

Behind the 43,000 deaths on our roads and highways is a face and name and a loved one. We're here for Jamie, for Adrianna and for Jackson, all who died in avoidable tragedies on our roads. If we can save lives and do so at a reasonable cost, we should and we must.

If Senators Lott, Stevens and Inouye – as bipartisan a group as we could ever have – can support these provisions to prevent rollover, strengthen roofs, protect occupants who are hit from the side, and what is so critical for our most vulnerable family members – our children – protection from being backed over, give parents the ability to see behind them as they back up, then certainly Congressman Joe Barton, chair of the House Commerce committee and his committee members, can agree that these provisions should go forward.

I want to read from an editorial in Automotive News, November of last year: All safety related devices should become standard equipment on all vehicles. No choice. It's not an economic decision; it's a moral decision. When the choice becomes profit vs. lives, the decision should be simple.