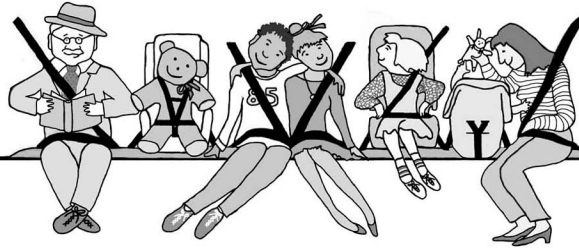


# SafetyBeltSafe News

Volume 36, No. 3

May 2015



## It's the Law!

**California** Assembly Bill 53, introduced by freshman legislator Cristina Garcia of Bell Gardens/Los Angeles County, would aim for education first, followed by enforcement in 1/17, for keeping children rear facing until at least age 2 if they weigh less than 40 lbs. and are not too tall for the seat. The bill was amended to allow advocates and professionals to reach out to their target families to inform them of the recommendation before citations, which can total \$500 with typical court-related fees added and bear a point on the parent's or driver's license, go into effect. Next stop: California Senate.

Meanwhile, **New Jersey** Governor Chris Christie signed the bill which mandates rear facing until age 2 and 30 lbs. in a safety seat with a 5-point harness, thus outlawing rear-facing-only seats with 3-point harnesses, although they meet FMVSS 213. The next step, for those under age 4, 40 lbs., and 4'9," will be either rear- or forward-facing in a safety seat with a 5-point harness, followed by use of either a harness-equipped safety seat or booster seat until age 8 or 4'9". From then to age 18, a safety belt will be used. Children under age 8 must ride in the rear seat unless the vehicle is not so equipped, but rear-facing children may not ride in front of an active air bag.

Finally, on May 12<sup>th</sup>, peace officers in **Utah** began pulling over drivers who weren't buckled up, as the safety belt law became primary for the first time. The associated \$45 fine can be waived for first offenders who complete a 30-minute online safety course.

## Safety Seat Checkup Week '15

With support from CA Office of Traffic Safety (CA OTS), Pomona Police Dept, and Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A., Safety Seat Checkup Week found a diverse group of checkers affiliated with 10 separate entities and 4 SBS USA supervisors providing services to 8 families with 12 children and 2 more expected. They came from 4 cities, including 6 zip codes from Los Angeles, and were found to have 36 errors, including up to 8 on a seat. One was correctly used; 2 seats were provided; one unusable seat was left behind. With an incorrect use rate of 92%, checkers and the supporting dozen volunteers, affiliated with SBS USA and the Civil Air Patrol, agreed it was fortunate the Petersen Automotive Museum, still being renovated, shared their parking lot.

A diverse group of California counties and cities proclaimed the Week and notified us. Pediatrician Michael Sachs, MD, mobilized refreshments for the checkers; Bucklebear kept children amused; and ColorGraphics provided posters to distribute statewide.

On May 1st, we conducted a checkup at Wal-Mart, Pomona, with support from Los Angeles County Dept of Public Health Injury and Violence Prevention Program, CA OTS, and Pomona Police Department, as part of a Certification training also supported by California Department of Public Health. Teams checked 31 seats and found 133 errors, with up to 9 errors on one seat. Several children arrived in extremely hazardous situations, including a rear-facing infant seated in front of an active air bag; two children standing unrestrained in the back seat; and several children riding effectively unrestrained either because their safety seats were not buckled in or they were not harnessed. The incorrect travel rate was 92%.

Eight seats were donated to children at risk, and five unusable seats were accepted for recycling.

## Congratulations...

to **Officer Traci Rebiejo**, SBS USA member and CPSTI, named Officer of 2014 by Livermore Police Department. Her passion for devising programs and services to promote CPS continued when she was assigned to Patrol and Public Information resource positions.

Among her services were monthly safety seat checkups, social media involvement, virtual ridealongs, and the highly successful anti-drunk-driving program, Every 15 Minutes, for 2400 students. Go, Traci!!

### 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...

Program Sponsors: Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A. (**\$20,000**) and Volkswagen Group of America (**\$10,000**)

**\$2500:** Darren Qunell

**\$400:** Clarkstown Police Dept.

**\$250:** Brian Lowy, Esq.

**\$200:** AAA Tidewater VA

Alicia Hair

Nationwide Children's Hosp.

UAMS/CPS Education Program

Yale New Haven Children's Hosp.

## Calendar

### Safety Seat Checkups:

*9 am-3 pm for checkers;*

*10 am-2 pm for families*

Register both at 310/222-6860.

Sponsors: CA Office of Traffic Safety, Pomona P.D.

\* 6/12: Eagle Rock Elementary

School, Eagle Rock, CA

Supporters: L A Co Dept of Public

Health, L A School Police Dept.

\* 9/19: Babies R Us, Torrance, CA

Supporters: Babies R Us,

Harbor-UCLA Med. Center

### Educator Workshop:

Sponsors: CA OTS, Pomona P.D.

Major Supporters: Harbor-UCLA Med Ctr, Beach Cities Health Distr.

Update your CPS knowledge!

\* 8/27: 8:15 am-4:30 pm

3 CPST/CPSTI CEUs

CEUS for nurses pending

Redondo Beach, CA

Register at 310/222-6860.

## SAFE and GREEN

SBS USA inaugurated SAFE and GREEN (S&G) to alert the public to the risk of unusable safety seats, to reduce landfill clogging, and to point financially challenged families toward safety seat distribution programs. We were able to do so because **TMC Horizon of Pomona** was willing to accept safety seats to be recycled.

While demand for recycled materials has plummeted for economic reasons, SAFE and GREEN owes much of its success at removing such seats from the marketplace to **Megan Arce**, CPST, of Lakewood, the key volunteer for three years, for collecting, harboring, and often carrying these seats to TMC! Single-handedly, Megan collects seats from drop-off points in the Long Beach, CA, area, stores them in her backyard, and waits patiently for pickup.

We thank Megan for her passion to protect children's lives while protecting the environment. And while we attempt to secure a consistent partner to transport seats to Pomona, we commend **Garrett Windust** of American Honda Motor Co., a long-time supporter, for providing trucking when the pile is far too large for a volunteer to take.

Congratulations, Megan and Garrett, for persevering in the face of obstacles.

SBS USA conducted 5-Step Tests as part of teaching Boosters Are For Big Kids curricula in classes K-5 at Decker Elementary School in Pomona in April. The data show that 90% of students learned they need a booster seat to ride safely, including 8 of 10 4th graders and half of the 5th grade. These are typical findings at schools and public events where kids have been tested since 2001 by SBS USA.

**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*

## Pediatric Academic Societies (PAS) Listing: In The Top 7

The April meeting of PAS kicked off with a review of the 7 top research areas for saving children's lives in the past 40 years, and #7 was safety seats and belts. This brings back memories of Physicians for Automotive Safety founder, the late pediatrician Seymour Charles, and Executive Director Annemarie Shelness demonstrating at pediatric meetings to enlist the American Academy of Pediatrics and others to focus on safety seat use.

It wasn't so obvious at that time that there would be a focus on CPS! Deborah Stewart and Stephanie Tombrello were among the parents who got involved early on, building on the early research and (see 3/15 issue) the findings of Arne Siegel to bring the public into the campaign.

The late Robert Sanders, pediatrician and public health officer in Tennessee, instigated the 1<sup>st</sup> CPS mandatory use law. From 7% buckled up to the much higher percentages and reduced deaths and injuries today took focus; now we must maintain support to avoid slipping back.

## Technician Corner

SBS USA staff have received reports from very experienced Technicians of errors found after parents had checkups. It is possible that parents redid the installations, although they stated they were told these were correct. Such examples may help to remind readers to look for such problems. Share if you, too, have a reminder.

An experienced Tech passed by a Volkswagon and noted a rear-facing baby in the air-bag-equipped front seat. Riding there is not only risky, even if there is a smart air bag, but also illegal in California. The mom stated that she was told to move the child to the front because the rear safety belts couldn't be used! Mom took the help to move the baby to the rear as the belts in cars from 1996 models on must be able to be locked.

An example of the risk is the Hyundai recall of 2015 Accents made 9/14/14-2/10/15 with smart air bags that fail to turn off, especially in very cold environments, when a child restraint is placed in the front passenger seat.

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

*Dedicated to improving  
child passenger safety  
since 1980*

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

Return Service Requested

*Summer is hot, and so is Safety!*  
Renew your membership today.

**SafetyBeltSafe News**

**May 2015**

## **New Safety Seats:**

**Simple Parenting** introduced the Doona, a rear-facing-only seat that converts from safety seat to stroller and back. There are two bases available – an ISOFIX base with a load leg and a flexible LATCH base with a lock-off. The Doona accommodates kids 4-35 lbs., has 3 sets of harness slots, and a three-position handle, only 1 of which is used during travel. The infant insert must be used up to 11 pounds; the head support must be used at any weight. The bases may not be used on aircraft, and the European belt routing method must be used if installing the shell without a base. Do *not* install with inflatable safety belts.

**Goodbaby** introduced the Asana 35 and Asana 35 AP. The AP model features a load leg on its base. The seat accommodates kids 4-35 lbs., but the infant insert must be used for those weighing 6 lbs. or less. The base has 4 recline positions and 1 angle indicator for children 4-20 lbs., another for 20-35 lbs. The base also has a lock-off. There are 3 crotch strap positions and 3 sets of slots for the hip straps. The 4-position handle may be in any locked position for travel.

The restraint may not be installed using inflatable safety belts.

**Evenflo** introduced 2 combination seats, both for kids 22-65 lbs. in harness mode and, if the child is at least 4 years old, 40-120 lbs. in highback or backless booster mode. The Evolve must be reclined in harness mode for those weighing less than 40 lbs. with strap covers on the harness in use. Optional body pillow use must be discontinued when the child is 40 lbs. or more and lower anchors, at 45 lbs. Both seats have 4 sets of harness slots and two crotch strap slots. Harness strap covers for Transitions also must be used if the child is under 40 lbs., but lower anchors can be used to 50 lbs.

## **Media Review**

### **Pediatrics Mentions Safety Seats**

Two April articles in *Pediatrics* highlight issues involving safety seats. The American Academy of Pediatrics issued factors to assess before discharging a healthy newborn from hospital, including evaluating socio-environmental risk factors as well as clinical health and parent capability for infant care.

Specific attention is now directed at the availability of an appropriate safety seat and “that the mother is properly trained on positioning and use.” This, coupled with recommendations from National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, for discharging hospitals to ensure infants leave the hospital correctly restrained may find hospitals attempting to meet guidelines without staff trained in CPS. We invite hospital personnel to work with SBS USA to fill this gap.

The second article is focused on the deaths of babies when left to sleep in a safety seat. The researcher and lead author, Erich Batra, MD, states when babies are not under direct surveillance, they should sleep alone on their backs in a crib with no loose bedding or other items. Having examined 47 cases of children under 2 whose death occurred in devices for sitting or being carried, 2/3rds were left in safety seats. The elapsed time between observing the baby alive and death ranged from 4 minutes to 11 hours. The frequent cause of death was strangulation or straps pressuring the chest.

### **The Try-It Guys Get It Wrong**

The Try-It Guys are a group of men who humorously try to experience various aspects of being a woman, such as childbirth and caring for infants.

In a recent video posted to Facebook and viewed by millions, one of the Guys is shown buckling into a car, with a newborn strapped on his lap!