



March 19, 2024

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The Honorable Frank Hornstein
House Transportation Finance and Policy Committee
563 State Office Building
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Craig Ryan, Director,
Government Relations
The Auto Club Group

RE: H.F. 4649 - Child Passenger Safety

Dear Chairman Hornstein:

On behalf of AAA-The Auto Club Group, with more than 630,000 AAA members in Minnesota, I am writing to express AAA's support of H.F. 4649 which would increase the age at which a child must be in a booster seat and specifies the type of booster seat necessary. This legislation is critical for the protection of child passengers in vehicles.

Motor vehicle crashes remain the leading cause of unintentional injury-related death among children ages 5 to 9 years old. 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 Minnesota's child passenger safety law.

Thank you for your sponsorship and support on 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 blue ink, appearing to be 'CR', is placed over a light blue rectangular background.