

# Families of children accidentally ran over by cars sue federal government over backup cameras

Originally published: September 26, 2013 1:46 PM



OYSTER BAY - The parents of two children who were accidentally run over by cars are suing the federal government over backup cameras.

Dr. Greg Gulbransen, who is part of the lawsuit and also had a tragic incident that may have been avoided with the help of a backup camera, says he wants rear-view cameras on all vehicles.

Gulbransen's battle began in 2002 when, backing up in his driveway, he accidentally ran over and killed his 2-year-old son Cameron.

He says rear-view cameras are supposed to be mandatory on all vehicles sold in this county, and that the administration is pushing back and prohibiting it from going through its last step.

In 2008, Congress passed a law named in honor of Gulbransen's son. The Cameron Gulbransen Transportation Safety Act directs automakers to improve rear visibility with cameras, sensors or both. It insures that power windows retract when blocked. It also requires the government to establish a database of "backover" crashes and requires carmakers to make it impossible for people to accidentally knock a car out of park.

According to the federal government, nearly half of the 200 people killed in backover accidents last year were children who couldn't be seen from the rear window

Sue Auriemma is the other party to the lawsuit. Her mission to mandate cameras was launched after she ran over and nearly killed her 3-year-old daughter Kate.

Auriemma says that the proposed rule was finalized, but the Office of Management and Budget delivered a letter to Congress in June saying that they needed another 18 months to study the problem.

Advocates say the best way to support mandatory backup cameras is to get in touch with the Department of Transportation and the Obama Administration.

News 12 Long Island contacted the Department of Transportation, but the agency would not comment due to pending litigation.

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