

VIDEO Back up cameras to become mandatory in all cars

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JACKSONVILLE, Fla. -- Time never heals the wound a mother suffers when she loses her precious child.

Eight years ago, Ellen Adam's husband accidentally backed his minivan over their 1-year-old baby girl, Ashley, in Ponte Vedra Beach. She died from her injuries.

"It's been very difficult on our family," said Ellen.

Sadly, her husband never recovered from the incident, and took his own life a few years later.

"There's a tremendous amount of guilt when a child dies and the parents are involved even though it is an accident," said Ellen. "I hope he's at peace now."

But Adams hopes her loss can be others' gain. She's a spokesperson for kidsandcars.org, a nonprofit group that's pushing auto safety regulators to require rear view cameras in all vehicles.

And the feds have heard her message loud and clear. They're planning to require all passenger vehicles to be equipped with the safety technology by 2014.

"Hopefully this will get passed and it will help keep children safer," said Ellen.

Regulators say around 100 deaths could be avoided each year by eliminating blind spots with a rear view camera.

Automakers have been offering the technology as an option for a decade, but for the millions of parents who could be helped like Adams, the mandate is long overdue. They say something that could save a life, shouldn't be a luxury.

"This is an accident that can happen to anybody," said Ellen. "I try not to be too hard on myself then I just try to think that she's in a happier place and hopefully with her father too, and I'll see her again one day."

A final version of the rule is expected to reach congress Wednesday.

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