August 6, 2026

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable John Thune
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Johnson, Minority Leader Jeffries, Majority Leader Thune, and Minority Leader Schumer,

Our organizations write as advocates for highway and traffic safety to urge you to preserve highway safety funding levels, including advanced appropriations funding for related safety programs, at FY 2026 enacted levels as part of any short-term continuing resolution or surface transportation program extension that may become necessary. It's imperative that funding remain stable while Congress works out longer-term funding decisions through a multi-year reauthorization of surface transportation programs.

The investments made by the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) to improve roadway safety are working. After roadway fatalities surged during the COVID-19 pandemic, reaching a 16-year high of 42,939 deaths in 2021, sustained federal investment in infrastructure safety improvements, behavioral safety programs, and data-driven enforcement has helped drive fatalities down for three consecutive years to 39,254 in 2024, with preliminary data showing the decline continuing into 2025. This progress did not happen by accident. It reflects the importance of the investment Congress made in IIJA which provided a steady flow of resources to states and local communities to improve roadway safety and save lives.

Reducing or delaying this funding now risks stalling or reversing that hard-won momentum. Any cut or lapse in safety funding as part of a continuing resolution or surface transportation reauthorization extension would inject uncertainty into state and local safety planning, disrupt projects that are already underway, limit the growth of programs and personnel focusing on commercial motor vehicle safety, and slow the deployment of proven, life-saving countermeasures at the moment they are showing measurable results.

With an estimated 36,640 people killed on our nation's roads in 2025, Congress has a shared, bipartisan interest in continuing to improve roadway safety. We urge you to protect highway safety funding at current levels in any short-term continuing resolution or surface transportation extension, and we look forward to working with you toward our shared goal of zero roadway deaths.

Sincerely,
AAA
Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety
Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance

Family, Career and Community Leaders of America
Foundation for Advancing Alcohol Responsibly (Responsibility.org)
Governors Highway Safety Association
Gweedo Memorial Foundation
Institute for Safer Trucking
Intelligent Transportation Society of America (ITS America)
Modern Analytics for Roadway Safety (MARS) Coalition
Mothers Against Drunk Driving
National Association for Pupil Transportation
National Association of State Emergency Medical Services Officials
National Coalition for Safer Roads
National District Attorneys Association
National Safety Council
Road Safe America
Safe Kids Worldwide
Safe Routes Partnership
StopDistractions.org
The Kiefer Foundation