

**Statement of Rachel Clemens  
Mother of Adrianna Frances Clemens  
Killed in a Backover Incident  
July 21, 2005**

Good morning, my name is Rachel Clemens. I flew here today from Garland, Texas, to ask Congress to improve visibility behind the vehicles we drive and pass the other auto safety provisions in the highway bill. I am here in loving memory of my 2-year-old daughter, Adrianna Frances Clemens. I am asking the highway bill conference committee members to include these vital provisions in the name of all of those who have lost a child killed in a backover incident. And, above all, I am here to help prevent another family from having to go through the same type of preventable tragedy my family has experienced.

On October 9, 2004, my husband inadvertently backed over our daughter while pulling out of our garage. Adrianna was too small to be seen behind our SUV. Before that day, I assumed like many people, that our lawmakers and safety officials were doing all they could to ensure the safety of our families. Unfortunately, I was wrong. But now is their chance to get it right. This highway bill can help stop this epidemic American families are experiencing. The highway bill conference committee has the opportunity to include rear backup safety devices so more children do not have to die.

Manufacturers are not telling the public about these devices. When purchasing our new SUV, they weren't even an option. There is something wrong with our system when people can enter a car dealership and be offered a bunch of extras like fancy stereos and sunroofs but there is no option to help save our children. If the technology exists, which it does, there is no excuse for why there is not any type of rear visibility on these vehicles.

No parent should ever have to go through this. The death of a child is and always will be the worst tragedy a parent could ever live through. As a parent and in honor of my daughter, I am asking Congress to include these auto safety provisions in the highway bill. My family is proof that they can make a difference.

Thank you.

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