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## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

For Tuesday, November 10, 2015 at 11:30am

For Immediate Release

Media Conference Call: 1-800-247-5110

**Contact:**

Passcode: AUTOSAFE

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# **Worst Anti-Safety Highway Reauthorization Bill Slammed. Members of Congress, Safety and Consumer Advocates, and Crash Victims to Unveil Specific Changes to Fix It** *House and Senate negotiators must make critical changes to curb rising carnage on U.S. roadways*

## **WHAT: MEDIA CONFERENCE CALL**

As Congressional discussions begin to work out differences between the House- and Senate-passed versions of the six-year federal highway bill, Members of Congress will join an alliance of highway safety advocates, consumer protection groups and crash victims' families to unveil specific changes that must be made to fix the bill that has been roundly denounced as the most anti-safety highway reauthorization bill.

**WHEN: Tuesday, November 10, 2015 at 11:30am EST**

**HOW: To join the Media Conference Call: 1-800-247-5110. Passcode: AUTOSAFE**

**WHO: Senator Richard Blumenthal (D-CT)**, Member, Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee

**Senator Ed Markey (D-MA)**, Member, Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee

**Jackie Gillan**, President, Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety [www.saferoads.org](http://www.saferoads.org)

**Russ Swift** (Port St. Lucie, FL), Co-chair of Parents Against Tired Truckers (PATT), whose son Jasen, and his friend - both Corporals in the U.S. Marine Corps -- were killed in a crash caused by a teenaged truck driver in Nevada.

**Laura Christian** (Harwood, MD) birth mother of Amber Marie Rose who was killed in a crash due to the GM ignition switch defect.

**Jack Gillis**, Director of Public Affairs, Consumer Federation of America; Author of The Car Book

**Rosemary Shahan**, Founder and President, Consumers of Auto Reliability and Safety (CARS)

**Janette Fennell**, Founder and President, KidsAndCars.org

**Will Wallace**, Policy Analyst, Consumers Union

**Joan Claybrook**, Chair, Citizens for Reliable and Safe Highways (CRASH), and former Administrator, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

**WHY:** Congressional negotiations are moving fast to resolve differences between the six-year, multi-billion dollar bill adopted by the House last week (Nov. 5, 2015) and the bill that was approved by the Senate on July 30, 2015. Both bills are now referred to as the DRIVE Act (H.R. 22). The deadline to get a final bill on the President's desk is November 20, 2015 when the current highway authorization bill expires.

Numerous safety rollbacks and loopholes, including allowing interstate teen truck and bus drivers and inadequate remedies to address the numerous issues revealed during the GM ignition switch and Takata airbag fiascos, were inserted into both bills at the behest of auto and a few trucking interests despite the fact that crash deaths and injuries are on the rise. The safety alliance will specify essential actions the highway bill conferees must take to put the safety of the American public before corporate special interests.

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