

Should the federal government require rear-view cameras for all new vehicles?

These parents think so

By [John Luciew | jluciew@pennlive.com](mailto:jluciew@pennlive.com) WFMY News 2 on September 26, 2013 at 8:21 AM



The view from a rear-view camera. (Toyota)

It's a matter of life and death. That's how the parents' group, **KidsAndCars.org**, is framing the debate over whether the federal government should mandate rear-view cameras for all new vehicles.

Right now, the Obama Administration has opted to go with a recommendation to car companies to include the cameras -- not a requirement. But this isn't good enough for the group and others so emotionally involved in the debate because they have lost children in the most heart-breaking way possible: Backing up over them in their own driveways.

According to statistics, 210 Americans are killed in roll-over accidents each year. Half of the victims are children. Adding to this cruel fate, often it is a family member or close friend behind the wheel of the vehicle backing up near a home. The victim is never even seen by the driver until it's too late.

Advocates of rear-view cameras say the technology would change all this -- but only if it is put into every vehicle. Currently, only about half of new vehicles are equipped with the cameras. The technology costs about \$200 to \$300. But often, the cameras are made part of a vehicle's "safety package" that can add up to \$2,000 to \$4,000 to the sticker price.

Overall, automakers are saying a rear-view camera mandate would add \$3 billion to their manufacturing costs each year.

The debate has been raging for five years now. But rear-view camera advocates won't let it rest with a mere recommendation for the cameras from the Obama Administration.

Now the feud among safety advocates, the Department of Transportation and automakers now appears headed to court, [Politico reports today](#). This after a coalition of consumer groups asked a federal judge to force the transportation department to issue a long-delayed rule aimed at preventing "back over" accidents.

Should rear-view cameras be mandated by the government? After all, the proof seems incontrovertible that they save lives.

So what do you think? Should rear-view cameras be mandated by the government to be included as standard equipment in all new vehicles? After all, the proof seems incontrovertible that they save lives. Or is a mere recommendation by the U.S. Transportation Department that the car companies voluntarily include the cameras enough?

You decide in the comments...

http://www.pennlive.com/midstate/index.ssf/2013/09/should_the_federal_government.html