

---

**From:** Heather Benz <[Heather.L.Benz@gmail.com](mailto:Heather.L.Benz@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 17, 2024 11:54 AM  
**To:** Shulman, Sophie (NHTSA) <[Sophie.Shulman@dot.gov](mailto:Sophie.Shulman@dot.gov)>  
**Subject:** Hot car final rule

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the Department of Transportation (DOT). Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Ms. Shulman,

I am writing to ask for your assistance to urge the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) to take immediate action to prevent deaths and lifelong injuries resulting from children being trapped in hot cars.

As you are aware, Congress included in the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA, Pub. L. 117-58) enacted in 2021, a mandate directing NHTSA to issue a Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard that will require all new passenger motor vehicles to be equipped with technology to prevent hot car tragedies. In total disregard of the Congressionally mandated deadline of November 2023, the NHTSA has failed to issue the hot car final rule and has yet to even issue a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM).

We know that children will undoubtedly pay for these unacceptable and unnecessary delays with their lives. Families will be destroyed. This does not have to happen.

Since 1990, more than 1,083 children have died in hot car incidents and at least another 7,500 survived with varying types and severities of injuries, according to data collected by Kids and Car Safety. Additionally, hundreds of pets die in hot cars every year.

The tragedy of a child or companion animal dying in a hot car is entirely preventable. Yet, auto manufacturers, with limited exceptions, are not putting comprehensive occupant detection and alert systems into cars as standard equipment even though the technology is available and affordable. Additionally, the aftermarket lacks readily available solutions for families to safeguard their children from this deadly danger. The need for a safety standard is overdue and urgent. Children are depending on us to protect them.

The NHTSA and the DOT must not defer, delay, or dilute this lifesaving rulemaking any further. Please take action now to ensure that the NHTSA and the DOT to complete and issue a comprehensive safety standard immediately.

Without technology to detect occupants trapped in hot cars, innocent children and companion animals will continue to die and be injured in totally preventable tragedies.

Thank you very much for your commitment to the safety and security of America's children.

Sincerely,  
Heather Benz