

**What The Government
Doesn't Want You To Know
About Seat Belts**

**WARNING
Pregnant Women**

**SEAT BELTS
Can
KILL
Your
BABY**

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Petition NHTSA Today

The Government (NHTSA) has misled pregnant women about the dangers of using seat belts during pregnancy. Hundreds and thousands of unborn children are unnecessarily killed and injured every year because of NHTSA's refusal to protect pregnant moms and their unborn children. Several restraint devices have been introduced for use by pregnant women, but most are ineffective, if not downright dangerous to both the mom and her baby.

A federal safety standard, similar to the child and infant restraint system standards is urgently needed.

**PLEASE HELP BY
SUBMITTING YOUR PETITION
TODAY TO:**

David R. Strickland, Administrator,
NHTSA
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
West Building
Washington, DC 20590

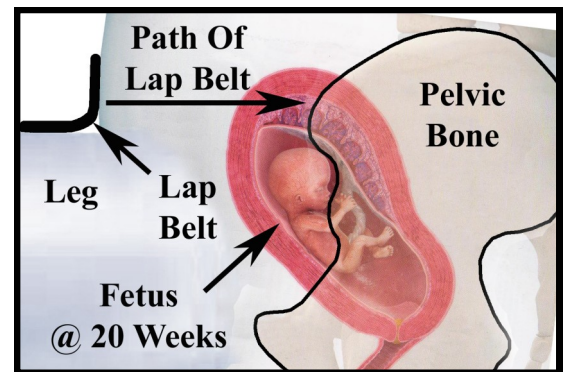
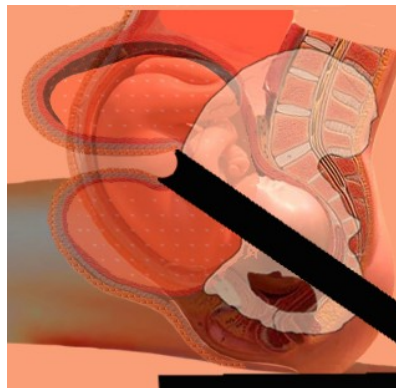
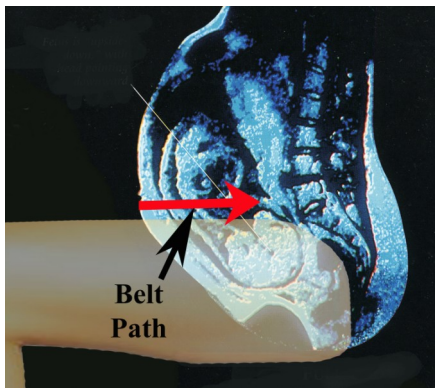
Use USPS (Snail Mail)
The Petition Form is on the reverse side.
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**It is NOT possible to
wear the
lap belt low enough
to prevent CRUSH-
ING the baby.**

**NHTSA'S
Dirty Little
Secret**

www.jimhof.com

**At 20 weeks, the lap belt
crushes directly through the
placenta. Placental abruption
is the most frequently cited
cause of traumatic fetal
death.**



**There is no excuse for
NHTSA'S FAILURE TO PREVENT THIS!**

PETITION FOR RULEMAKING

Name and Address:

Date:

Mr. David Strickland, Administrator
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
West Building
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Mr Strickland:

This petition for rulemaking is being filed under Title 49 CFR Part 552.8, which requires a substantive response within 120 days of receipt by your office.

Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards (FMVSS) require lap and shoulder belt restraint systems to be installed in all passenger cars manufactured for sale in the United States, and many states require the usage of these systems. Lap and shoulder belt restraints are known to significantly reduce crash injuries. **However the lap belt presents a significant hazard for the placenta and fetus of a pregnant women.**

This was reported over 40 years ago in NHTSA monitored research wherein 11 pregnant baboons were exposed to testing with seat belts to determine the effects of seat belt use on the fetus. NHTSA biomechanics experts monitored this research and co-authored the initial research report which stated, "The high rate of fetal and placental injury in this study indicates that additional restraint may necessary to reduce the snubbing action of the lap belt." [King, Crosby, Stout, **Ep-pinger**, (1972). Effects of Lap Belt and Three Point Restraints on Pregnant Baboons Subjected to Deceleration. *Fifteenth Stapp Crash Conference Proceedings*, SAE #710850, 68-83.] and [Crosby, Snyder, Snow, Hanson, (1968) **Impact Studies in Pregnancy. Experimental Studies. Civil Aeromedical Inst Oklahoma City Okla.**]

Recent epidemiological studies have confirmed the concerns of the above researchers. It has been shown that the fetus of a pregnant woman is approximately 5 times more likely to receive serious injury to her unborn child in a crash than another infant or child riding in the same car. [Weiss HB, Sauber-Schatz EK, Herring H., (December, 2011). The Risk of Motor Vehicle Crashes During Pregnancy, *American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology*, Vol. 1 (4).]

Additional studies have shown that lap belts are implicated in specific injuries to the fetus, even in low speed crashes. [Crosby, W. M. and Costiloe, J. P. (1971). Safety of lapbelt restraint for pregnant victims of automobile collisions. *New England Journal of Medicine*, 284, 632], [Klinich, K.D., Schneider, L.W., Moore, J.L., and Pearlman, M.D. (1998). Injuries to pregnant occupants in automotive crashes. In *16th ESV Conference Proceedings*. Washington, DC: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 98-SP-P- 17,2046-2056], and [Klinich, K.D., Schneider, L.W., Rupp, J., Eby, B., and Pearlman, M. (1999). Challenges in frontal crash protection of pregnant drivers based on anthropometric considerations. *SAE Technical Paper Series*. 1999-01-071 1].

It is also reported that the tightened lap belt can cause direct injury to the fetus without severely injuring the pregnant woman. [Griffiths, M., Hillman, **G.**, and Usherwood, M. M. (1991). Seat belt injury in pregnancy resulting in fetal death. A need for education? Case reports. *British Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology*, 98,420-321].

This problem is common knowledge in the biomechanics and injury prevention research communities. **Yet NHTSA continues to misinform pregnant women that using the seat belts protects both the mother and her unborn child.**

Numerous supplementary restraints for pregnant women have been developed, but many of them are inadequate or down-right dangerous to both the pregnant woman and her unborn child.

It is time for NHTSA to start providing accurate information to pregnant women about the risks of set belt injury to their unborn children, and to establish minimum performance requirements for supplementary restraint systems for pregnant women, similar to the Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards for infant and child restraints.

I hereby petition the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration to immediately provide **valid** information regarding the risk of seat belt injury to the fetus of a pregnant woman, and initiate rulemaking for Supplementary Automotive Restraint Systems for Pregnant Women. (SARSPW).

Very truly yours,

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