

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510  
September 8, 2022

Secretary Pete Buttigieg  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

With the importance this Administration has placed on the topic of gender equity, I am requesting some additional information on the Department's efforts to make vehicle crash testing more equitable for female drivers by updating the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) crash testing equipment and the surrounding safety standards.

According to the Spring 2022 Agency Rule list, NHTSA is working to expedite a number of rules that would propose to federalize several new dummies, including the latest female crash test dummy, THOR-5F. In response to these announcements, some questions still remain with regard to the Agency's process to incorporating this technology into the agency's safety tests—the New Car Assessment Program (NCAP) and the Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards (FMVSS).

In order to have a better understanding of what additional steps are needed and the proposed timeline, I am looking for the Department to assist in answering the following questions:

1. Other than introduction into Part 572, specifically what additional steps need to be addressed with THOR-5F before its introduction to NCAP or FMVSS? How long does the agency expect it will need to complete those steps?
2. What is the intended timeline for when THOR-5F will be to be introduced into both driver and passenger front seat tests for NCAP?
3. What is the intended timeline for when THOR-5F will be to be introduced into both driver and passenger front seat tests for FMVSS?

Thank you for your attention to this matter, I look forward to working with you to help bring gender equity to auto safety testing.

Sincerely,



Deb Fischer  
United States Senator

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