Kids and Car Safety
Love them ❤ Protect them

In November, 2021, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) was passed by Congress including a provision that addresses hot car tragedies. The hot cars provision calls for an 'audio and visual reminder alert to check the back seat' in all new vehicles. However, a reminder alert alone falls short of what is needed to prevent hot car deaths and injuries. The hot cars provision that passed does not specify the need for occupant detection, which is necessary to prevent hot car tragedies.

It is now up to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) to exceed what is required in the hot cars provision so that the technology required will address hot car tragedies in a comprehensive manor.

Occupant detection and alert technology costing less than $50 is currently available that provides comprehensive and compelling solutions to end these senseless tragedies. The chart below shows the differences between what is needed (occupant detection) and what the hot cars provision requires (rear seat reminder).

Occupant Detection vs. Rear Seat Reminder Technology

	Occupant Detection: Uses motion, radar, lidar, carbon dioxide, etc. sensing to detect the presence of a living being inside a vehicle	Hot cars provision passed in the Infrastructure bill (rear seat reminder only): audio & visual reminder to check the back seat
Ability to detect the presence of an occupant inside a vehicle	✔	✗
Can tell the difference between a child and an inanimate object	✔	✗
Detects the presence of life anywhere in the passenger cabin, including the floorboard and 3rd row seats	✔	✗
System cannot be disabled, rewritten, overridden or recalibrated	✔	✗
Accounts for children who gain access to vehicles and become trapped inside (26% of hot car deaths)	✔	✗
Accounts for children who are both unknowingly (56% of hot car deaths) and knowingly left (15%)	✔	✗
Does not give parents a false sense of security	✔	✗
Minimizes false alarms	✔	✗
Comprehensive solution	✔	✗

For more information visit www.KidsAndCars.org or email@kidsandcars.org