



1301 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Suite 1000
Washington, D.C. 20004

April 30, 2014

The Honorable Rick Scott
The Capitol
400 S. Monroe St.
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

Dear Governor Scott:

We at Safe Kids are thankful that the Florida legislature passed legislation to enable the state to join 48 other states in the next step towards safer kids on Florida's highways and roads. Respectfully, we join our 12 Florida coalitions in asking you to sign the bill into law.

Booster seat laws work and save kids' lives. Booster seats cut the injury risk in children by about one-half. From 1994 to 2012, the number of deaths involving kids 3 to 8 was reduced by 50%, translating into 316 saved lives. Unintentional injury, however, remains the number one killer of kids. And, state by state, highway by highway, car by car, we have much more work to do. Job number one is making the booster seat bill law.

The Boston Children's Hospital conducted a study published in the prestigious medical journal Pediatrics on the impact of booster seats. They found that out of 9,848 cases over 10 years, states with booster seat laws for children 4 to 6 had a roughly 20 percent lower rate of death and incapacitating injuries from motor vehicle crashes than states without booster seat laws.

This is not a hard case. Safe Kids is an organization of local coalitions helping parents keep their kids safe. We are firefighters fitting child restraint systems correctly in cars. We are soccer moms and dads holding safety clinics to educate other moms and dads on preventing concussions, knee injuries, cardiac arrest, overuse syndrome and other sports related injuries. We are volunteers who help new parents create a safe home environment for a new child.

Passing a law is our place of last resort and work for them when history and data supports their need and efficacy. In the case of booster seats, there is a proven history of reducing injury and fatalities in the event of a car crash. We do not ask legislatures and governors to make or change laws lightly, nor do we place additional burdens on police officers who already have so many challenges to meet.

Sincerely,



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