

Jamie Dill Remarks

Mother of Oliver

July 9, 2019, my life changed forever. That morning, my husband was supposed to take our son, Oliver, to daycare. With a change in his regular routine along with work, our upcoming vacation, and home responsibilities on his mind, he drove straight to his office without stopping at daycare. That afternoon, Ollie became one of 1,085 children who have perished inside a hot car since 1990. My husband, who is a loving, responsible, doting father, had no idea he could lose awareness of our beloved son in the back seat of our vehicle.

There's not a day that goes by that my husband and I don't think of what we could have done, what we should have done differently that day. The regret, heartbreak, and, most certainly, the guilt we will feel for the rest of our lives are incomprehensible.

Children do not have to die in this terrible way. The overdue Hot Car Final Rule must be implemented immediately to save children and prevent families from this unfathomable pain. The delay is inexcusable because we know that children will pay with their lives. Families will be destroyed.

It is up to all of us to protect children. As Fred Rogers said:

“We live in a world in which we need to share responsibility. It's easy to say it's not my child, not my community, not my world, not my problem, then there are those who see the need and respond. I consider those people my heroes.”

I am standing here today to ask the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and the U.S. Department of Transportation to please be the heroes our children need and deserve. Now is the time to implement the hot car final rule.