



NEWS RELEASE

KidsAndCars.org

<http://www.kidsandcars.org/>

Contact:

Janette Fennell, 415-336-9279 or Janette@KidsAndCars.org

CONSUMER, SAFETY ADVOCATES JOIN WITH VICTIMS TO CELEBRATE NEW LAW PROTECTING CHILDREN IN AND AROUND MOTOR VEHICLES

Awards Presented to Members of Congress for Leadership

April 9, 2008 - Today, consumer and safety groups joined with victims on Capitol Hill to celebrate the enactment of the Cameron Gulbransen Kids Transportation Safety Act, signed by President Bush on February 28, 2008. The advocates also presented members of Congress with awards for their leadership on this lifesaving issue.

The new law, named after 2-year old Cameron Gulbransen who was killed when he was inadvertently backed over by an SUV because the blind zone behind the vehicle made it impossible to see him, addresses three major causes of preventable injuries and fatalities to young children in and around motor vehicles: getting caught in an automatically closing power window, being struck by a backing vehicle because of an unacceptable blind zone; and placing a vehicle in gear that results in an uncontrolled roll away without having to depress the brake. The U.S. House of Representatives passed the legislation on December 18, 2007 and the U.S. Senate passed it on February 14, 2008.

"The Cameron Gulbransen Act will make vehicles safer for American families and help to end future preventable tragedies," said Janette Fennell, President of KidsAndCars.org. "I applaud Congress for their recognition that children's safety cannot simply be an option or an upgrade."

Nearly 1,400 children have been killed or injured in non-traffic incidents since 2000 according to KidsAndCars.org. Back-over incidents have increased dramatically, claiming the lives of 474 children from 2002-2006 compared to 128 from 1997-2001 and now account for half of all non-traffic fatalities involving children. The federal government does not collect data about non-traffic incidents, so the actual fatality numbers are likely much higher.

Twelve families of children killed or injured in recent, non-traffic incidents that attended the celebration in Washington, DC include:

- Susan Auriemma, daughter Kate, age 3.5, backed over and injured on May 27, 2005 (Manhasset, NY)
- Meredyth Bryant, daughter Annabelle Riley Bryant, age 2.5, killed after being backed over on May 4, 2005 (Glen Allen, VA)
- Steve & Shannon Campbell, son Drew Campbell, 26 months, backed over and killed on April 20, 2003 (Cincinnati, OH)
- Aaron Chatten, daughter Madison Faith Chatten, 15 months, backed over and killed on May 3, 2005 (Glasgow, MT)
- Britt Gates, daughter Zoie Beth Gates, age 2.5, killed by a power window on November 3, 2001 (Anthony, KS)
- Tim & Angela Gridley, daughter Aliviah Faith Gridley, 26 months, backed over and killed on December 30, 2005 (Cedartown, GA)

- Dr. & Mrs. Greg Gulbransen, son Cameron Gulbransen, age 2, backed over and killed on October 19, 2002 (Oyster Bay, NY)
- Bill & Adriann Nelson, son Alec Nelson, 16 months, backed over and killed on April 24, 2004 (Dix Hills, NY)
- Smith & Julie Peck, son Jackson Peck, age 4, backed over and killed on December 23, 2004 (Marietta, GA)
- Bob & AnnMarie Pszybylski, son Robert Pszybylski, age 2, was critically injured when struck by a vehicle on April 7, 2006 (St. James, NY)
- Yadira Rodriguez, son Romeo Giovanni Chavez, 22 months, died after being stuck by a truck moving forward on May 29, 2005 (Phoenix, AZ)
- Michele Terry, daughter Mika Terry, 6 months, was inadvertently left in a truck and died of hyperthermia on June 23, 2005 (Maypearl, TX)

The act directs the U.S. Department of Transportation to issue new safety standards within specific time periods that will lead to the installation of safety technologies as standard equipment in all vehicles to prevent deaths and injuries in and around motor vehicles. These safety technologies are already available as standard equipment, upgrades or optional equipment in many makes and models of vehicles. The bill also requires the department to establish a database of non-crash incidents and develop a program to provide the public with safety information regarding non-traffic dangers to young children.

KidsAndCars.org is especially grateful for the support of All State Insurance Company, Farmers Insurance Group, Liberty Mutual Group, Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company, State Farm Insurance Companies and Unitrin Specialty for their support at this event and dedication to keeping America's children safe in and around motor vehicles.

To see the list of Members of Congress that received awards, please visit www.KidsAndCars.org.

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About KidsAndCars.org: Founded in 1996, KidsAndCars.org is a national nonprofit child safety organization dedicated to preventing injuries and deaths of children in and around motor vehicles. KidAndCars.org promotes awareness among parents, caregivers and the general public about the dangers to children, including backover and frontover incidents, and heatstroke from being inadvertently left in a vehicle. The organization works to prevent tragedies through data collection, education and public awareness, policy change and survivor advocacy.