



ADVOCATES
FOR HIGHWAY
& AUTO SAFETY



**Consumers
Union**

Nonprofit Publisher
of Consumer Reports



The Center for

Auto Safety



Consumer Federation of America

MEDIA ADVISORY

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CONSUMER ALERT:

U.S. Senate Bill Will Allow Hundreds of Thousands of Self-Driving Cars to Dodge Lifesaving Vehicle Safety Standards

Hands-Off Approach to Hands-Free Driving Puts Public at Needless Safety Risk

***Consumer and Safety Leaders to Announce Critical Changes Needed as
Senate Committee Takes Up Autonomous Vehicles Legislation on Wednesday 10/4/17***

WHAT:

MEDIA CONFERENCE CALL – On Tuesday, a coalition of leading safety and consumer advocates, and families of victims of deadly vehicle defects, will call on the [U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation](#) to stop and fix a dangerous bill on autonomous vehicles (AV) which allows hundreds of thousands of self-driving cars from meeting lifesaving federal motor vehicle safety standards. Other provisions benefitting the auto industry keep consumers in the dark about the limitations and performance of AVs being rushed to the marketplace.

The **American Vision for Safer Transportation through Advancement of Revolutionary Technologies Act** (AV START Act, S. 1885) would unleash mass deployment of AVs without essential consumer safety protections, adequate oversight, and industry accountability. On Wednesday, the AV START Act will be taken up by the Senate Commerce Committee at a legislative markup session.

Consumer, public health and safety leaders warn that AV occupants will be sharing the streets and roads with traditional cars, trucks and buses for many years to come and will undoubtedly be involved in crashes. Do we want our public streets to be turned into proving grounds for hundreds of thousands of driverless cars? The 2016 fatal crash involving a Tesla Model S driving in “Auto Pilot” demonstrated what can happen absent minimum safety standards. Consumers and families will be looking to the Senate to put public safety first.

WHEN: TUESDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2017 at 12:00 p.m. ET

WHO: **U.S. Senator Ed Markey (D-MA)**, Member of the Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation
Laura Christian, mother of Amber Marie Rose, who was killed in a GM ignition switch defect crash in 2005
Joan Claybrook, Former Administrator, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
Steve Hargarten, emergency physician and Medical College of Wisconsin professor
Jackie Gillan, President, Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety
Jack Gillis, Director of Public Affairs, Consumer Federation of America
Sally Greenberg, Executive Director, National Consumers League
Jason Levine, Executive Director, Center for Auto Safety
William Wallace, Policy Analyst, Consumer Reports – Consumers Union

HOW TO JOIN THE MEDIA CONFERENCE CALL

U.S. Toll Free: 800-875-3456
Canadian Toll Free: 800-648-0973
International Toll: 302-607-2001

Verbal Passcode (to be given to operator): GILL26043

LOCAL NEWS INTERVIEW AVAILABILITIES: Safety advocates and families of crash victims will be available for news interviews in their local communities. Please inquire by contacting Bill Bronrott at 202-270-4415 or bronrott@gmail.com or Eric Naing at 217-493-8294 or enaing@saferoads.org.

ELECTRONIC MEDIA KIT will be available October 3, 2017 at 12:01 a.m. ET at www.saferoads.org

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