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Safe Kids Worldwide Response to Increase in Traffic Deaths

Washington, D.C. - Today the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) released fatality data for the first quarter of 2022 and the results are not good. According to NHTSA, traffic deaths increased by almost 7 percent during the same time in 2022 as 2021. This in light of the fact that traffic deaths increased in 2021 to the highest level in 16 years.

We know that children are some of our most vulnerable road users. They, too, are victims of traffic crashes and included in this unprecedented increase in deaths.

Safe Kids Worldwide supports the efforts of Secretary Buttigieg to utilize a safe systems approach to ensure a fair, equitable, and safe transportation system for all. We also join others in the safety community and call on President Biden to name a successor to NHTSA Administrator Steven Cliff, who recently announced his upcoming departure. Like other leaders in traffic safety, we believe that the steady increase in traffic deaths for the last several years means the next leader of NHTSA should have a proven record in traffic and vehicle safety.

"The safety of our children must be our top priority in everything we do, including road safety," said Safe Kids President Torine Creppy. "We look forward to working with the Department of Transportation and others in the safety community to reverse the trend and protect all children from preventable road deaths and injuries."

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