

# Congress of the United States

Washington, D.C. 20515

March 21, 2013

The President  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama:

We write to you as the sponsors of the Cameron Gulbransen Kids Transportation Safety Act (P.L. 110-189) and urge you to move forward to direct the Secretary of Transportation to release and implement a strong safety standard to improve rear visibility on vehicles.

Cameron Gulbransen was just two-years-old when he was killed by his father, a pediatrician, in a backover accident in the family's Long Island driveway. Dr. Gulbransen was slowly and carefully backing up his vehicle, but Cameron could not be seen in the vehicle's large rear blindzone. The bill named in Cameron's honor passed in the House by voice vote and in the Senate by unanimous consent and was signed into law by President George W. Bush on February 28, 2008. The Senate version of the bill was introduced by then-Sens. Hillary Clinton and John Sununu.

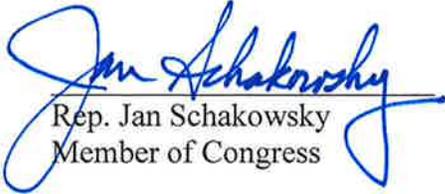
The law mandates that the Secretary issue a rule within 36 months of passage to expand rear visibility to reduce deaths and injuries from backovers. That deadline was February 28, 2011. It is now more than five years since the law was enacted, over two years past the due date, and no final rule has been issued. The delay in issuing the final rear visibility rule is costing lives. According to estimates by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), 228 individuals are killed and 17,000 are injured by backovers every year. Of those 228 fatalities, approximately 100 are children under the age of 5 and the majority of those are one-year-old or younger. According to the safety group KidsAndCars.org, 383 children have been killed in backover accidents since the law was enacted.

NHTSA issued a proposed rule more than two years ago, on December 3, 2010. The agency reviewed all available technologies that would reduce backover deaths and injuries and concluded in the proposed rule that, "the only technology [currently] available with the ability to comply with this proposal would be a rear visibility system that includes a rear-mounted video camera and an in-vehicle visual display."

Rear cameras are becoming more common in passenger vehicles, but are not universal – they are primarily available on higher-end models. Without a strong rear visibility standard, this safety technology may only be available to families that can buy a more expensive car with a rear camera as standard or optional equipment, while families purchasing economy models may be denied the option of having a lifesaving camera at all.

You have made improving the health, welfare, and safety of children a priority of your Administration. We strongly encourage you to take the step of directing the Secretary of Transportation to release a strong rear visibility rule. The technology is available, affordable, and will save hundreds of lives and prevent thousands of serious injuries.

Sincerely,



Rep. Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress



Rep. Peter King  
Member of Congress