

# SafetyBeltSafe News

Volume 36, No. 1

January 2015



## ■ New CPS Bills Introduced

### *A Federal Initiative is Needed*

California and Michigan will consider making riding rear facing to age 2 a legal requirement this year. The CA bill, introduced by Assemblywoman Cristina Garcia, would modify VC Section 27360 to require correctly-used safety seats meeting FMVSS 213 for children under age 2 facing rear. The intent is to teach that rear facing is 5 times safer and reduce deaths and injuries.

In California, which includes correct use for all ages in both child passenger safety (CPS) and belt laws, judges use manufacturers' instructions as the standard for determining if cited parents/drivers are in violation. SBS USA reviewed manufacturers' instructions, finding convertible seats include permission to use the seat forward at age 1 and 20-22 lbs., even when the seat is certified facing rear to 40 lbs. or more. Also most combination seats permit use at 22 lbs., even when they are labeled for age 2 and above.

Meanwhile parents who want to conform to the law may keep children in rear-facing seats or in the rear-facing position when the child's head is closer than 1"-1.5" to the top of the rear-facing safety seat. Some convertible seats are made to fit better in smaller rear seats, a key need. It is possible that adding exemptions for children more than 30 lbs. or 36" could mitigate that concern.

Manufacturers may want to consider revising instructions on seats serving larger babies to eliminate the age 1/20-22 lbs. permission. If not, it would be important to discuss the reasons so that advocates can share information with legislators.

SBS USA believes state laws need revisions, especially an increased age level for safety seat use. If the impetus for revisiting laws is the higher age for rear facing, it might be an opportunity to address both aspects of protection for children in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

## ■ New Administrator

The new administrator of National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), **Mark Rosekind**, is a highly acclaimed researcher in human fatigue and mitigating its effects on behavior. He served NASA and, as a member of National Transportation Safety Board, participated in 7 major investigations, including the tragic crash of a semi-truck with a bus full of high school students in northern California.

President Obama announced his choice with strong support for Rosekind's plan to improve and expedite vehicle recalls and to maintain core safety programs. Honored with a Presidential Citation for Outstanding Safety Leadership, Rosekind brings strong academic, governmental, and international links to the agency.

## ■ SBS USA is 35!

The Board of Directors and staff want to thank all of the many advocates, programs, companies, and professionals whose help has made possible the services we have offered over the decades.

To be honest, in January 1980, the 15 founders had no vision of such a long run. Progress in CPS is gratifying as 7% usage is far behind us; however, we continue to find incorrect use ranging from 85%-100% at community checkups and gaps in programs to reach community members.

Finding an efficient way to recycle unusable seats is an important goal for our country; helping parents to recognize when a seat should not be passed along is a key objective. Join us!

## Media Watch:

Lily Caravello, Mendocino Co. Car Seat Safety Program, visited Where's Baby? page on the NHTSA Parents Central site in November, 2014, and was stunned by the cartoon: an infant in a rear-facing-only seat facing forward!

Using the SBS USA Media Watch form at Media on [www.carseat.org](http://www.carseat.org), she described the issue, which we forwarded to NHTSA.

Today, a happy, buckled-up girl and rear-facing baby are riding with their dad across the page.

### SafetyBeltSafe U.S.A.

Office: 1124 W. Carson St.  
LA BioMed,  
Building B-1 West  
Torrance, CA 90502  
(310)222-6860 - English  
(310)222-6862 - Spanish  
(800)745-SAFE  
(800)747-SANO

FAX: (310)222-6862

Web site: [www.carseat.org](http://www.carseat.org)

Mail: Box 553

Altadena, CA 91003

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

Stephanie M. Tombrello, LCSW, CPSTI

NEWSLETTER EDITOR:

Kellie L. Mzik, MA, CL

EDITORIAL BOARD:

Sean Kane, BA, Safety Research and Strategies, Inc

Annette Knobloch, DNS, RN, MPH, CPST, CNE, Associate Professor of Nursing, Our Lady of the Lake College

Betty Mason, BA, MPH, CPSTI

Jim Savage, Kohl's Safety Center, American Family Children's Hospital

## Thank You . . .

**\$1000** Emily Alexander

**\$635** Heidi Heflin & Ernie Guzman

**\$500** Mary Louise Blackstone, Esq.  
The Willapa Bay Co.

**\$250** Lori Jacobs/  
Hinricher & Douglas  
Samantha Merton

**\$200** Auto Club of So. CA  
Black River Memorial Hosp.  
CHDP, Humboldt Co. MCAA  
Children's Healthcare of Atlanta  
Children's Hospital of the King's  
Daughters

City of Buckeye Fire Dept.  
Cook Children's Medical Center  
Injury Prevention Center  
Jacksonville Beach Fire Dept.  
Manhattan Beach Fire Dept.  
Mercy San Juan Medical Center  
Vanessa Merton, Esq.  
Newberg Fire Dept.

Randall Children's Hospital  
at Legacy Emanuel  
St Vincent's Infirmary  
Becky Thams

Drs. Susan and William Tully

**\$150** Passenger Safety Services

## UPDATES for 2015!

Safe Ride News Publications has the 2015 edition of the LATCH Manual on proper attachment in vehicles and the equipment available or able to be retrofitted.

\$39 each; bulk prices available. Go to [www.saferidenews.com](http://www.saferidenews.com).

SBS USA is accepting orders for the 2015 DVD of Child Restraint Manufacturers' Instructions with Summary Sheets, covering all seats from the past 10 years. Special needs seats instructions included.

Available for \$20; included in 2015 memberships at the \$135 level and above. Bulk prices available.

## Calendar

Register at 310/222-6860 for all courses

### Educator Workshop:

3/25: Altadena, CA,  
8:15 am-4:30 pm  
6 CEUs for nurses;  
3 CPST, CPSTI CEUs  
Co-sponsors: CA Office of Traffic Safety (CA OTS), Pomona P D, & St. Francis Medical Center

### National Technician

#### Certification Course:

4/28-30: Pomona P D Training Center plus 5/1/15 Checkup  
Co-sponsors: CA Dept of Public Health, CA OTS, L A Co Dept of Public Health, Pomona P D  
Safe Kids fee: \$85  
Submit application to SBS USA

### Safety Seat Checkups:

9 am-3 pm for checkers; 10 am-2 pm for families

4/11: Safety Seat Checkup Day, Petersen Automotive Museum, Los Angeles, CA. Co-sponsors: CA OTS, Pomona Police Dept

5/1: Wal-Mart, Pomona, CA  
Co-sponsors: CA Dept of Public Health, CA OTS, L A Co Dept of Public Health, Pomona P D

### Conferences:

Visit the SBS USA exhibit!

3/9-10: Injury Prevention Alliance of Los Angeles County. L.A., CA  
[www.CHLA.org/IPALAC](http://www.CHLA.org/IPALAC)

3/15-17: Lifesavers Conference, 2015, Chicago, IL.  
[www.lifesaversconference.org](http://www.lifesaversconference.org)

8/12-15: Kidz in Motion, Orlando.  
[www.kidzinmotion.org](http://www.kidzinmotion.org)

**You can help SafetyBeltSafe U.S.A. save children's lives with your membership or donation.**

GROUP SUBSCRIPTION:	\$500 Major Corp.	\$200 Hospital	\$100 Small Bus./Prof Grp	\$50 Community Org.
INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP:	\$100 Contributing	\$50 Supporting	\$35 Basic	
SPECIAL GIFT:	\$5,000 Benefactor	\$2,500 Patron	\$1,000 Sustaining	Other \$ _____
Name _____	Org/Occup _____			
Address _____	City/State _____		Zip _____	
E-mail* _____	Phone: Cell (    ) _____		Work (    ) _____	
I can help with _____				

\* E-mail address is required to receive passwords for access to Recall List and CPS Tech Update.  
 All memberships/subscriptions include *SafetyBeltSafe News*, which qualifies for 1 Continuing Education Unit per year for re-certifying Technicians and Instructors with subscriber code. \$200 or more includes *Safe Ride News*.  
 \_\_\_ Check here if you are a Certified Technician or Instructor and want information about CEUs for subscribers.  
**Check below** if you want to receive the following special subscriptions:  
 \$50 minimum: \_\_\_ Recall Update Service by e-mail \_\_\_ Recall Update Service by regular mail (if necessary)  
 \$100 minimum: \_\_\_ CPS Tech Update (online access to new instructions since December, 2014)  
*For \$100 members: Add \$35 and receive Safe Ride News thru 2015 and current DVD of safety seat manufacturers' instructions!*  
 Payment: Check/Money Order (enclosed) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Credit Card (Visa / MC / Discover / Amex) # \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code (on front or back) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name on Card \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Exp \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_  
*SafetyBeltSafe U.S.A. is a 501(c)(3) corporation*  
 Please mail this form to: *SafetyBeltSafe U.S.A., Box 553, Altadena, CA 91003*  
*Federal Tax ID #95-3676040*

**■ New Safety Seats:**

**Baby Trend** introduced EZ Flex Loc 32, rear-facing-only for kids 5-32 lbs. Some models have an adjustable back with one set of slots to move the harness to the child's shoulders when the harness is tightened. Other models have 3 sets of slots for manual adjustment to shoulder level. There are 2 sets of loops on the harness straps and a 2-position recline adjustment. The **Diono Solana** is the Cambria in backless mode for kids 40-120 lbs., with lower anchor connectors to provide seat stability.  
**Kiddy USA** has introduced the Evolution Pro, a rear-facing-only seat for children 4-35 lbs. & up to 37 inches tall. It has a lie back function that can be engaged when the carrier is not in the base. The base adjusts to 7 different positions.  
**Kids II** has introduced the Ingenuity Intrust Pro, rear-facing-only for kids 4-35 lbs. Tightening the harness brings the straps to the child's shoulders. Only 1 of 3 handle positions may be used in the vehicle. The infant insert must be used from 4-11 lbs. only. The base adjusts to three positions.  
 The **Recaro Performance Crossover** is a convertible that covers kids from 5-40 lbs. facing rear, 23-65 lbs. forward. Tightening the harness brings the straps to the child's shoulders. It must be used with its base in both RF and FF modes. Infant insert must be used between 5-12 lbs.

**■ New Program**

SBS USA is providing services for L A County Dept of Public Health under a 3-year arrangement. The initial services are roll call sessions on the basics of CPS and enforcement of the California CPS law. The brief sessions are available throughout L A County. Packets for participants include the SBS USA Citation Reminder card\*, a handy summary solely for law enforcement.  
 The project includes outreach to judges and traffic commissioners to discuss adjudicating violations and sending violators who request fine reductions to Passenger Safety Services, the Family Safety in the Car provider for Los Angeles County and environs. The Technicians who teach the classes also check the safety seats required to be brought to the class; unless the seat can be "fixed" for the child who was at risk, the violator must return with a suitable alternative before returning to court.  
 \*With CA OTS support, SBS USA can send 1 card per officer in the field to any CA law enforcement agency. Call 310/222-6860 to order.

SafetyBeltSafe U.S.A.  
P.O. Box 553  
Altadena, California 91003

Return Service Requested

*Dedicated to improving  
child passenger safety  
since 1980*

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Van Nuys, CA  
Permit No. 20

*A New Year, A New Challenge!  
Renew your membership today  
to help keep kids safe.*

**SafetyBeltSafe News**

**January 2015**

## ■ Boosters and IIHS

The annual booster-fit ratings by Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS) were released in November, 2014, with the highest number of top-rated seats (27 of 41 new products) in 6 years. IIHS points out that manufacturers often discuss design issues with them in advance to ensure the best fit with vehicle belts and child anatomy. BEST BET means fit in virtually any vehicle; GOOD BET may not fit in all; Check Fit means parents need to try the booster with their child in the vehicles in which it will be used.

Only 3 new seats were not recommended. The Diono Olympia and Pacific, both highbacks, which don't have adjustable shoulder belt guides, allowed the belt to touch the face whereas with an adjustable guide in the new Diono Rainier, fit was a GOOD BET. Meanwhile the Kids Embrace Batman No Back has armrests that put the lap belt too far out on the thighs. The company character-embodied combination seats with highback booster modes—Ninja Turtle, Spider-Man, and Batman are BEST BETS—and make a wonderful draw at community exhibits to bring families to learn more about CPS!

Since 2009, 2 Dorel products, All-in-One and Alpha Omega Elite, remain Not Recommended as boosters due to fit issues.

A dozen BEST BETS and 3 GOOD BETS encourage use of LATCH when the seats are in use. Recommendations from IIHS parallel those of SBS USA and many others: stay in a harness-equipped seat as long as possible (usually until K-1<sup>st</sup> grade) and in a booster until the belt fits, often until age 12. We recommend using the 5-Step Test\* to check belt fit as vehicles differ. Visit [www.iihs.org](http://www.iihs.org) to read the entire list.

\*See flyer 630 at [www.carseat.org](http://www.carseat.org).

## ■ What's New?

✓ Locking clips have been arriving with safety seats for decades; however, two large safety seat manufacturers, Dorel and Evenflo, decided it is neither necessary nor helpful to continue. Evenflo is attaching a flyer that states safety belts must have manual locking systems since 1996, rarely needing a locking clip to make them tight on safety seats. Parents may request clips if their vehicles are older.

Companies found that incorrect use of locking clips was a bigger problem than non-use. One caution: the Evenflo message mentions locking clip use on earlier vehicles: "...a lap belt or lap/shoulder belt...equipped with an emergency locking retractor (ELR)... MUST use a Locking Clip." However, ELR lap belts require a belt-shortening clip, which generally is available from auto manufacturers only.

✓ A class action suit against Graco for their sticky buckle response was allowed to proceed when the U.S. District Judge in California ruled the offer of a replacement buckle wasn't the same as a refund for an allegedly defective product, citing two California laws and a federal law. Seth Long sued in 3/13; the initial recall was launched in 2/14.

✓ Britax ClickTight Advocate, Boulevard, and Marathon: To fit more kids snugly, the hip straps are attached to hooks along two different paths, depending on the child's size, and have been found on occasion to be unhooked on delivery. Be sure to check that hip straps are correctly routed and attached. See video at [www.consumerreports.org/cro/britax1114](http://www.consumerreports.org/cro/britax1114) as well as the instructions.

Changed instructions: no tethering rear facing on these seats made from 1/28/15 on; short path hip hook-up is to be used until age 2.