



The HOT CARS Act

(H.R. 3593 /S. 1601)

THE PROBLEM: More than 940 children have died in hot cars since 1990. Education and awareness are at an all-time high, yet the number of children dying in hot cars is also at an all-time high. Last year, hot car deaths reached a record high of at least 54 children. This year alone, 52 kids have already died in hot cars. Changes in routine, stress, sleep deprivation and other factors can predispose one's brain to go on "autopilot" during which a parent or caregiver loses awareness of a child (or pet) in the back seat of a car. Nearly 30% of hot car deaths are attributable to a child climbing into a vehicle on their own and becoming trapped.

THE SOLUTION: Inexpensive technology exists and is available today that can detect the presence of an occupant in a car and engage a variety of alerts in the form of honking horns, flashing lights, dashboard warnings, or even text messages. The 'detection' feature is necessary to address children who get into vehicles on their own. The HOT CARS Act directs the Secretary of Transportation to issue a rule requiring such technology in all new cars, with compliance by automakers required no more than two years after the rule is issued.

THE SUPPORT: The HOT CARS Act is supported by more than 70 diverse national organizations representing among others, pediatricians, nurses, law enforcement, auto safety and animal rights groups.

THE ACTION NEEDED TO SAVE LIVES NOW: Although automakers recently announced a non-binding, voluntary agreement to install rear-occupant alert systems by 2025, the agreement falls far short of what is needed. A "voluntary agreement" is just that, it is voluntary and unenforceable. Automakers are under no obligation to comply; detection technology is not required; there is no way to verify effectiveness of the system (minimum performance standard); and, the implementation deadline is *beyond* what is in the bill if the bill is enacted this year. Without technology, children will continue to die in hot cars. **Congress should advance The HOT CARS Act immediately.**

For more information, visit:

kidsandcars.org/hot-cars-follow-up-info