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## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE,  
AND TRANSPORTATION

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6125

WEBSITE: <http://commerce.senate.gov>

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June 7, 2016

The Honorable Mark Rosekind  
Administrator  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, Southeast  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Administrator Rosekind:

We are writing to request information about the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) work on flammability standards. As you are aware, Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard (FMVSS) No. 302 governs the flammability of interior materials and specifies burn resistance requirements for materials used in the occupant compartments of motor vehicles.

While FMVSS No. 302 is a performance standard and does not specify the use of any particular material or chemical, health and safety concerns have been raised about the use of certain flame retardants in these materials, including in children's car seats. At the same time, we recognize that health and safety concerns also underpin the FMVSS, which is intended to reduce deaths and injuries to motor vehicle occupants caused by vehicle fires.

The use of flame retardant chemicals has been a subject of recent scrutiny by state and federal entities. In addition, we understand that NHTSA is initiating its own two-year research program on flammability standards, including those for child car seats. As your agency begins work on this review, please provide our Committee with answers to the following questions to inform the Committee's ongoing auto safety oversight efforts:

1. Please describe the information or studies the agency relied upon in creating the current flammability standard and relevant testing procedures for child car seats.
2. How does NHTSA assess potential chemical safety risks when evaluating the costs and benefits of a flammability standard that may necessitate use of fire retardant additives on child safety seats?

3. Please provide a status update on the progress of the NHTSA-initiated two-year study on flammability standards, and describe the parameters of that study and outreach that will be conducted.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John Thune", written over a horizontal line.

JOHN THUNE  
Chairman

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kelly A. Ayotte", written over a horizontal line.

KELLY A. AYOTTE  
U.S. Senator