

2 SSJM 8010 - S AMD - 599
3 By Senator Strannigan

4 ADOPTED 2/11/98

5 Beginning on page 1, line 9, strike the remainder of the memorial
6 and insert the following:

7 "WHEREAS, The Secretary of Transportation has prescribed motor
8 vehicle safety standards under the authority of the National Traffic
9 and Motor Vehicle Safety Act of 1966; and

10 WHEREAS, The current standards require that vehicles be equipped
11 with an automatic occupant crash protection system consisting of lap
12 and shoulder seat belts and an inflatable restraint device otherwise
13 known as an "airbag" in the two front seating positions; and

14 WHEREAS, Despite recent actions to authorize installation of
15 redesigned airbag devices in new vehicles, many serious and dangerous
16 safety problems remain unaddressed; and

17 WHEREAS, Millions of vehicles on our roads, and some in our
18 driveways, have older model airbags; and

19 WHEREAS, The newly announced process for installation of airbag
20 deactivation switches is overly limiting, cumbersome, and requires the
21 permission of federal authorities; and

22 WHEREAS, Airbags do save lives, but due to these unaddressed
23 problems, airbags continue to be responsible for the shocking and
24 gruesome deaths of any children and adults; and

25 WHEREAS, This situation has effectively rendered the front
26 passenger side seating area in many vehicles useless in a large number
27 of cases; and

28 WHEREAS, It is possible to improve upon this situation; and

29 WHEREAS, Federal law expressly preempts states from altering
30 present standards or enacting other safety standards in this field;

31 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the United
32 States Congress and the United States Department of Transportation
33 adopt new laws, regulations, and standards to protect the safety of
34 occupants of passenger vehicles by encouraging the installation of
35 airbag systems where the driver, free from government supervision, has
36 the ability to deactivate the driver's side and passenger side airbag
37 in any type of vehicle.

1 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
2 transmitted to the Honorable William J. Clinton, President of the
3 United States, the Secretary of the United States Department of
4 Transportation, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker
5 of the House of Representatives, and each member of Congress from the
6 State of Washington."

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