

Clinton Hell's Kitchen Coalition for Pedestrian Safety,  
Communities IMPACT Diabetes Center, East Harlem Health Outreach Partnership,  
New York City Strategic Alliance for Health, Transportation Alternatives,  
Tri-State Transportation Campaign, Sustainable Flatbush

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo  
Governor of New York State  
NYS State Capitol Building  
Albany, NY 12224

July 14, 2011

Dear Governor Cuomo,

Our groups are tired of seeing children being killed by automobiles. In 2010, the New York City Department of Health found that motor vehicles were the leading cause of death due to injury among children. Between 2001 and 2008, 106 children were killed by motor vehicles and the majority of these children were pedestrians.

**We believe S3151/A1446 is an important step towards keeping New York City's children—and all of the city's pedestrians—safe.** This common sense bill would require all trucks weighing over 26,000 pounds to be equipped with a simple, convex mirror that would help drivers see pedestrians in their path. Because of the height of large truck hoods, a blind spot is created that prevents drivers from seeing what is happening directly in front of their vehicles. This blind spot is particularly perilous for small children that are completely out of the driver's view if they're less than 5 feet from the truck. The convex mirror removes this blind spot and allows the drivers to see any pedestrian over three feet tall within one foot of the front of their truck.

This law is specific to New York City, where 161 pedestrians were killed and 2,732 pedestrians were injured by large trucks between 1999 and 2008. In 70% of these crashes, the pedestrian was struck from the front of the truck. Many of these crashes occur at intersections: the driver pulls forward into a crosswalk, not knowing that a pedestrian is in his path.

These convex mirrors, called "cross over mirrors," are already required on all school buses and are relatively inexpensive to install. The list price for these mirrors is \$33-86, for installation and assembly.

**We urge you to sign this bill, and consider a similar law for the entire state.**

Please contact Lindsey Lusher Shute at Transportation Alternatives with any questions, [lindsey@transalt.org](mailto:lindsey@transalt.org) or 646-873-6039.

Regards,

Christine Berthet, Clinton Hell's Kitchen Coalition for Pedestrian Safety  
Michelle Ramos, Communities IMPACT Diabetes Center  
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Javier W. Lopez, Director, New York City Strategic Alliance for Health  
Paul White, Executive Director, Transportation Alternatives  
Kate Slevin, Executive Director, Tri-State Transportation Campaign  
Anne Pope, Director, Sustainable Flatbush

CC: State Senator Martin J. Golden