As the voice of more than 32,000 emergency nurses, ENA applauds your effort in this area and offers its resources in bringing this legislation to reality. If we can be of any assistance, please contact Kathleen Ream, ENA's Washington Representative, at 703-241-3947.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Donna L. Mason'.

Donna Mason, RN, MS, CEN
President