Advocates: Rear View Cameras Can Save Lives

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Courtesy AP

Greensboro, NC - It's a blind spot bigger than you believe.

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The federal government has delayed making a ruling on transportation standard four times in the past five years.

In 2008, Former President George W. Bush signed the Cameron Gulbransen Kids Transportation Safety Act. The legislation requires the US Department of

Transportation to issues standards that address blind spots in vehicles that prevent drivers from seeing children when backing up.

The law is named after a <u>2-year-old boy</u> who was killed when his father <u>backed over</u> him will moving a car in the driveway.

Advocates say the clock is ticking for the feds. They want rear view cameras to be a requirement for cars to help prevent tragedies like what happened to Cameron.

The group, KidsandCars.org, reports there have been 1,000 children killed and 70,000 injuries since 2007.

It isn't because people aren't paying attention when they're backing out of their driveways. Supporters of this rule say it's that drivers simply <u>can't see</u>.

"We have limited amount of vision behind us in the vehicle and even up to 15 feet behind a lot of vehicles now you cannot see anything. So the backup cams would be a great safety benefit and reduce a lot of injuries and deaths of our children," said Leigha Shepler, Injury Prevention Coordinator, Safe Guilford

Shepler calls this type of change lifesaving.

Here in the Triad, it seems the desire is there from consumers.

Mary Curry is the general manager of Rice Toyota in Greensboro and says she has customers coming in requesting rear view cameras. It isn't only only on new cars - They're also having them added to older cars too.

"Everybody seems to be in a bigger hurry today than they were five years ago, and it can help you if you are in a rush. It will alert you to something you may not see coming," said Curry. "Anything can happen and you just don't need that kind of risk if you have a product that you can avoid it."

The advocacy group, KidsandCars.org, has a <u>letter</u> you can send to your lawmakers if you want to support this rule change.

WFMY News 2, USA Today

http://www.digtriad.com/news/local/article/280434/57/Advocates-Lobby-For-New-Transportation-Rule