

Comment from Brianne Fava

Posted by the **National Highway Traffic Safety Administration** on Oct 10, 2023

I am writing to you today as a volunteer with the Institute for Safer Trucking (IST) in support of requiring side underride guards on trailers and semi-trailers.

As you know, truck crash deaths have increased 47 percent from 2012 to 2021. In 2021, 5,788 people were killed in large truck crashes in the United States.

A common type of truck crash is the side underride crash, in which a smaller vehicle collides with the side of a truck trailer and goes underneath it. Side underride crashes are often fatal, as the smaller vehicle can experience passenger compartment intrusion since its safety features, including the crumple zone and airbag deployment sensors, are bypassed.

Side underride guards are a proven safety technology that can help to prevent these deadly crashes. In 2017, the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS) crash tested two side underride guards and found that they were effective in preventing passenger vehicles from going underneath truck trailers. The IIHS testing showed that side underride guards can prevent passenger vehicles from going underneath truck trailers at speeds of up to 40 mph. This means that side underride guards could save lives in a significant number of crashes.

I urge you to require side underride guards on all new trailers and semi-trailers. This safety technology could save hundreds of lives each year and prevent thousands of injuries.