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To: Trottenberg, Polly (OST) <polly.trottenberg@dot.gov>; Goldstein, Scott (OST) <scott.goldstein@dot.gov>; Shulman, Sophie (NHTSA) <Sophie.Shulman@dot.gov>

Subject: PLEASE Move the Federal Hot Car Rule forward IMMEDIATELY

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Department of Transportation leadership,

In June 2017, my husband and I (who are amazing, responsible, loving, sober, intelligent parents) accidentally left our 5-week old son in a parked car at noon in Charleston, SC. We were horribly sleep-deprived (he was up all night every night) and we were in the midst of a move between homes - with a four-year-old daughter. Thankfully, we realized our error when we were 15 minutes away and beat EMS back to our (still cool) car where Finn was peacefully sleeping.

Unfortunately, a family in Finn's class at our daycare was not so fortunate and buried their baby (Finn's exact age) 10 months later when the wonderful, loving, sleep-deprived dad went to work without dropping Jack off at daycare. I have never grieved so hard. I knew - in a way that few other parents can understand - how VULNERABLE we all are to making such an irreversable mistake and pay the ultimate price - the loss of our precious child or children, forgotten in a parked car because they were asleep or quiet.

Not to mention the multiple children each year who accidentally lock themselves into a car while playing hide-and-seek. And other, more malevolent situations where intention is in the mix.

ALL of these precious children's lives have one thing in common - they can all be saved with the IMMEDIATE action of Congress to move the Hot Car Rule forward. Yet, inexplicably action has repeatedly been delayed since 2022 and dozens of innocent children have died as a result during this time.

The technology already exists. There is extremely limited cost (~\$50-\$100 per vehicle?) to car manufacturers and ultimately consumers to include it in newly manufactured vehicles. And there is literally NO OTHER MECHANISM for effectively saving these children's lives. So every time the issuing of an NPRM is delayed, it is literally a **statement that children's lives do not matter to the DOT and Congress enough to consider ruling a ~\$50 life-saving device into manufacturing standards. Ideally requiring a device that DETECTS THE PRESENCE OF LIFE inside a parked vehicle.** And so perhaps Congress does not wish to have the debate about how this NPRM should be worded and what should be included.

Perhaps fear of the auto industry lobbyists is more powerful than common sense and ethical responsibility. But I am hopeful you feel called to act immediately to save the children of 2025 and beyond (and their loving, hardworking families) from this awful pitfall. **Only you have the power to save these lives.**

Thank you for your time,

Erin Holley
Resident of Charleston, SC
Proud mother of Finn (7) and Teagan (10)