



June 6, 2022

The Honorable Patrick J. Diegnan Jr.
New Jersey Senate Transportation Committee
State House Annex
P.O. Box 068
Trenton, NJ 08625

Dear Chair Diegnan:

The National Safety Council (NSC) works to eliminate the leading causes of preventable death and injury, focusing our efforts on the workplace, roadway and impairment. We create a culture of safety to keep people safer in the workplace and beyond so they can live their fullest lives. We have more than 13,000 member companies including nearly 250 in New Jersey.

As such, we know one roadway safety problem that remains unaddressed is vehicle recalls. More than 50 million vehicles on America's roadways have open safety recalls—that's more than one in five vehicles on the road. In light of these record-high numbers, NSC launched the Check To Protect initiative in 2017. This public awareness campaign encourages vehicle owners to check their vehicles for recalls for free. Repairing recalls protects both the drivers and their passengers. NSC works with state departments of motor vehicles, military installations, colleges and universities, workplaces and others to promote Check To Protect and let people know how easy and important it is to ensure their vehicle does not have an unrepaired recall.

However, efforts from the automotive and safety industries to increase awareness of recalls have not reached all vehicle owners. In 2014, there was a recall of 67 million defective Takata airbag inflators in vehicles across 19 automakers, and unfortunately, currently more than 157,000 vehicles registered in New Jersey still have unrepaired Takata airbag recalls. This is especially true for vehicle owners in low-income communities, communities of color, and rural communities, as they are more likely to be driving a vehicle with an unrepaired safety recall. In New Jersey, data from all automakers found that the regions with the largest numbers of open airbag recalls also have higher percentages of populations living in poverty compared to the state average. These and other unrepaired recalls could cause a crash, serious injury, or death, and more needs to be done to ensure they are fixed.

NSC encourages you to evaluate all avenues to reach vehicle owners to address these safety recalls. We must raise awareness, spur action and fix these vehicles. We look forward to working with you to do so.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Lorraine Martin'. The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word 'Sincerely,'.

Lorraine Martin
President & CEO