

## News Release

For immediate release

Contact: Marianne Karth, (432) 556-1567

# NHTSA Defends Itself to Congress: Woulda, Coulda, Shoulda

[Washington, D.C. — July 12, 2024] The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) responded with an 8-page explanation to Congress after a federal advisory committee condemned the safety agency for 55 years of inaction on underride crash protection in a scathing 410-page report published last month.

The committee, called the Advisory Committee on Underride Protection (ACUP), was created by Congress in 2021 to assess NHTSA's progress at advancing public safety and make recommendations to the Secretary of Transportation. The ACUP's report documented a long history of agency reluctance to regulate the trucking industry's safety practices, exposed allegations of misconduct by senior officials, and called for the reversal of recent rulemaking that the committee believed made "no substantial progress" to improving public safety. The report concluded, "[V]ery little has changed regarding side underride guard advancements in the last 50 years and no substantial progress has been made by DOT to prevent these horrific crash fatalities and injuries."

Marianne Karth, truck crash survivor and mother of two daughters, AnnaLeah & Mary, who were underride victims, commented, "NHTSA's apologia to Congress basically says, 'Woulda, coulda, shoulda,' and further documents that the agency continues its

long history of inaction. Safety delayed is safety denied.”

The ACUP report can be found [here](#). NHTSA’s report can be found [here](#).