

**Trump's anti-consumer, anti-safety executive order on regulations
will add to carnage on America's roads,
and harm the auto industry and the economy**

Statement of Rosemary Shahan, President, Consumers for Auto Reliability and Safety

For immediate release: Jan. 30, 2017

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Note: Today, President Donald Trump signed an executive order with the goal of repealing two public protections for every new one issued. The order also establishes a process for setting an annual cap on federal regulations, which the Trump administration intends to set at \$0, according to reports.

Trump's new executive order (EO) threatens to roll back lifesaving auto safety regulations that prevent fatalities and injuries in car crashes, and that prevent crashes from happening. It also threatens to undermine public confidence in the safety of new vehicles, particularly those equipped with new "autonomous" technologies, at a time when the auto industry is rapidly moving forward in developing cars where the drivers have far less control, and depend increasingly on how the cars are designed in order to be safe.

Under the new EO, if NHTSA seeks to promulgate a regulation to improve cyber-security for autonomous vehicles, in response to their being hacked by terrorists and driven off bridges, into oncoming traffic, or into crowds, NHTSA would have to eliminate two other regulations, such as those that require seat belts to work, or that prevent vehicles from exploding into flames when they are rear-ended, or from rolling over and killing the occupants, or reducing head and torso injuries in a side impact. So if motorists are made safer in one way, they would be made less safe in two other ways.

Polling shows that safety ranks extremely high among almost all new car buyers, particularly women, who influence the vast majority of auto purchases. According to NHTSA, "A fundamental change in the public's view of safety has occurred over the last decade. Many customers are not only willing to pay extra for safety features, they are now selecting vehicles based on their content of key safety items. This trend is expected to continue and to intensify in the years ahead." Source: NHTSA 2020 report: <https://one.nhtsa.gov/nhtsa/whatis/planning/2020Report/2020report.html>

According to NHTSA, vehicle crashes cost our nation over \$800 billion each year.

The auto industry should be careful what it wishes for. While President Obama is credited with saving the auto industry, Trump may well be blamed for destroying it.

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