

Comment from Sarah Jones

Posted by the **National Highway Traffic Safety Administration** on Jun 18, 2024

Our nation is experiencing unprecedented increases in drunk and impaired driving and the auto industry has technology to eliminate this public health crises. I urge the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) to create a vehicle safety standard as required by the bipartisan HALT Act law to immediately implement advanced impaired driving prevention technology on all new vehicles.

According to NHTSA, since 2019 drunk driving deaths have increased 31% resulting in over 13,300 fatalities in 2021. The Insurance Institute for Highway Safety estimates that advanced impaired driving prevention technology will save 10,000 lives every year when fully implemented.

Technology is available now to passively and unobtrusively prevent the crime of drunk driving before it even occurs. The majority of the public supports requiring this technology on all new vehicles.

A 2023 report by Johns Hopkins University published in the Journal of the American Medical Association found that two-thirds of the public agrees that vehicle impairment prevention technology should be available on all new vehicles. Nearly the same percentage supports the requirement for this technology as mandated by the HALT Act law.

The CEO of General Motors, Mary Barra, agrees that advanced impaired driving prevention technology is ready to deploy, recently stating “we’ve been working with regulators on that... We have technology to do that... I think that’s technology that’s coming that I think’s going to be good for everyone.”

Please implement the bipartisan HALT Act law as soon as possible. Every moment of delay means more serious injuries and lives lost due to this 100% preventable crime.