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(Original Signature of Member)

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To direct the Secretary of Transportation to revise regulations relating to
child restraint systems, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on _____

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Transportation to revise regula-
tions relating to child restraint systems, and for other
purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Booster Seat Safety
5 Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. CHILD RESTRAINT SYSTEMS.**

7 (a) CHILD RESTRAINT SYSTEM LABELING.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—

1 (A) REVISIONS REQUIRED.—Not later than
2 90 days after the date of the enactment of this
3 Act, the Secretary of Transportation shall re-
4 vise section 571.213 of title 49, Code of Federal
5 Regulations—

6 (i) in S5.5.2(f), by striking “13.6 kg”
7 and inserting “18.2 kg”; and

8 (ii) by adding at the end of S5.5.2 the
9 following:

10 “(o) The packaging for each booster seat shall be per-
11 manently labeled with the information specified in
12 S5.5.2(g).

13 “(p) On each booster seat, and on the packaging of
14 such booster seat, there shall be placed—

15 “(1) a permanent label stating: ‘For use by
16 children [] years old or older and who are over
17 [] pounds.’, with respect to which—

18 “(A) the first bracket is replaced with the
19 minimum age recommended for a user, which
20 may not be an age younger than 4 years old;
21 and

22 “(B) the second bracket is replaced with
23 the minimum weight recommended for a user,
24 which may not be under 40 pounds; and

1 “(2) a permanent label stating: ‘Strongly rec-
2 ommended children use this seat only when they
3 reach either the height or weight limit for a child re-
4 straint system with internal harness as indicated by
5 the manufacturer.’.

6 “(q) On each child restraint system with internal har-
7 ness, and on the packaging of such child restraint system
8 with internal harness, there shall be placed a permanent
9 label stating: ‘To prevent possible injury or death, it is
10 important to delay the transition from a child restraint
11 system with internal harness to a booster seat as long as
12 possible, until the child reaches the weight or height limit
13 of the child restraint system with internal harness as indi-
14 cated by the manufacturer.’.

15 “(r) On each combination car seat, there shall be
16 placed a permanent label stating: ‘Please use this seat
17 with the internal harness as long as possible, until your
18 child outgrows the maximum weight of [__] or reaches the
19 maximum height of [__]. Once they have exceeded such
20 weight or height, this seat can be used as a belt posi-
21 tioning booster seat with the vehicle seat belt.’, with re-
22 spect to which—

23 “(1) the first bracket is replaced with the max-
24 imum weight recommended for an internal harness
25 user, which may not be under 40 pounds; and

1 “(2) the second bracket is replaced with the
2 maximum height recommended for an internal har-
3 ness user.”.

4 (B) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The revisions to
5 section 571.213 of title 49, Code of Federal
6 Regulations, under subparagraph (A) shall take
7 effect not later than 180 days after the date of
8 the enactment of this Act.

9 (2) MINIMUM HEIGHT LABELING REQUIREMENT
10 FOR BOOSTER SEATS.—

11 (A) REVISIONS REQUIRED.—Not later than
12 1 year after the date of the enactment of this
13 Act, the Secretary of Transportation shall re-
14 vise section 571.213 of title 49, Code of Federal
15 Regulations, so as to—

16 (i) require the permanent label re-
17 quired by S5.5.2(p)(1) for a booster seat
18 and the packaging of such booster seat to
19 state the minimum height recommended
20 for a user of such booster seat; and

21 (ii) specify—

22 (I) the minimum height required
23 to be stated on such label; or

24 (II) a method by which a manu-
25 facturer of a booster seat shall deter-

1 mine the minimum height required to
2 be stated on such label for such boost-
3 er seat.

4 (B) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The revisions to
5 section 571.213 of title 49, Code of Federal
6 Regulations, under subparagraph (A) shall take
7 effect on the date that is 1 year after the Sec-
8 retary of Transportation completes such revi-
9 sions.

10 (b) SIDE-IMPACT CRASH TESTING.—

11 (1) GENERAL STANDARDS.—Not later than 1
12 year after the date of the enactment of this section,
13 the Administrator shall issue regulations to establish
14 standards with respect to side-impact crash testing
15 for child restraint systems, which—

16 (A) shall include standards for booster
17 seats; and

18 (B) may include the use of the most appro-
19 priate test dummy available at the time of such
20 side-impact crash testing.

21 (2) NEAR-SIDE AND FAR-SIDE IMPACT TEST-
22 ING.—In issuing regulations under paragraph (1),
23 the Administrator shall include procedures for test-
24 ing—

1 (A) near-side impacts, in which the child
2 restraint system being tested is positioned on
3 the side of the point of impact; and

4 (B) far-side impacts, in which the child re-
5 straint system being tested is positioned on the
6 opposite side of the point of impact.

7 (3) BOOSTER SEAT TEST DEVICES.—

8 (A) DESIGN.—Not later than 18 months
9 after the date of the enactment of this section,
10 the Administrator shall issue regulations that
11 provide guidelines for a test dummy that ap-
12 proximates a 6-year-old child for the purposes
13 of side-impact crash testing.

14 (B) USE.—Not later than 18 months after
15 the date on which the Administrator issues reg-
16 ulations under subparagraph (A), the Adminis-
17 trator shall require that side-impact crash test-
18 ing for booster seats (for both near-side and
19 far-side impacts) includes the use of a test
20 dummy that meets the guidelines provided
21 under subparagraph (A).

22 (c) TETHER SYSTEMS STUDY.—Not later than 1 year
23 after the date of the enactment of this section, the Admin-
24 istrator shall provide to Congress a study of the
25 functionality of tether systems and the variability that ex-

1 ists in tether use recommendations by car seat and vehicle
2 manufacturers, with recommendations on how such tether
3 systems may be used or modified to increase the usage
4 of child restraint systems with internal harness to maxi-
5 mize child safety.

6 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

7 (1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Adminis-
8 trator” means the Administrator of the National
9 Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

10 (2) BOOSTER SEAT.—The term “booster seat”
11 has the meaning given such term in section 571.213
12 of title 49, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect
13 on the date of the enactment of this section).

14 (3) CHILD RESTRAINT SYSTEM.—The term
15 “child restraint system” has the meaning given such
16 term in section 571.213 of title 49, Code of Federal
17 Regulations (as in effect on the date of the enact-
18 ment of this section).

19 (4) CHILD RESTRAINT SYSTEM WITH INTERNAL
20 HARNESS.—The term “child restraint system with
21 internal harness” means a child restraint system de-
22 signed to be used rear-facing or forward-facing em-
23 ploying a 5-point harness to position the child in the
24 seat.

1 (5) COMBINATION CAR SEAT.—The term “com-
2 bination car seat”—

3 (A) means any child restraint system de-
4 signed to be used in a forward-facing position
5 with a 5-point internal harness, where the har-
6 ness may be removed and the seat utilized as
7 a belt-positioning booster seat; and

8 (B) includes a child restraint system that
9 may be—

10 (i) converted between rear-facing with
11 an internal harness and forward-facing
12 with an internal harness; and

13 (ii) commonly referred to as “3-in-1”
14 or “all-in-1” seats.

15 (6) TEST DUMMY.—The term “test dummy”
16 means an anthropomorphic test dummy as such
17 term is used in section 571.213 of title 49, Code of
18 Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of the
19 enactment of this section).

20 (7) TETHER SYSTEM.—The term “tether sys-
21 tem” means a system utilizing a tether anchorage,
22 tether strap, and tether hook (as such terms are de-
23 fined in section 571.225 of tile 49, Code of Federal
24 Regulations).