



March 23, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue SE  
Washington D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

We are survivors and friends and families of truck crash victims from across the country, and we write to urge you to **increase the minimum insurance requirements for commercial motor vehicles hauling non-hazardous property in interstate commerce from \$750,000 per crash event (49 CFR § 387.9), and then index the new amount to inflation every five years.** This long overdue change will make the trucking industry safer and protect families of victims and truck crash survivors from financial ruin.

As a result of our truck crashes, some of us incurred debilitating injuries that cost us millions of dollars to properly redress. Many of us lost wages either directly or indirectly after losing a loved one in a truck crash. All of us have been forced to make sense of our new normal.

While increasing the minimum insurance has no bearing on the outcomes of our past crashes, it will help protect the thousands of families who will be adversely impacted by future large truck crashes. As you know, the recently released 2020 data from Fatality Analysis Report System (FARS), revealed that 4,965 people perished in large truck crashes, representing an increase of 31 percent since 2011.

No one should have to endure what some of us have gone through because the trucking company that crashed into them wants to hold onto 1980-level coverage in 2022. In fact, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the amount \$750,000 set in 1980 would have the same purchasing power as \$5,255,989.61 in 2021, if the amount was raised to account for medical-cost inflation. This does not even factor in the inflation that we are experiencing in 2022.

We thank you for acknowledging the importance of increasing the minimum insurance and hope you will take the opportunity to make trucking safer and protect families like ours by using the authority granted to you under Section 31139(b)(1) of title 49 to address four decades of inaction.

Sincerely,

Tracy Quinichett Whitehead  
Laurel, MD  
Board Member, Institute for Safer Trucking  
Mother of Channing Quinichett  
Killed in a truck crash, 1/21/2009

Kate Brown  
Gurnee, IL  
Board Member, Institute for Safer Trucking  
Mother of Graham Brown  
Injured in a truck crash, 5/2/2005



Peter Malarczyk  
Hastings-on-Hudson, NY  
Board Member, Institute for Safer Trucking  
Injured in a truck crash, 12/29/2015  
Son of Ryszard and Anita Malarczyk  
Killed in a truck crash, 12/29/2015

Eric Hein  
Portland, OR  
Board Member, Institute for Safer Trucking  
Father of Riley Hein  
Killed in a truck crash, 11/13/2015

Melissa Gouge  
Washington, D.C.  
Cousin of Amy Corbin  
Killed in a truck crash, 8/18/1997

Rick Watts  
Montclair, VA  
Husband of Tiffany Watts,  
Son-in-Law of Sandra Anderson,  
Stepfather of Kelsie and Savannah Garrigues  
Killed in a truck crash, 6/25/2015

Julie Magnan Patrissi  
South Burlington, VT  
Injured in a truck crash, 1/31/2002  
Wife of David Magnan  
Killed in a truck crash, 1/31/2002

Randall Higginbotham  
Memphis, TN  
Father of Michael Higginbotham  
Killed in a truck crash, 11/18/2014

Allen Higginbotham  
Memphis, TN  
Brother of Michael Higginbotham  
Killed in a truck crash, 11/18/2014

Ashley McMillan  
Memphis, TN  
Girlfriend of Michael Higginbotham  
Killed in a truck crash, 11/18/2014

Laurie Higginbotham  
Memphis, TN  
Board Member, IST  
Mother of Michael Higginbotham  
Killed in a truck crash, 11/18/2014

Kerry Rois  
Lakewood, OH  
Injured in a truck crash, 1/14/2015

Marianne Karth, AnnaLeahMary.com  
Raleigh, NC  
Injured in a truck crash, 5/4/2013  
Mother of AnnaLeah and Mary Karth  
Killed in a truck crash, 5/4/2013

Courtney Sprague, Dave Fons Memorial Fund  
Milford, MI  
Daughter of Dave Fons  
Killed in a truck crash, 12/11/2017

William and Cashawna Anderson  
Brooksville, FL  
Parents of Nadia Anderson  
Killed in a truck crash, 1/19/2017

Joe and Ida Simon  
Lafayette, LA  
Parents of Matthew Simon  
Killed in a truck crash, 4/4/2017

Vicki Siragusa  
 Mooresville, NC  
Sister of Linda Jowers, Sister-in-law of Timothy  
Jowers, Aunt of Brianna and Alexander Jowers  
Killed in a truck crash, 9/19/2018

Allison Maselli  
East Schodack, NY  
Wife of Mark Kowalski  
Killed in a truck crash, 1/21/2011

Amber Chafin  
Mount Dora, FL  
Injured in a truck crash, 8/6/2020



Laura and Rich Fredricks,  
Emily Fredricks Foundation  
East Brunswick, NJ  
Parents of Emily Fredricks  
Killed in a truck crash, 11/28/2017

Lois Durso-Hawkins, StopUnderrides.Org  
Saint Augustine, FL  
Mother of Roya Sadigh  
Killed in a truck crash, 11/24/2004  
Sister-in-law of Michael Hawkins  
Injured in a truck crash, 6/16/2003

Mark Hawkins, StopUnderrides.Org  
Saint Augustine, FL  
Father of Roya Sadigh  
Killed in a truck crash, 11/24/2004  
Brother of Michael Hawkins  
Injured in a truck crash, 6/16/2003

Cynthia Harvell  
Bowie, MD  
Mother of Thurinton Harvell, Jr.  
Injured in a truck crash, 7/15/2019  
Wife of Thurinton Harvell, Sr.  
Killed in a truck crash, 7/15/2019

Bonnie Pierce  
Charlotte, NC  
Mother of Terry Pierce, Killed in a truck crash  
12/10/1993

Laura Norman  
Memphis, TN

Clinton Gilley  
Jacksonville, FL  
Brother of David Gilley, Brother-in-law of  
Christine Gilley, Uncle of Grace and Jack Gilley  
Killed in a truck crash, 4/13/2017

Susan Peugh  
Germantown, TN

Releia and Charlie Warren  
Jacksonville, FL  
Releia injured in a truck crash, 1/7/2020  
Parents of Eli Warren  
Killed in a truck crash, 1/7/2020

Warren and Tammy Huffman  
Lake Odessa, MI  
Twin Brother and Sister-in-law of DPS Officer  
Timothy A. Huffman, Badge #5430  
Killed in a truck crash, 5/6/2013

Jessica Balsizer  
Tiffin, OH  
Daughter of Cal and Lisa Balsizer, Sister of  
Callie Balsizer  
Killed in a truck crash, 8/3/2018

Georgia Davis  
Memphis, TN

Gisela Weinland  
Sarasota, FL  
Injured in a truck crash, 4/19/2016  
Wife of Robert "Bob" Weinland  
Killed in a truck crash, 4/19/2016

Kelly and Tony Dugas  
Brevard County, FL  
Parents of Alexandria Dugas  
Killed in a truck crash, 1/21/2011

Shelly Rosengaten  
Germantown, TN

Monica Malarczyk  
Hastings-on-Hudson, NY  
Injured in a truck crash, 12/29/2015  
Daughter of Ryszard and Anita Malarczyk  
Killed in a truck crash, 12/29/2015

Ashley Abernathy  
Memphis, TN



Cesar Godinez  
Wichita, KS

Michael Hawkins  
Travelers Rest, SC  
Injured in a truck crash, 6/16/2003

Eric Keller  
Palatka, FL  
Injured in a truck crash, 8/1/2007  
Fiancé of Toni Ann Johnson  
Killed in a truck crash, 8/1/2007

Keith Wolf  
Merrill, WI  
Father of Alex Wolf  
Killed in a truck crash, 11/20/2019

Mike & Vicky Acosta  
Bloomfield Hills, MI

Towanna James  
Phoenix, AZ  
Daughter of Naomi James  
Sister of Carla Blissitt  
Killed in a truck crash, 4/11/2014

Elisa Luckey  
Germantown, TN

Laurie Merritt  
Palatka, FL  
Mother of Toni Ann Johnson  
Killed in a truck crash, 8/1/2007

Marilyn Fleming  
Wells, ME

Trish Gulley  
Memphis, TN

Margaret Garland  
Germantown, TN

Kristy Michaud and Thomas Hartman  
Agoura Hills, CA  
Parents of Jameson, Rowan and Everett  
Entire family injured in a truck crash, 7/27/2019

Akisha McCarter  
Toledo, OH  
Wife of Michael McCarter  
Killed in a truck crash, 10/15/2021

Cathy Forman  
Bloomfield, CT  
Sister of Leslie Rosenberg  
Aunt of Sophie Rosenberg  
Killed in a truck crash, 10/15/2018

Maureen and Brian Hentz  
Cherry Hill, NJ  
Brian injured in a truck crash, 7/20/2015

Sarah Jo Plucker-Wright  
Middletown, OH  
Injured in a truck crash, 8/7/2018

Ken Garland  
Germantown, TN

Ashley Garland  
Germantown, TN

Shirley Preston  
Springfield, OH  
Mother of Caitlin Preston  
Killed in a truck crash, 5/28/2019

Patricia and Evelio Ramos  
Brunswick, OH  
Parents of Jason Ramos  
Killed in a truck crash, 6/25/2015

David Barber  
Cordova, TN

Donna Humphreys  
Collierville, TN



Jennifer Walsh  
Washington, DC  
Board Member, IST

Baabi Das  
Washington, DC  
Board Member, IST

Harry Adler  
Washington, DC  
Co-Chair, IST

John Lannen  
Reston, VA  
Co-Chair, IST

cc: Polly Trottenberg, Deputy Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation  
Robin Hutcheson, Acting Administrator, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration  
Jack Van Steenberg, Executive Director and Chief Safety Officer, Federal Motor Carrier  
Safety Administration