



November 9, 2021

The Honorable Representative Jack O'Malley
Michigan House Transportation Committee
S-1385 House Office Building
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48933

120 N. Washington Sq. Suite 802
Lansing, MI 48933
517-487-5901
tahauser@acg aaa.com

Tiffany Hauser
Director of Government Relations
AAA- The Auto Club Group

Dear Chairman O'Malley:

On behalf of AAA Michigan, with more than 1.4 million members in Michigan, I am writing to express AAA's **support of House Bill 4983 and House Bill 4984** which strengthen Michigan's child safety seat laws. These bills would require children to be secured in a rear-facing safety seat until they meet the height and weight requirements and are two years old. Additionally, children ages two to four must be secured in a forward-facing seat and those five to eight and under 4'9" in height must be secured in a child booster seat.

AAA Michigan was founded over 100 years ago for the purpose of advocating on behalf of the motoring public and working to ensure the safety and well-being of all who use our roads. Motor vehicle accidents are the number one unintentional injury and killer of children under the age of eight. By placing children in the correct child passenger safety seat and having that seat installed correctly in the vehicle, we can greatly reduce the number of children being seriously injured and killed in motor vehicles.

The National Highway Transportation Safety Administration has studied and published years of data showing children are safer and more likely to survive a vehicle crash when they are properly secured in a car seat designed for their height and weight. Children under the age of eight and under 4'9" do not fit in the standard seatbelt found in motor vehicles. The shoulder belt rides across their neck and the lap belt does not sit on the hip area as necessary to provide the most protection from serious injury or death. Improperly restrained children are more likely to be injured, to suffer more severe injuries and to die in motor vehicle crashes than children who are restrained properly. Booster seats can reduce the risk of serious injury by 45 percent compared to seat belts alone.

We know that education and strong occupant protection laws are one of the best ways to prevent injuries and save children's lives. If this child safety seat legislation is enacted into law, it would close significant gaps in Michigan's child passenger safety law.

Thank you for your consideration of this important child safety initiative. If I can be of any assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tiffany Hauser'.

Tiffany Hauser

cc: House Transportation Committee Members