
SUBSTITUTE SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8010

State of Washington

55th Legislature

1997 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Transportation (originally sponsored by Senators Strannigan and Oke)

Read first time 03/04/97.

1 TO THE HONORABLE WILLIAM J. CLINTON, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED
2 STATES, AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE
3 OF REPRESENTATIVES, AND TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF
4 THE UNITED STATES, IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED, AND TO THE UNITED STATES
5 DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION:

6 We, your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of
7 the State of Washington, in legislative session assembled, respectfully
8 represent and petition as follows:

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

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

16 WHEREAS, Airbags have saved lives, but due to their present design
17 have also been responsible for the shocking and gruesome deaths of many
18 children and adults; and

19 WHEREAS, This increasing problem poses a substantial risk to the
20 safety of motor vehicle passengers and is damaging the credibility of
21 these important safety devices; and

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

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

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

7 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the United
8 States Congress and the United States Department of Transportation
9 adopt new laws, regulations, and standards to protect the safety of
10 occupants of passenger vehicles by encouraging the installation of
11 airbag systems where the driver has the ability to deactivate the
12 driver's side and passenger side airbag in any type of vehicle.

13 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
14 transmitted to the Honorable William J. Clinton, President of the
15 United States, Secretary of the United States Department of
16 Transportation, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker
17 of the House of Representatives, and each member of Congress from the
18 State of Washington.

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