KC-area safety group joins lawsuit to force rear-view cameras

Suit accuses U.S. government of dragging its feet on safety issue

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KC-area group joins lawsuit over backup cameras

KANSAS CITY, Mo. —A Kansas City-area safety group is suing the U.S. Department of Transportation in hopes of requiring rear cameras mounted in every new vehicle.

Kids and Cars joined three other safety groups in filing the suit, which accuses the federal government of dragging its feet for years on the issues of placing backup cameras in cars and light trucks.

The group said 210 deaths and 15,000 injuries happen every year when a driver mistakenly backs over a victim.

Many models offer backup cameras as options, but Honda is the only automaker that includes them as standard equipment. They can also be retrofitted on most vehicles.

Congress passed a backup camera law in 2008 after the deaths of several small children who were run over, often by their own parents.

Amber Rollins of Kids and Cars said it's very difficult for people in a typical vehicle to see a 28-inch high toddler standing behind the back bumper.

Natalie McClelland drives two cars with devices to help see behind her. She said even with a backup camera, a driver's vision is limited.

"You can't see down the street, per se, if you're backing up," she said. "You can see right behind your car, but you can't see if a car is driving down the street in a camera."

The lawsuit said the Department of Transportation has delayed drawing up the rules at least four times, including early this summer.