

Theodore Schwab statement at Auto Safety Press Conference

Good afternoon, my name is Ted Schwab. I am here today on behalf of my son Teddy, our family and the thousands of other families that have suffered catastrophic injuries or deaths as result of preventable seatback failures. We are profusely grateful to see the INVEST Act includes/may include a requirement that the federal government update a standard that dates back over 50 years and does not protect passengers in the rear seats of cars.

On March 25, 2016, Teddy was nearly killed in a rear end collision in Ridgeland SC. The first responders believed he would die but he survived. He was in a coma for a month, had a surgery to reconstruct his skull and eye socket, spent another month in inpatient rehab and has spent the last five years receiving intensive physical, cognitive, educational, hyperbaric and other therapies. While we are hoping and praying for a positive outcome, we have no idea where he will end up, if he will be able to drive or what level of educational, professional or social attainment he may achieve. While we are doing everything we can to help Teddy recover, our family has had to deal with crushing financial losses and incredible stress associated with litigation related to the accident.

We are the lucky ones. Parents we have come to know like Michele and Jason Fraser and their courageous daughter Jay-Fay face much harder paths than we do. Parents like Liz and Andy Warner will never get to see their daughter, Taylor Grace, grow up after she died in a seatback collapse crash at 17 months old.

It was only after our crash that we discovered these sorts of crashes are frequent. It was only then that we learned from the Center for Auto Safety that efforts to update a standard that was written in 1967 had not been successful despite the evidence that has been presented over the decades of an inadequate standard.

We are so glad to hear Congresswoman Rice's amendment to the INVEST Act was/may be included and will finally modernize the seatback standard, particularly as recent government studies have shown it can be accomplished for less than \$5 per seat. We hope the Senate will act quickly to finish what the House has started/is starting to help spare other families from what my family, and others like ours, have had to suffer.

Thank you for your time.