
ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8010

State of Washington

55th Legislature

1997 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Transportation (originally sponsored by Senators Strannigan and Oke)

Read first time 03/04/97.

1 TO THE HONORABLE WILLIAM J. CLINTON, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED
2 STATES, AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE
3 OF REPRESENTATIVES, AND TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF
4 THE UNITED STATES, IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED, AND TO THE UNITED STATES
5 DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION:

6 We, your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of
7 the State of Washington, in legislative session assembled, respectfully
8 represent and petition as follows:

9 WHEREAS, The Secretary of Transportation has prescribed motor
10 vehicle safety standards under the authority of the National Traffic
11 and Motor Vehicle Safety Act of 1966; and

12 WHEREAS, The current standards require that vehicles be equipped
13 with an automatic occupant crash protection system consisting of lap
14 and shoulder seat belts and an inflatable restraint device otherwise
15 known as an "airbag" in the two front seating positions; and

16 WHEREAS, Despite recent actions to authorize installation of
17 redesigned airbag devices in new vehicles, many serious and dangerous
18 safety problems remain unaddressed; and

19 WHEREAS, Millions of vehicles on our roads, and some in our
20 driveways, have older model airbags; and

1 WHEREAS, The newly announced process for installation of airbag
2 deactivation switches is overly limiting, cumbersome, and requires the
3 permission of federal authorities; and

4 WHEREAS, Airbags do save lives, but due to these unaddressed
5 problems, airbags continue to be responsible for the shocking and
6 gruesome deaths of any children and adults; and

7 WHEREAS, This situation has effectively rendered the front
8 passenger side seating area in many vehicles useless in a large number
9 of cases; and

10 WHEREAS, It is possible to improve upon this situation; and

11 WHEREAS, Federal law expressly preempts states from altering
12 present standards or enacting other safety standards in this field;

13 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the United
14 States Congress and the United States Department of Transportation
15 adopt new laws, regulations, and standards to protect the safety of
16 occupants of passenger vehicles by encouraging the installation of
17 airbag systems where the driver, free from government supervision, has
18 the ability to deactivate the driver's side and passenger side airbag
19 in any type of vehicle.

20 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
21 transmitted to the Honorable William J. Clinton, President of the
22 United States, the Secretary of the United States Department of
23 Transportation, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker
24 of the House of Representatives, and each member of Congress from the
25 State of Washington.

--- END ---