



The Honorable Sean Duffy
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Duffy,

On behalf of Kids and Car Safety (KACS) and the families who have suffered the unimaginable loss of a child, please accept our heartfelt congratulations on your appointment as Secretary of the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT). Your lifelong dedication to family and public service makes you exceptionally well-suited for this role. As the father of nine children, you bring a personal understanding of the sacred responsibility we all share to protect our most vulnerable.

KACS is a national nonprofit organization committed to saving children's lives in and around vehicles, with a particular focus on nontraffic incidents—those that occur off public roadways but still result in far too many preventable injuries and deaths. For over 30 years, we have worked tirelessly to raise awareness, promote safety innovations, and advocate for policy changes to stop these tragedies before they happen.

Each year, nearly 40 infants and young children die after being trapped in hot vehicles. Many more suffer life-altering injuries. These heartbreaking incidents are entirely preventable. We are proud to collaborate with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) as they evaluate existing, affordable detection technologies capable of saving lives today.

In 2021, Congress passed the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Pub. L. 117-58), which required NHTSA to issue a safety standard mandating these technologies in all new vehicles by November 2023. Unfortunately, this deadline has long passed. The initial step—a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM)—has yet to be issued.

Since the law was enacted, at least 130 babies have died in hot cars. How many more must die before action is taken?

With May 1—National Heatstroke Prevention Day—approaching, we urge you to announce the issuance of the long-overdue NPRM before the first day of summer, (June 20) as a powerful and timely demonstration of your commitment to children's safety. As summer approaches, families across the country will be celebrating, unaware that dozens will suffer unimaginable losses before the season ends. We know what's coming—and we also know it can be prevented.

While some automakers have implemented basic door sequencing alerts, these systems are dangerously inadequate. At least seven children have already died in vehicles equipped with such

systems. And while more advanced detection technologies are available in select high-end models, only a federal safety standard will ensure all children, in all vehicles, are protected.

There are many risks to our children that we cannot control. But this is not one of them. The technology exists. The data is clear. The urgency is real.

Secretary Duffy, we stand ready to work with you to advance life-saving solutions and support your leadership in protecting our nation's children. Together, we can ensure that no child dies from a tragedy we have the power to prevent.

We look forward to partnering with you to create a safer future for all families.

Sincerely,

Amie Duemer (Lubbock, TX)
Mother of Josef, who died in a hot car at 1yr old

Andrew & Jamie Dill (Evansville, IN)
Parents of Oliver who died in a hot car at 3 years old

Deona Bien (Overland Park, KS)
Mother of Aslyn Ryan who died from being inadvertently left in a hot car by her sitter at 1 year old

Brooke Paige (Macclenny, FL)
Mother of Ariya Paige who died in a hot car at 10 months old

DiKeisha and Raymond Pryer (Houston, TX)
Parents of RJ who died in a hot car at 3 years old

Doug Grote (TN)
Father of Kristen who passed away in a hot car

Stephanie and Israel Piñón (Albuquerque, NM)
Parents of Jahzel who died in a hot car at only 2 years old

Reginald McKinnon, (Florida)
Father of Payton Lyn McKinnon who died in a hot car at only 17 months of age

Westin & Dawn Peabody (Phoenix, AZ)
Parents of Maya Peabody who died in a hot car 2008

Angela and Scott Jones (Gilbert, AZ) Parents of Charlotte who died in a hot car at age 3

Marissa & Juan Rodriguez (Bronx, NY)
Luna & Phoenix 1 year old twins died in a hot car

Leanna Simmons
Mother of Cooper Harris who died in a hot car

Laura Beck (Midlothian, VA)
Mother of Anderson who died in a hot car and wife of Aaron, who took his own life upon discovering he unknowingly left our son in the car and went to work

Allice Goodwin (Houston, TX)
Cousin of RJ Pryer who died in a hot daycare bus at 3 years old

Allison Heyse (Tempe, AZ)
Friend of Charli Jones who died in a hot car at 3 years old

Todd & Melody Costello (Medina, OH)
Whose child was inadvertently left in a hot car at 9 months

Taylor Zaglia (Boston, MA)

Mother of Fiona Zaglia who died in a hot car at only 12 months old

Amber Hall

Sister to Raymond Pryer Jr died in a hot car at age 3

Andrea Quattrone (Delray Beach, FL)

Great aunt of Luna and Phoenix twins who perished in a hot car

Christine Hladky (Lowell, MA)

First responder, first on scene for an infant who died in a hot car at 9 months old

Eric Stuyvesant & Michelle Stuyvesant (Garland, TX)

Parents of Michael who survived being inadvertently left in a hot car at 3 years old which has resulted in mental delays

Angela and Jonathan Gaines (Baton Rouge, LA)

Cousin of RJ who died in a hot school bus at only 3 years old

Angela Broussard (Garland, TX)

Friend of the Stuyvesant family whose son Michael was inadvertently left in a hot car

AnnMarie & Dixon Troché (Blandon, PA)

Friends of family member of Luna & Phoenix (twins), who died in a hot car only at the age of 1 year old

Ansche Wiggins (Baton Rouge, LA)

Cousin of Raymond Pryer Jr (RJ) who died in a hot vehicle at 3 years old

Arlette Medina (Miami, FL)

Friend of the family of Luna and Phoenix who died in a hot car in NY

Ashley Genao (Boston, MA)

Cousin of Luna and Phoenix who died in a hot car at the age of 1

Brian Whitlock (Baton Rouge, LA)

Uncle of Raymond Pryer Jr (RJ) Who died in a hot car (daycare Van) at age 3

Brianna McKenna

Friend of Marissa & Juan Rodriguez (NY), parents of Luna and Phoenix who passed in a hot car at one year old

Brielle Quattrone & Sam Stepper (Mahwah, NJ)

Family of Luna and Phoenix who sadly passed away in a hot car at only a year old

Carlie Lee (St. Louis, MO)

Family friend of Luna and Phoenix, who died in a hot car in New York

Cathleen Douglas

Aunt of Luna and Phoenix who died in a hot car in 2017

Cecelia Eldridge (Yonkers, NY)

Know a young lady whose twins who died in a hot car

Christa Shecter (Pleasantville, NY)

Aunt of sweet twins Luna and Phoenix Rodriguez who will forever be 1 year and two weeks old due to a hot car

Clarissa Gaines (Houston, TX)

Loved one of Raymond Pryer Jr after being left in a hot car at just 3 years old

Clay & Delyla Blackburn (Shreveport, LA)

Parents of Addyson who died in a hot car at 6 months old

Daisha-Lee Duarte (New City, NY)

Friends of Luna and Phoenix

Dale & Cathy Williams (Glen St Mary, FL)

Loved ones of a child who died in a hot car

Dalia Gonzalez (Queens, NY)

Family friend of the loving parents of Luna and Phoenix

Deanna and Jeremy Shahan (Gilbert, AZ)
Parents of Josie who survived being
inadvertently left in a car at 17 months car

Decoscia Lark (Houston, TX)
Aunt of Raymond "RJ" Pryer who died in a hot
daycare school bus at 3 yrs old

Dena Stefanopoulos (Bedford, NY)
Family friend of Luna & Phoenix Rodriguez,
twins who died in a hot car at only 1 year old

Denise Ray (Houston, TX)
Friend of RJ, child lost due to being left in a
hot car

Devon Paige (Atlanta, GA)
Uncle of Ariya Paige who died after being
inadvertently left in a hot car at 10 months old

Dona and Richard Alexander (Chatham, MA)
Friends of parents of Fiona who died in a hit
car at only 1 year old

Elaine Bekheet-La Bruyère (Wylie, TX)
Sister of Michael who survived being
inadvertently left in a hot car at 3 years old

Ellen Dunn (Boston, MA)
Grandmother of Fiona who died in a hot car
days after her first birthday

Emeline Graves (Baton Rouge, LA)
Grandmother of Raymond Pryer, Jr who died
in a daycare van at 3 years old

Ericka Alvarez (Brooklyn, NY)

Erin Johnson (Salisbury, NC)
Mother of Bridget who died in a hot car at 2
years old

Ezequiel, Jessica, June, and Jovi Alvarez
Family of Luna and Phoenix Rodriguez, twins
who died in a hot car, only 12 months old

Felicia Whitlock

Aunt of Raymond "RJ" Pryer who passed left
in a hot van

Francesca Bryson (Middletown, NY)
Cousin of Luna & Phoenix Rodriguez who died
in a hot car

Frank and Amy DiBattista (Poughkeepsie, NY)
Friends of Luna and Phoenix Rodriguez who
died in a hot car at 1 year old

Friend of Marissa Rodriguez (NY)
Friend whose children, Luna and Phoenix
aged 1, passed away in a hot car

Friend of Marissa Rodriguez
Friends of the family of Luna and Phoenix

Friend of Marissa Rodriguez
Friends of the family of Luna and Phoenix who
died in a hot car at 1 years old

Friend of Marissa Rodriguez
Luna and Phoenix (infants) died in hot car in
NYC area. Friend of family/relatives of the
twins

*Friend of Raymond Pryer Sr. And Dikeisha
Pryer*
Raymond Pryer Jr. (R.J.) was left in van he was
3 yrs old. Parents Dikeisha & Raymond Pryer.
Monday April 28 he would be 10 yrs old

*Friend of Raymond Pryer Sr. And Dikeisha
Pryer*
Raymond Pryer Sr. And Dikeisha Pryer parents
of Raymond Pryer Jr. Died age 3 in Houston
Texas after being Left in daycare bus for over 4
hours

*Friend of Taylor Zaglia & Simone Zaglia
(Holliston, MA)*
Friends of parents of Fiona who died in a hot
car death at only 13 months old

Jaci Sterling (Baton Rouge, LA)

Dikeisha & Raymond Pryer, parents of Raymond Peter Jr, who died in a hot car at 3 years old

Jackie Ellis (Gilbert, LA)

Aunt of RJ who died in a hot bus at 3 years old

James and Pamela Paige (Macclenny, FL)

Grandparents of Ariya Paige who died in a hot car at only 10 months old when her babysitter left her unattended in her SUV for five hours

Jamie Jenkins (Garland, TX)

Friends of Stuyvesant family, whose son, Michael, thankfully survived a hot car incident when he was a toddler

Janice Ray (Houston, TX)

Friend of RJ

Jannah

Jason Collard (Garland, TX)

Friend of the Stuyvesant family

Jenifer Maple (Mount Vernon, NY)

Friend of the family of twins Luna and Phoenix who died in a hot car at age 1

Jennifer Hogan (Medina, OH)

Friend of parents whose 8 month old son, Tyler, died after being accidentally left in a hot car

Jennifer Holmes (Ponte Vedra, FL)

Friends with the parents of Luna and Phoenix who died in a hot car

Jenny Rush (Boston, MA)

Family friends of Fiona, who unfortunately died after accidentally being left in a hot car at the year old

Jessie (Kent, OH)

Family friend of Tyler who died in a hot car at only 9 months old

Joan M "Holly" Brown (Garland, TX)

Friend of a family who had a child left in the car unintentionally. Child survived and is doing well after weeks in the hospital

Joann Quattrone (NY)

Family member of Luna and Phoenix who passed away in hot car at 1 yr old

JoAnne Ramsey

Aunt of Tyler left accidentally in a hot car and passed away at 9 months old

Jody Jackson (Medina, OH)

Julie Jacob

Friends of Phoenix and Luna Rodriguez who died in a hot car in 2019

Julie Morris (Astoria, NY)

Mother of Tessa and Natalie and aunt to Fiona Zaglia. Fiona died at 13 months from a hot car

Justis Paige & Brooke Paige (Macclenny, FL)

Parents of Ariya Renee Paige who died in a hot SUV at only 10 months old

Kacey Costello (Kent, OH)

Sister of older baby brother that passed away in a hot car at 9 months old

Kaila Givens (Sanderson, FL)

Family friend of Ariya who died in a hot car at only 10 months old

Katherine Alexander & Kyle Dancause (South Portland, ME)

Friends of parents of Fiona who died in a hot car at only 1 year old

Katherine Brown (St Louis, MO)

Friends of the Stuyvesant family whose son survived accidentally being left in a hot car at 3 years old

Kelsi and Kenslei Dickerson (Baton Rouge, LA)

Cousin of Raymond Pryer Jr after being left in a hot car at just 3 years old

Kim Breton, Noah Barnett & Dean Iversen (Pleasant Valley, NY)
Family to Luna & Phoenix who died in a hot car at only 2 years old

Kristin Whitaker (Tampa, FL)
Mother of Lawson Whitaker, who died in a hot car at nearly 2 years old

Kristina Wilcoxson
Mother of James who survived being inadvertently left in a hot car at 3 months old

Kristine Olivera (Port Chester, NY)
I am a mother and I cannot imagine losing my child this way. It is heartbreaking to hear stories like this. I know of a parent who tragically lost her babies this way

Laterry Ross (Houston, TX)
Cousin of Raymond Pryer Jr. who died in a daycare bus at the age of 3

Laurie Serman
Loved one of a child who died in a hot car

Leonard & LaQuitta Delasbour (New Iberia, LA)
Parents of RJ who died on a hot school bus at 3 years old

Lili Bordan (Westport, CT)
Friend of Marissa and Juan, who lost their children, Luna and Phoenix

Lindsay Holvig (Cramerton, NC)
Friends of Luna & Phoenix who passed in a hot car as babies

Lindsey and Kyle Seitz (Morrisville, NC)
Parents of Benjamin who died in a hot car

Lisa Berry & Shannon Berry (Huntsville, AL)
Parents of Lexi who died in a hot car at 2 years old

Loren Sindt (Syracuse, UT)
Mother of 18 month old Joziah who was unknowingly left behind in a hot car

Madeline M Carter (Houston, TX)
Loved one of RJ who died after being left in a daycare van

Marcus Whitlock and Tiffany Martin
God parents of Raymond Pryer, passed away 6 years ago

Marie-France Marino (Patterson, NY)
Very good friend to Luna and Phoenix Mom and Dad

Mark Tudda (Lancaster, SC)
Friend of the family of Luna and Phoenix who died in a hot car at the age of 1

Megan Aurelius (Houston, TX)
Mother of Lillian Guerra who died in a hot car at 5 months old

Michael and Vanessa Goolsby (Miami, FL)
Parents of Micayla who died in a hot car at only 11 months

Michele Dickens (Yonkers, NY)
Friends' twins die at age 1

Michelle Vasquez (Woodhaven, NY)
Friend of Marissa Rodriguez who lost her twins, Luna & Phoenix in a hot car at only 1 year old

Mike Caldwell (Chandler, AZ)
Friend of Scott and Angela Jones, parents of Charly Jones who passed away in a hot car at 4 years old

Miranda Joy (KY)
Mother of a 13-month-old who survived being unknowingly left in my vehicle

Mr & Mrs Anthony Hewitt (Spring, TX)
Loved one of a family who lost a child in a hot car

Nicole and Peter Engler (Oregon)
Parents of Remington L Engler who died at 21 months

Orben Pastrana (Bronx, NY)
Friends of family of Phoenix and Luna Rodriguez who passed away after being left in a hot car at 1 year of age

Pamela and Tyler Cestia (New Iberia, LA)
Parents of Thomas who died in a hot car at 2.5 years old

Patricia Antonucci (Gainesville, FL)
Friend of Phoenix and Luna

Ricardo Loera (Houston, TX)
My nephew, RJ, died in a daycare bus

Robert Reynolds (Glendale, AZ)
Grandpa of Maya Peabody who died in a hot car at 2 years, 8 months and 20 days old

Sandra J Mahonski (White Plains, NY)
Loved one of a child who died in a hot car

Sarah Preiss (Valley Cottage, NY)
Friend of the family of Luna & Phoenix

Shapiro Family
Friends of Luna and Phoenix Rodriguez who died in a hot car

Sharie Caldwell (Chandler, AZ)
Friend of Charly Jones who died in a hot car accident at age 4

Shayla Jones Cousin of Raymond Pryor Jr
who died in a hit school bus in Texas at age 3

Stephanie Mitchell (St. Louis, MO)
Mother of Tate who died one day after his 1st birthday when I inadvertently left him in a hot car after a doctor visit caused a change to our routine

Taylor and Stephanie Brashear (Maysville, KY)
Faint friends of Luna and Phoenix, who died in a hot car at 1 year of age

Taylor Moffett (Baton Rouge, LA)
Sister to Raymond Pryer Jr who died in a hot bus at only 3 years old

Taylor Zaglia (Boston, MA)
Mother of Fiona Zaglia who died in a hot car at only 12 months old

Teresa Montalvo (The Bronx, NY)
Friends of the family, of Luna and Phoenix who died in a hot car at 1 years old

Theresa Betancourt (Tylertown, MS)
Cousin of Michael Stuyvesant who survived being inadvertently left in a hot car at 3 years old

Tonia Kirven (Houston, TX)
Auntie of RJ who died on a hot school van at 2 years of age

Twmika Beaudion
Loved one of a child who died in a hot car

Alark Anthony & August Alexander (Lancaster, SC)
Friends of the family of Luna and Phoenix who died in a hot car at the age of 1

Janette E. Fennell, Philadelphia, PA
Kids and Car Safety, Founder & President